

# Environmental & Sustainability Policy

Kathleen Formosa, Director of Governance and Company Secretary

Board of Trustees

N/A

2

11 July 2024

1 August 2024

Audit & Risk Committee

2027

14 July 2022

	July 2022	Kathleen Formosa	New Policy	This is a new policy which forms part of WEA's social value framework. This is a high-level policy supported by specific policies and targets in key areas of WEA operations.
	June 2024	Kathleen Formosa	Approved	Non-material updates throughout.

# Environmental & Sustainability Policy

This policy affirms WEA's commitment to sustainability as a key priority for the Association. WEA is committed to raising awareness and to the implementation of sustainable practices in all aspects of WEA's operations and in its delivery of education, and to minimising any adverse impact its activities may have on the environment.

This policy sets out at a high-level WEA's commitment to sustainability across the following three areas:

- x – This is the most talked about aspect of sustainability by our learners, staff, and volunteers. Environmental sustainability is the “conservation of natural resources and the reduction of human activities that impact on our ecosystems” – in other words, the environmental impact of human activity;
- x – the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (“UNSDGs”) demonstrate and support examples of social sustainability that include well-being, quality education, gender equality, and related issues. UNSDGs are incorporated into WEA's business plan and run throughout the Association, linking to policies. The UNSDGs combine social aspects of justice and equality, alongside the environment and the economy. The 17 interlinked UNSDGs were designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.” The UNSDGs were set up in 2015 by the UN General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Annex 2 of this policy sets out the UNSDGs WEA has determined to be most applicable to its mission and day-to-day operations.
- x – WEA is doing its part to work toward creating a greener, cleaner, NetZero economy that provides decent jobs and improves quality of life for all. By buying and supporting sustainable goods and services, and efficiently managing its resources, WEA can lower its carbon emissions, reduce waste and limit pollution. Considering the life cycle of what is used and how it is used in WEA's daily activities not only benefits WEA, but creates positive and innovative social, environmental and economic outcomes.

WEA's Environmental & Sustainability Policy will be made accessible to the communities in which it works, including learners, employers, work-based training providers, partners, contractors, sub-contractors, staff and volunteers.

WEA's Trustees, acting through the Audit & Risk Committee, have overall responsibility for this policy, and for reviewing the effectiveness of actions taken and targets set in relation to it.

WEA seeks to:

- x Embed sustainability across the curriculum, and in education delivery;
- x Provide information and training to staff and learners on sustainable practice and related issues;
- x Foster behavioural change by encouraging participation and consultation with staff, volunteers and learners on sustainable initiatives; and



