



CHANGE FOR CHILDREN (CFC) Environment Policy

Purpose

CFC's vision is a world with human dignity, healthy communities, and global justice. A safe, sustainable world with a healthy environment is critical to achievement of our vision.

CFC is committed to being an environmentally proactive organization and to operating in an environmentally sustainable way across all facets of the organization.

CFC's environment policy and practices will respect and comply with existing jurisdictional legislation, international law, and accepted best practices related to the environmental impacts of our work.

With the adoption of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in November 2017, Change for Children recognizes that environmental health is essential for development. The organization is committed to, where possible, including the appropriate indicators from the relevant goals in project design and implementation (Goals such as: clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), and protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of the land (SDG 15)).

Principles

As an environmentally proactive organization, CFC recognizes the following principles:

- its governance and operations in Canada and internationally have environmental impacts;
- CFC must minimize the negative environmental impacts of its operations, and promote environmentally sustainable ways in all aspects of governance and operations;
- all individuals working (volunteer or paid) with CFC need to be aware and engaged in order to build an environmentally proactive organization; and
- monitoring and evaluating progress on the implementation of the organizational environment policy is necessary to achieve objectives.

Objectives and Strategies

These are the objectives and strategies that CFC will use to manage and mitigate its environmental impact and to foster global environmental health in: 1) governance and operations, 2) programs and projects, and 3) public image and communications.

1. Governance and Operations

- Staff, board members, and volunteers are accountable for using our resources responsibly for purposes that meet our goals.
- CFC is proactive in minimizing our production of waste and reusing or recycling materials.
- CFC considers and implements strategies to reduce energy usage in our Edmonton offices, particularly for electricity and heating.
- CFC monitors and minimizes the environmental impact of road, rail and air travel by encouraging the use of travel options that minimize environmental impact in addition to exploring new ways of executing our work sustainably.
- CFC minimizes the consumption and wastage of natural resources as far as reasonably and economically practicable.
- CFC ensures that consideration is given to purchasing environmentally sustainable products and services, and develop sustainable supply chains by using supplies that have environmental standards compatible with its own.

2. Programs and Projects

- CFC promotes rights-based programming and projects that support people living in poverty and exclusion to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change and to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- All projects supported by CFC are screened for their environmental impact. Projects which have significant negative environmental impacts will not be supported by CFC. If appropriate, an environmental management plan is developed to mitigate negative environmental effects.
- An environmental assessment and construction plan is prepared and approved before construction of all physical works and infrastructure. The plan includes measures to minimize negative environmental impacts, and where possible, improve environmental conditions.
- CFC works with partner organizations that have similar environmental values and have a formal environmental policy. Prospective partners that do not have an environmental policy will be encouraged, and where necessary assisted, to develop one.
- An environmental standards clause is written in to all Memorandums of Understanding with partners and into all Project Agreements.

- Compliance with the principles outlined above is monitored throughout the life of the project or program, and documented in the regular reporting cycle.
- CFC captures and institutionalizes organizational learning regarding specific successful environmental strategies and results.

3. Public Image and Communications

- As much as possible, CFC minimizes the use of paper in its communications with the public, Board members, staff and volunteers, and promotes the use of alternative paperless mediums, such as digital means.
- CFC highlights environmental aspects of its projects and programs, and shares stories of environmental conditions, climate change, and efforts towards a healthy planet in its communications with association members and the public.
- CFC shares good practice for promoting environment justice with our partners and peers.

Accountability

The CFC Strategic Plan and the organization's progress towards it are reported at each Board meeting as part of the Executive Director's Report. Specific plans on how this policy will be implemented and evaluated in the current year are discussed during this report. The CFC Executive Director is responsible to lead the implementation of this policy, and to report progress annually to the Board.

Approved by CFC Board: March, 2023

Date for Review: March, 2028