



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

APPLICABILITY: ACCI Staff & Strategic Partners

VERSION: June 2020

AUTHORISED BY: Board Approved

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ACCI acknowledges that environmental sustainability is linked to our faith as stewards of God's creation. When we blindly engage in consumerism and overconsumption of natural resources, we rob others of their share of God's creation. Unequal access and overconsumption of resources also denies the poor their livelihood and leads to ecological imbalance and increasing natural disasters. However, when we use our resources wisely, we protect the poor who will be the first affected and least able to adapt to the effects of climate change and other environmental degradation.

Therefore, we are committed to becoming an environmentally conscious and proactive organisation and helping all our partners to be the same. ACCI therefore promotes and supports programming to enable affected communities to adapt to the damaging impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.

ACCI is also committed to helping advise ACC where appropriate, around issues of environmental sustainability, especially when it relates to the impacts on those living in poverty, and disaster risk reduction.

PURPOSE

The purpose of ACCI's Environmental Sustainability Policy is to outline our commitment to the environment within both ACCI's internal operations and the way we work with partners. This policy aims to achieve this by:

1. demonstrating ACCI's commitment and approaches to environmental sustainability;
2. outlining the expectations and responsibilities of ACCI stakeholders; and
3. providing guidance to stakeholders on how to meet good practice standards.

STANDARDS & GUIDANCE

ACCI has an obligation to act within the laws of the countries in which we operate, as well as to hold duty-bearers within those countries accountable for providing environmental integrity for right holders.

The Sustainable Development Goals (2015), while non-binding, are also relevant as an agreed international agenda for advancing development in ways that protect the right for people to live and work in healthy environments.

As a member of ACFID and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct (2015), ACCIR has made the commitment to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability within our development and humanitarian initiatives and internal operations.

SCOPE

Those who fall within the scope below are required to read, sign and adhere to the **ACCI Environmental Sustainability Policy**.

This policy applies to all ACCI Stakeholders defined below.

- All ACCI Staff including but not limited to employees, contractors and consultants.
- All ACCI Volunteers including but not limited to office and event-based volunteers.
- All ACCI Field Workers.
- All ACCI Associates.
- All ACCI Strategic Partners including any organisation receiving ACCI funding in Australia or abroad to implement activities including but not limited to community development, disaster response or non-development activities.
- All ACCI Board Members.

ACCI'S INTERNAL COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES:

ACCI is committed to:

- Reducing our **energy consumption** through energy saving initiatives and behaviour including:
 - the use of solar panels;
 - the use of LED bulbs in all lighting in our office; and
 - making environmentally conscious decisions when replacing appliances. This could include installing air conditioners with high energy saving ratings.
- Reducing our usage of **materials and amount of waste** disposal by:
 - reducing our paper consumption to a bare minimum, with the goal of becoming paperless;
 - Consider the effect on the environment when collecting information, images and stories and make efforts to reduce our carbon footprint;
 - producing our promotional material online instead of using paper: and
 - recycling and reusing as much as possible in our office.
- Reducing the impact our **travel** has on the environment by:
 - analysing the mode and frequency of our travel, and to reconsider whether travel is essential; and
 - being a part of a travel offset scheme.
- Providing **education** to all staff members including topics such as:
 - ways to reduce our carbon footprint;
 - ethical and environmental consumerism; and
 - how to engage with churches and partners on these topics.
- **Evaluating our environmental impact** and improving our environmental sustainability by:
 - continuing to make changes to the culture and behaviour of our organisation;

- assigning a focal person in the organisation to ensure we meet these commitments; and
- assessing our organisational performance on an annual basis.

ALL STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS:

All ACCI stakeholders are expected to consider environmental impacts in all programming and activities. ACCI field workers, associates and partners will be required to provide information, at least bi-annually, on their commitments to environmental sustainability.

ACCI is committed to **helping stakeholders** meet these expectations through:

- providing training and capacity building opportunities;
- information sharing; and
- ongoing coaching and support.

ACCIR PARTNER EXPECTATIONS:

The section below applies to organisations in formal partnerships with ACCI Relief.

MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

Before **onboarding** any new partner, ACCIR will:

- evaluate every organisation's environmental impact, in all aspects of their work, before agreeing to any partnership.

During project **design and delivery**, partners are expected to:

- complete the environmental section in their program framework and risk assessment, outlining their commitment to the environment through their project design; and
- by signing the MOU, partners agree that they will implement these commitments during the delivery of their program.

Through **monitoring and evaluation**, ACCIR will:

- assess partners every 6 months on how they are meeting their environmental commitments outlined in their program framework; and
- evaluate each partner's delivery of environmental commitments during monitoring visits at least every 2 years.

BEST PRACTICE

To comply with best practice, ACCIR partners should:

- develop and design their own environmental policy;
- assign a focal person with the responsibility of helping their organisation to be more environmentally sustainable;
- provide environmental sustainability training to staff; and
- wherever possible, incorporate into program strategies:

- climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact;
- disaster risk reduction; and
- environmental impact goals.

REVIEWING THE POLICY

ACCI Missions & Relief's Environmental Sustainability Policy and Code of Conduct will be reviewed every three years. ACCI General Managers and members of the field team will manage the review and stakeholders will be consulted during this process.