


SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY Jana Chaitanya Nilayam, Tangutur, Prakasam Dt., A.P. India		
Title: Environmental Sustainability Policy	Policy Number: ESP –01	
Approved by: The Governing Body of SARDS	Date of Effective: 01.04.2004	
Executed by: R. Suneel Kumar, Executive Secretary	To be circulated to all the Board members, staff, consultants, vendors, Volunteers, visitors, CBOs and other related personnel of SARDS for strict Adherence	

INTRODUCTION

The earth's environment is under severe stress from uncontrolled human activity, threatening the survival of our society and the performance of the development Vision and mission of SARDS.

SARDS accepts that it must work to preserve the environmental sustainability of the planet, at all levels of its operations – in its own practice, as a participant in community activities, and as a participant in the consortium lead CSO in the development sector.

SARDS aspires to minimize its impact on our environment and maximize the effective use of resources. We strive to achieve this by increasing communication and awareness of our efforts in accordance with this policy and fostering responsible environmental behavior amongst Board of Directors, Consultants, staff, volunteers, and end beneficiaries at all levels.

SARDS is committed not only to complying with applicable law in all of its operations but to minimize risks and impacts through the development of robust and documented systems to implement, measure, monitor, and disseminate excellent environmental performance both within its operations and to the broader community.

1. Purpose:

This Environmental Sustainability Policy aims to integrate a philosophy of sustainable development into all the Developmental activities and functions of SARDS and to establish and promote sound environmental practice in our operations

2. Scope

It is applicable to all Board of Directors, employees, Consultants, vendors, volunteers, CBOs promoted by the Organisation and other relevant actors and stakeholders.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

SARDS acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages, climate change and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural eco-systems. It therefore recognises its responsibility to reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible charity.

At SARDS, we are committed to limiting the environmental impact of our work. Through both individual and collective efforts to change our ways of working, all our people at every level of the organisation play their part in reducing the resources we consume to help mitigate climate change and its adverse impact on children and their communities.

4. Commitment:

SARDS commits itself to minimizing its impact on our environment through

- Providing a safe and healthful workplace;
- Having an environmentally sustainable aware culture, where responsibility is assigned and understood;
- Being an environmentally responsible neighbor in our community;
- Conserving natural resources by reusing and recycling;
- Using, in our own operations, processes that do not adversely affect the environment;
- Ensuring the responsible use of energy throughout the organization;
- Participating in efforts to improve environmental protection and understanding;
- Taking steps to improve environmental performance continually;
- Conducting rigorous audits, evaluations, and self-assessments of the implementation of this policy;
- Working with suppliers who promote sound environmental practices; and Enhancing awareness among our employees, volunteers, and end beneficiaries – educating and motivating them to act in an environmentally responsible manner

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of the Governing Body to establish and maintain policies and procedures and to bring these procedures into effect. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to ensure implementation of these policies and procedures.

6. Procedures

1. SARDS will incorporate environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision-making and administration structures
2. SARDS will develop guidelines for staff, volunteers and users to adopt sound environmental work practices, and adequate training will be provided to ensure these practices are carried out.
3. SARDS annual impact statement will include a summary of this annual environmental audit of the charity.
4. SARDS environmental performance will be an agenda item for its senior management meetings.
5. SARDS will ensure that all staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff will be expected to help the organisation in carrying out its aim of being an environmentally responsible organisation, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties.
6. SARDS will ask all its current and future suppliers for their environmental policies and for evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for supplier selection.
7. SARDS will seek to have relevant environmental clauses included in any future contracts agreed with outside bodies,
8. SARDS will act responsibly to correct incidents or conditions that endanger health, safety, or the environment. It will promptly report any such incidents to the relevant authorities, and inform affected parties as appropriate.
9. SARDS will, use reasonable endeavors to reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials, and use recyclable packaging and other materials.
10. SARDS will use all reasonable endeavors so that its services and products are safe, efficient in their use of energy, protective of the environment, and able to be reused, recycled or disposed of safely.
11. SARDS will use all reasonable endeavors to minimize materials and energy use, prevent air, water, and other pollution, and dispose of waste safely and responsibly.

12. SARDS will use all reasonable endeavors to conserve energy by improving energy efficiency and giving preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible.
13. SARDS will, use reasonable endeavors to utilize its particular knowledge and experience to contribute to environmentally sustainable techniques, technology, knowledge and methods.
14. SARDS will use all reasonable endeavours to contribute to the maintenance and increase of biodiversity through its management of its landholdings.
15. SARDS will use all reasonable endeavours to meet or exceed all applicable government requirements and voluntary requirements generally observed in its field, and will, in addition, adhere to the more stringent requirements of its own environmental policy.
16. In order to continually improve its environmental management system SARDS will use reasonable endeavours to conduct audits and self-assessments of its compliance with this policy.
17. SARDS will maintain an open and honest dialogue with staff, volunteers, stakeholders, and the public about the environmental, health and safety performance of its operations and services.
18. SARDS will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that every employee, volunteer and contractor is informed of and expected to follow this policy and to report any environmental, health, or safety concern to management so that prompt action may be taken.
19. SARDS will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.
20. SARDS will design, plan and undertake environmental protection, conservation, restoration and development initiatives in its operational area for a sustainable development and will monitor progress annually

Date: 01.04.2004

Signature of the Authorised

(NOTE: SIGNATURE OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY)