

Sustainability Policy

This policy explains Blackberry Events' approach to sustainability for our events and helps us to clearly communicate this to our employees, clients and suppliers.

We run many events, each with a different set of clients and suppliers and our approach to sustainability is tailored to each event. The objective of this policy is to provide clear cross-event guiding principles for all our event planning and decision-making. Due to the nature of the events industry there are two areas that sustainability practices can fall in to:

1. Control – Steps that we can take ourselves to facilitate sustainability (eg. How we travel to events).
2. Influence – Areas that we cannot control but can influence decision makers (e.g. using supplier sustainability practices as part of the proposal).

Blackberry Events aims to implement the following practices in the interest of sustainability to minimize the environmental impact of our events and promote responsible consumption and waste practices, as well as the social aspects of sustainability:

To work with our clients and suppliers to encourage, and cultivate sustainable practices and operational approaches across the lifecycle of our events. Such as suggesting the use of reusable production elements and materials such as exhibition stands.

To reduce carbon emissions by encouraging suppliers, staff, exhibitors and attendees to travel to events either via carpool or public transport where possible. We will suggest virtual meetings instead of face-to-face where possible and suggest venues close to transport hubs if long-haul travel is necessary.

To ensure that we ask potential venues for their sustainability policies, whether they use renewable energy and/or have waste reduction procedures in place, and if applicable prioritise/highlight those venues within our proposals to clients.

Where viable, we will choose venues with suitable in-house AV to reduce shipping needs.

To encourage repeat clients to store and reuse items over multiple events.

To encourage venues and caterers with good policies on water use and look for evidence of water saving measures. We always try to supply tap water or filtered tap water rather than bottled water to delegates as well as provide water stations for attendees to refill their own bottles if possible.

To advise clients and request from venues/caterers to ensure that all produce is sourced from the UK, to reduce red meat content on menus and if fish is offered, that it comes from a sustainable source.

To ensure that the number of single-use plastics provided at our events is greatly reduced. Also we will try to work with the venue to ensure that, all recyclable waste is properly recycled.

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To encourage better waste management;

- Venues to provide clearly labelled recycling bins and avoid single use plastics where possible.
- Exhibitors to minimise printed materials, offer sustainable or reusable 'giveaway' items.
- Clients to minimise printed materials and use digital assets (such as digital signage), emails, platforms or apps to give out event information.

To encourage venues to have better energy usage policies and implement changes at our events such as:

- To recommend venues with energy saving policies in effect and good insulation.
- Suggest venues monitor power consumption of events and report afterwards.
- Ensure all electrical items are switched off when not in use.
- Suggest venues change thermostat settings for events to lessen usage.
- Suggest using low energy lighting and equipment where possible.

To encourage charitable giving, such as arranging with food banks to collect viable food waste post event, or giving back to the community with charity work.

To add value to the local economies where we operate by creating employment opportunities and sourcing local suppliers whenever feasible.

Our Sustainability Policy also extends to our business office, we regularly implement the following:

- We recycle waste in our office (paper, plastic, glass).
- We use energy saving supplies whenever possible.
- We turn off all electronics at the end of each day.
- We only use lights in rooms where required.
- We minimize use of air conditioning and heating.
- We allow for remote working when applicable.
- We promote carpooling. For example, for site visits and to and from events.
- We implement community involvement programs such as offering our employees the opportunity to take paid time out of the office to undertake charity work.

Our commitment:

We aim to achieve these objectives by making incremental changes to the way we operate, through education and training of our staff and the general public and by developing a long term strategic plan to reduce our environmental impact.

We pledge to review and update this policy regularly to ensure it remains relevant and effective in promoting sustainable practices in all aspects of our business and events.

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