



Baltimoretax
Lifeline, Health &
Learning Foundation

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE POLICY

1. Policy Purpose and Institutional Commitment

Baltimoretax Lifeline, Health and Learning Foundation (“BLHL Foundation”) recognises that environmental sustainability and climate resilience are essential components of responsible development. As a governance-driven and accountability-focused institution, the Foundation is committed to minimising its environmental footprint and systematically integrating environmental safeguards into all operations and programs.

This Policy defines the standards by which the BLHL Foundation will:

- Prevents environmental harm
- Promotes sustainable resource management
- Strengthens climate resilience
- Complies with environmental laws and donor safeguard requirements

Environmental responsibility constitutes a collective obligation among governance bodies, management, staff, and partners.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1 Do No Harm

All programs and operational activities shall be assessed for potential environmental risks. Where risks are identified, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented before and during execution. No activity shall knowingly cause avoidable environmental degradation.

2.2 Responsible Resource Stewardship

The Foundation shall manage energy, water, materials, and financial resources in an efficient and prudent manner. Environmental sustainability is regarded as a fundamental aspect of the Foundation's fiduciary responsibility.

2.3 Climate Awareness and Resilience

The Foundation recognises the increasing impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. Where applicable, program design shall incorporate considerations of climate exposure, environmental degradation, and resilience measures.

2.4 Continuous Improvement

Environmental performance shall be systematically monitored, evaluated, and enhanced in accordance with organisational capacity and evolving best practices.

3. OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.1 Office Operations

BLHL Foundation maintains a commitment to environmentally responsible office practices. The measures below are implemented to support sustainable operations:

- Energy efficiency is promoted through responsible selection and use of office equipment.
- Reliance on paper is reduced by adopting digital systems.
- Responsible water usage is encouraged in all office activities.
- Waste is managed responsibly, with hazardous materials separated and disposed of appropriately.
- Sustainable procurement options are preferred when feasible.

Operational decisions consider environmental impact in addition to cost and efficiency.

3.2 Sustainable Procurement

Where practicable, procurement processes will prioritize suppliers that demonstrate environmentally responsible practices.

Selection criteria may include preference for energy-efficient equipment, locally sourced goods, and materials with reduced environmental impact, provided these options are cost-effective and meet procurement standards.

3.3 Transportation and Travel

Efficient travel planning and the use of virtual platforms are encouraged to reduce environmental impact. Responsible vehicle management is also emphasized.

Fleet maintenance prioritizes fuel efficiency and safety. Where feasible, long-term planning explores the adoption of lower-emission alternatives.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION IN PROGRAMS

Environmental considerations are integrated based on the scope and risk profile of each program.

4.1 Environmental Screening

All new programs undergo basic environmental screening to identify potential impacts. The following areas are considered:

- Waste generation
- Water and soil contamination risks
- Habitat disturbance
- Air quality implications
- Climate vulnerability

If risks are identified, mitigation measures are documented and monitored.

4.2 Sector-Specific Considerations

Health Programs

Health programs ensure proper handling of medical waste, maintain sanitation standards, and uphold environmental hygiene practices.

Education Programs

Education programs promote environmental awareness and encourage responsible practices within schools.

Construction or Rehabilitation Activities

Construction and rehabilitation activities employ responsible site management, minimize environmental disturbance, and ensure safe disposal of construction waste.

Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian response efforts balance urgency with environmental responsibility and promote safe waste and water management during emergencies.

Skills Development

Skills development initiatives encourage climate-smart and sustainable livelihood practices where relevant.

5. LEGAL AND DONOR COMPLIANCE

BLHL Foundation complies with all relevant legal and donor requirements, including:

- Nigerian environmental legislation and regulatory requirements
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) standards, where applicable
- Donor environmental safeguard frameworks
- International “Do No Harm” principles

Where donor safeguard standards exceed local requirements, the Foundation adheres to the higher standard.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Trustees

The Board oversees environmental governance and reviews environmental performance as part of overall risk management.

Executive Director

The Executive Director integrates environmental standards into operations and program management, ensuring resource allocation aligns with risk and capacity.

Program Teams

Program teams conduct environmental screenings, implement mitigation measures, and report environmental incidents or risks.

All Personnel

All personnel conduct daily operations in an environmentally responsible manner and report environmental concerns promptly.

7. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Environmental performance is monitored according to the organisation's size. Key indicators may include:

- Energy consumption
- Water usage
- Waste management practices
- Fuel consumption

- Environmental screening compliance

Summaries of environmental performance may be included in the Foundation's annual and donor reports as required.

8. TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

The Foundation may establish periodic environmental performance targets that reflect its capacity and available resources.

Targets are realistic, measurable, and subject to regular review. Continuous improvement is expected, even if progress is incremental.

9. INCIDENT REPORTING

All environmental incidents, regulatory breaches, or significant environmental risks must be reported promptly to management. If the issues are substantial, they must also be communicated to the Board. Appropriate corrective action plans shall be developed and implemented to address and mitigate these issues.

10. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every two years. In the event of significant regulatory or operational changes, an earlier review may be conducted to ensure the Policy remains current and effective. All amendments require Board approval prior to implementation.

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

BLHL Foundation affirms that environmental responsibility is inseparable from ethical governance and sustainable development.

Environmental stewardship strengthens credibility, protects communities, and enhances long-term impact.