

National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies

Environmental Policy

Effective from March 2023

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1. General

1.1 Purpose

NAFAS recognises that good environmental management is an essential part of overall good practice in organisational management. NAFAS will therefore strive to adopt the highest available environmental standards in all its areas of operation. This document outlines what NAFAS will do to identify our environmental impact, how we will adapt to reduce our impact, and the responsibilities of staff and members.

NAFAS will involve staff and members as much as possible both in implementing this policy internally, and in disseminating information externally about its progress in improving environmental standards. We will do this by making our policy publicly available on our website and by making it clear in our induction processes. We will support staff wellbeing by considering how we promote positive, action-led messaging about climate breakdown and provide opportunities for them to change the ways they work for NAFAS in line with positive climate behaviours.

NAFAS has already made significant progress at mitigating its environmental impact since the sale of Osborne House in 2022. At head office we have:

- reduced water use
- reduced electricity use
- increased the recycling rate with improved facilities
- procured sustainable office stationery
- use chemically benign cleaning products
- use Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and organic milk
- encouraged the use of sustainable modes of travel

We further commit to:

- monitoring utilities consumption in office and home working
- review our waste and educate employees about effective recycling and reducing single use plastic where possible
- compliance with environmental legislation

We recognise that there will be some barriers that prevent NAFAS from taking environmental action, these include:

- embedding new practices within the organisation can be difficult given constraints of finances
- lack of information
- lack of knowledge
- perception that change comes via Government initiatives, not from individuals or the organisation
- perception that environmental products and approaches may offer poorer quality than the alternatives

2. Recycling/re-use

NAFAS is committed to recycling at head office, this includes, paper & cardboard, printer cartridges, plastic and glass.

3. Suppliers

NAFAS promotes to its members the importance of using local suppliers, especially when buying flowers for shows and events.

We will always make every effort for publications, handbooks and promotional material to be printed on recycled or recyclable paper. From the end of 2022, NAFAS educational handbooks are printed in collaboration with the Woodland Trust Woodland Carbon Scheme. This reduces our carbon footprint by mitigating carbon emissions through planting trees.

4. Travel and Transport

NAFAS is committed to reducing its environmental impact, so our approach to travel is an important aspect of reducing our carbon emissions.

We recognise the need to use cars and vans to transport heavy equipment to shows and events. But where possible, and to reduce the impact of travel, we recommend to our members:

- car sharing
- the use of public transport
- travel by rail instead of air
- using electric taxis
- walk to local meetings and events

NAFAS staff are offered flexible working arrangements, including the opportunity to work from home, eliminating the need for travel into work. We are aware that in some circumstances, working from home in the winter requires homes to be heated, and so not always the best environmental solution.

All NAFAS staff use public transport to get into the office.

5. Meetings

NAFAS promotes the use of virtual meetings to its Trustees, Standing Committees, Area Chairmen and members. We no longer have regular meetings in London, this is restricted to occasional meetings and one annual meeting for 30-40 people in central England.

NAFAS has implemented the following measures to reduce environmental impact:

- changed to flat computer screens to reduce energy use
- invested in video conferencing equipment to reduce travel
- moved to electronic filing to reduce paper use
- use electronic mail to reduce paper use

6. Floral Foam

As part of our efforts to improve sustainability, we are constantly looking at alternative products to plastic containing floral foam. NAFAS recognises that other institutions, such as the RHS and some Churches have introduced a total ban on this type of product, and NAFAS agrees to adhere to their policies, when working under their instruction.

We are in regular contact with the main supplier of floral foam, Smithers Oasis, who are the first in their industry to eliminate chlorofluorocarbons in floral foam production. Smithers Oasis have also

refined their manufacturing processes to significantly reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and rates of manufacturing scrap.

Using floral foam has been the mainstay of NAFAS creative floral designs. But increasingly we are moving away from floral foam to alternative methods. We are doing this by:

- training Demonstrators and educating members in the art of foam free designs
- using reusable and environmentally friendly material (our access to historical flower arranging evidence shows us how to use pre-foam mechanics)
- where foam is necessary, we ask members to use biodegradable and micro plastic free alternatives or alternatives made from natural materials
- suggesting to members to use mediums and bases that are both compostable through industrial and home facilities
- providing online tutorials in foam free designs

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Position	CEO