

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.

2023-2028

Engagement, Education and Advocacy

- Establish an Environmental Committee (7 members)
- Terms of Reference established for committee
- Liaison with staff, board and local iwi
- Board to appoint an environmental officer
- Relevant environmental training provided
- Committee to champion Able Minds' e-initiatives (internally and externally)

Renewable Energy

- Electricity (a renewable resource) is used across offices
- Lightbulbs are energy efficient
- Lights off while not in use
- Computers off or in "sleep" at end of day
- Board's strategic property plan - efficiencies considered eg. solar, insulation
- Improved efficiency in vehicles – reduction in fleet size and upgrade in model
- Investigate hybrids and e-vehicles for efficiencies
- Decrease carbon footprint -virtual services and meetings

Materials and Supply Chain Emissions

- Drive a paperless organisation eg. Recordbase for client files, e-communications for HR and Xero for accounting and payroll
- Paper a last resort
- Order supplies in bulk and once a month
- Local suppliers as a preference
- Suppliers with an environmental ethic as a preference

Services

- Purchase only what we need
- Purchase e-friendly paints and glues
- Recycle and reuse materials
- Incorporate sustainable activities into day centre programmes ie. making reusable bags (both shopping and fruit), gardening, indoor planting, woodworking

Waste and Pollution

- Dispose of all waste responsibly - recycling (including e-waste), reusing, composting and mindful to reduce landfill waste
- Use e-friendly cleaning supplies
- Investigate sustainable options for drying hands

Biodiversity and Carbon Offsetting

- Maintain 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
- Grow vegetables for pantry and foodshare
- Build a chicken coop, house chickens to create sustainable pipeline for waste and eggs
- Investigate trapping of predators (predator free 2050)
- Pay carbon off-setting for staff work flights
- Investigate community planting days for staff

Legislation, Audit and Self-assessments

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