



Sustainability and Environment

Branch Statement

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch is committed to animal welfare and aims to minimise the environmental impact of its operations. The branch has introduced practices and processes in the animal centre and the charity shops to meet the following sustainability objectives:

- Reduce or eliminate waste;
- Reduce energy consumption;
- Source responsibly.

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch aims to ensure that:

- All employees and volunteers enact these practices and processes while on the branch's premises, including the animal centre and the charity shops.
- All managers (including trustees) endorse and support these practices.
- All employees, volunteers, and other branch stakeholders feel encouraged to suggest ways of improving these practices in order to further reduce the branch's environmental impact.
- Current and future suppliers operate environmentally friendly.
- Purchased items are reviewed at least annually to make sure the most environmentally friendly products are in use throughout the branch.

Initiatives and practices implemented to date

The branch has adopted practices that aim to meet the sustainability objectives. These include the three 'R's of waste management (reduce, reuse, recycle) and conscious consumption.

Waste management

- **Reduce** use of plastics and harmful chemicals:
 - Use of closed loop systems for commodities including hand wash and washing up liquid to minimise plastic waste;
 - Purchase vegetables from a local organic producer that come in reusable wooden crates (where availability of produce permits)
 - Use of biodegradable disposable aprons;
 - Use of paper bags in the charity shops;
 - We will not purchase any leather products due to the negative environmental impact of chemical treatment.
- **Reuse** materials and items where feasible, including
 - Transfer of unsold stock to a different shop within the RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch;
 - Sale of CDs/DVDs/Blu-rays in poor condition to a third-party specialist that restores and resells these items;
 - use recycled packaging for all our online sales.
- **Recycle** materials and items where feasible including
 - All cardboard, paper and newspaper;
 - All soft plastics;
 - Suitable organic waste via composting;
 - Items unsuitable for sale in the branch's charity shops. These are sold to third-party recycling companies specialising in:



- Clothing;
- Accessories and jewellery;
- Soft furnishings;
- Electrical items;
- Metal items.

Conscious (energy) consumption

- Use of cruelty-free, environmentally-friendly products wherever possible, including washing up liquid, washing powder and hand wash liquid;
- Use of fair-trade products including tea, coffee and sugar;
- Use of energy-saving LED lights in all shops;

Staff and volunteers are fully supportive of the initiative to reduce energy which is reflected in their practices such as:

- Optimising staff journeys by mapping out the foster home network and proximity to suppliers to reduce carbon footprint resulting from travel;
- Switching off electric items including lights when not needed.

Ongoing sustainability initiatives

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch is also committed to further reduce its carbon footprint via their operations. The following initiatives are currently underway:

Digitalisation

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch continues to digitalise operations to replace paper-based processes where feasible.

Electric vehicles

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch relies on vans to transport animals for rescue, rehoming, and veterinarian visits. In 2022 we scrapped two diesel vans and in 2023 we will replace the one remaining diesel van with one electric van.

Community engagement

The RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch wants to inspire and support their stakeholders including fosterers, pet owners and adopters, and charity shop customers to reduce their carbon footprint. The branch will develop guidelines to promote sustainable practices within the existing foster care network, when on-boarding new foster carers, and when engaging with the branch's wider network via social media.

Equally, the branch aims to tap into the knowledge of its stakeholders and will develop channels and processes to capture new ideas and proposals to enhance the current sustainability practices. This will be achieved by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Procedure for monitoring the policy implementation

The branch's philosophy is that of continuous improvement and the initiatives and practices are regularly monitored for their effectiveness whilst new practices are being sought and, where feasible, implemented. To ensure the RSPCA Manchester & Salford branch meets these sustainability commitments and to monitor the policy effectiveness, a periodical review is undertaken by the branch manager and the trustees.