

EAQUALS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

At Eaquals, we understand that our activities have an impact on the environment. We are committed to working to both manage and minimise that impact when and where possible. As such, we continually review, work to understand and control the range of environmental impacts arising from our activities.

Partnerships

In 2021, Eaquals signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the [Green Standards Schools](#) (GSS). As part of the agreement, both Eaquals and GSS assist one another in the dissemination of resources designed to encourage environmental sustainability in language teaching and learning and offer training and support in the application of these resources when and where appropriate. In addition, Eaquals recognises the accreditation awarded by GSS to those institutions which comply with the policies and practices in relation to environmental standards as outlined within the GSS Accreditation.

Remote working

The Eaquals team have always worked remotely and continue to do so with staff are based in Ireland, Poland and Hungary. They have a face-to-face meeting once per year and, when possible, at in-person Eaquals event that may take place throughout the year. Aside from this, all other work is completed remotely.

Eaquals Board meetings

The Eaquals Board of Trustees are based in 5 different countries. In 2018, as part of a renewed focus on environmental policy, meetings took place online when possible. Since 2018, 12 out of 18 meetings have taken place online with the remainder of the meetings linked to in-person events to reduce any additional and/or extra travel.

Travel

All those involved in travel for Eaquals (staff, trustees, inspectors, trainers) are required to consider the impact of carbon footprint when organising travel arrangements and, when and where possible, to avoid travelling by air.

Conferences and events

- Conference attendees are encouraged to use the online conference programme rather than requesting a hard copy.
- Conference speakers are asked to refrain from using handouts and provide materials in digital format before or after the conference itself via the resources page on the Eaquals conference website.
- During conference, only reusable cups are available throughout.
- At the end of the conference, attendees are asked to recycle badges for future training events and conference.
- Conference attendees are provided with the opportunity to offset their carbon footprint via donation at the point of conference registration.
- Trainers (at events, general meetings and inspector training) are asked to share their handouts and powerpoints online rather than printing them out for participants.



Publications

Eaquals has moved towards providing digital versions of all publications in place of printed copies, including the Eaquals Annual Financial Statements & Trustee Report. These are available on the [Eaquals website](#).

Eaquals inspections

- Eaquals inspections are conducted online and in the hybrid format when possible.
- Resources for inspectors and inspected institutions are provided in digital format.
- Advance documentation is made available to inspectors in cloud storage.
- Eaquals inspectors are encouraged to consider impact on carbon footprint when arranging travel to conduct inspections on site and when possible, to avoid travelling by air, or choosing direct flights options.
- Moderation of Eaquals reports is done entirely online.

Materials

Eaquals makes a concerted effort to take account of environmental and sustainability factors in the procurement of materials used e.g. sourcing recycled paper for use, sourcing recycled material for use in promotional material.

Awareness raising

The Eaquals Online 2020 event included a plenary topic focusing on “The climate emergency and international language education. Reviewing our institutional cultures” which was delivered by Christopher Graham. A recording of the session was made available to all attendees afterwards.

Eaquals encourages all members to reflect on their own environmental policies and to share their initiatives with other members within the network. A “[Green Stars](#)” social media campaign was launched and run in 2020 to recognise those members who were making significant strides in this area.

Eaquals undertakes to review this policy statement on an annual base in order to promote good practice.