

Able Minds' 5 Year Environmental Plan

Able Minds is committed to further consideration of its individual, collective and systemic practices to respond to the challenges posed by climate change to the environment including learning from a Te Ao Maori worldview.

2023-2028

Engagement, Education and Advocacy

- Establishment of an Environmental Committee (7 members)
- TOR established for the committee
- Liaison with staff, board and local iwi (Board working toward Maori rep)
- Board to appoint an environmental officer
- Learning from others – internal and external expertise
- Committee to champion and promote Able Minds' environmental initiatives (internally and externally)

Energy and Renewable Energy

- We use electricity (a renewable resource) in our offices as main source of power
- Energy efficient lightbulbs are used in offices
- Turning lights off in areas not being used
- Heaters/heat pumps – conserve energy
- Turning computers off or to "sleep" at the end of the day
- As part of Board's strategic plan on property they can look at efficiencies eg. solar, insulation
- Improved and increasing efficiency in fleet by reducing fleet size and upgrading vehicle model
- Continue to improve the efficiency of our fleet of vehicles by investigating hybrids and electric vehicles

Materials and Supply Chain Emissions

- We continue to drive a paperless organisation by using Recordbase for client files, using electronic communications for HR and Xero for accounting and payroll purposes, paper is used as a last resort
- Look to order supplies in bulk and at a maximum of once a month to reduce the carbon footprint of our organisation
- Recycled paper, toilet paper.
- Look to local suppliers as a preference
- Look to suppliers with an environmental ethic as a preference

Services

- We only purchase limited supplies to provide services
- Look to purchase environmentally friendly paints and glues
- We recycle and reuse materials as a first option
- Incorporate sustainable activities into day centre programmes ie. making reusable bags (both shopping and fruit), gardening, indoor planting, woodworking
- Decreasing our carbon footprint by offering virtual services and holding virtual meetings

Waste and Pollution

- We dispose of all waste responsibly by recycling materials that can be recycled (including e-waste), reusing what we can, composting where possible and are mindful of what we send to the landfill
- Look to using environmentally friendly cleaning supplies
- Look into sustainable options for drying hands

Biodiversity and Carbon Offsetting

- Maintain our gardens in Dunedin
- Install planter boxes in Alexandra
- Plant bee-friendly and native bird-friendly plants and trees
- Invest in a bird feeder for native birds
- Growing vegetables for pantry and foodshare
- Build a chicken coop, house chickens to create a sustainable process for obtaining eggs and reducing waste
- Investigate trapping of predators (predator free 2050)
- Pay for carbon off-setting when staff members fly for work
- Investigate other options as they arrive
- Investigate community planting days for staff

Legislation, Audit and Self-assessments

- Committee to stay abreast of environmental legislation and amendments and inform management
- Committee to drive audit, review and innovation with respect to environmental measures