POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

AGORA CENTER FOR PROMOTION OF CIVIC VALUES, 2025

Organisational Policy on Environmental Responsibility

Purpose

AGORA is committed to integrating environmental responsibility into its organisational operations, programmes and partnerships. Recognising the critical importance of environmental stewardship for civic values and sustainable societies, this policy aims to:

- Minimise the environmental footprint of our operations.
- Promote environmental awareness and best practices among staff, partners and beneficiaries.
- Ensure that our programmes, communications and partnerships align with principles of environmental sustainability.
- Support a culture of continuous improvement, innovation and accountability in environmental matters.

Guiding Principles

AGORA is guided by the following principles:
- **Sustainability**: Adopt practices that preserve natural resources, reduce waste and minimise environmental impact.
- **Prevention**: Prioritise preventive actions—reducing consumption, avoiding harmful substances, promoting clean alternatives.
- **Responsibility**: All staff and partners share responsibility for environmental performance.
- **Innovation & Engagement**: Encourage innovative solutions and active engagement in environmental initiatives.
- **Integration**: Embed environmental considerations into strategic planning, programme design, and operations.

Scope of Application

This policy applies to:
- Operational matters: offices, energy use, waste management, travel, procurement.
- Programmatic work: project design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Partnerships: alignment with partners and vendors on sustainability.
- Staff & volunteers: awareness, training, and daily behaviour.

Operational Commitments

Energy & Water Use:
- Actively work to lower energy consumption.
- Prefer energy-efficient equipment and practices.
- Actively work to reduce water usage.

Waste & Materials:

- Apply reduce, reuse, recycle paper, plastics and electronics. All AGORA staff are required to recycle paper, plastic, and electronic waste through the use of dedicated waste separation bins for the three waste categories which are collected by authorized waste collection companies.
- Minimise paper use and avoid single-use plastics.
- Recycle and dispose of e-waste properly.

Procurement:
- Prefer eco-friendly, recycled, and certified products.
- Consider lifecycle environmental costs.
- Encourage suppliers with environmental standards.

Travel & Transport:
- Utilize virtual meetings.

Events & Campaigns:
- Prefer local sourcing, minimal waste, and digital resources.

Programmatic Integration

Projects should include environmental impact assessments where relevant and integrate sustainability objectives. Programmes should promote environmental justice, sustainable development, and civic engagement in environmental issues.

Roles & Responsibilities

- All AGORA staff and management are required to abide by this policy.

Compliance & Review

The policy is mandatory. It will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. .

Alignment with Broader Goals

AGORA aligns this policy with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12 & 13), EU environmental standards and North Macedonia's legal regulations acknowledging its role in fostering sustainable civic values in North Macedonia.

Communication

This policy will be published on AGORA's website and shared with donors.