

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY KAIROS

## A. Organization

Kannur Association for Integrated Rural Organization and Support (KAIROS), a registered society under the society registration Act XXI of 1860 is the social work department of diocese of Kannur. Though the organization of KAIROS was unofficially working in the area since 1989 as the regional wing of Calicut Diocese social service society, it started independent involvement in 1999. The area of operation covers the civil districts of Kannur and Kasargod, the northern civil districts of Kerala. KAIROS is working with the dalits, fisher folk, marginal farmers, agricultural wage earners, women, children and tribals. Today environment and health are major areas of developmental concern. Unpolluted environment and holistic health are essential for the very existence of the human race. Any harm to the environment will be affecting the society as well. With this perspective, we pursue the objective of protecting environment and promoting health initiatives of the community.

### Vision

"Balanced and healthy eco-system for generation

### Policy

"Environment perspective in all the developmental activities

### Objectives

- Protect and preserve soil, water and bio-mass
- Promote eco-friendly and cost effective construction methods and practices
- Promote scientific and participatory sanitation methods
- Adoption of environment friendly and sustainable income generation programmes
- Promote and practice eco-friendly health practices

KAIROS acknowledges that our activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and that we can take steps to minimize those impacts. We will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment through implementing the following measures:

### A). Organizational level

- ❖ KAIROS will integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision making and activities
- ❖ We will promote environmental awareness among our staff and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner,
- ❖ We will train, educate and inform our staff about environmental issues of the area and to take measures to protect the nature

### 1. Reduce

- 1.1. Non-essential documents and emails will not be printed
- 1.2. We will endeavor to avoid fully disposable cups and food packaging in the organization as well as in the field
- 1.3. We will not print posters and banners in flex and plastic materials for the temporary programs and activities.
- 1.4. We will ensure all printing and photocopying is double-sided
- 1.5. We will use phone, e-mail or face-to-face discussion for communication wherever possible to reduce paper use.

## **2. Reuse**

- 2.1. Wherever possible we will try to find a second life for items through local charitable reuse schemes or donations to local voluntary organizations (i.e. furniture, computers, mobile phones and other electrical goods)
- 2.2. Scrap paper used on one side only will be used for printing internal or draft documents and for making note pads etc.
- 2.3. Envelopes, stationery and packaging will be reused where possible
- 2.4. Items will be repaired rather than replaced whenever possible

## **2.5. Recycle**

- 2.6. Paper, cardboard, cans, plastic, glass, textiles, ink & toner cartridges, batteries and electrical equipment will be recycled whenever possible
- 2.7. We will compost our green and organic waste

## **2.8. Purchasing**

- 2.9. We will purchase fairly-traded goods where available
- 2.10. We will buy organic, locally produced goods where possible
- 2.11. We will strive to increase the proportion of goods and services purchased which are less harmful to the environment, within financial limitations. Purchasing decisions will be based on the choice of materials or products that have the lowest environmental impact in production, transportation, use and disposal
- 2.12. We will influence our indirect environmental impacts by 'greening' our supply chain, e.g. encouraging the supply chain to take up initiatives such as adopting environmental policies and providing environmentally friendly products.

## **3. Travel**

- 3.1. We will promote the use of public transport where available
- 3.2. We will strive to utilize vehicles with high fuel efficiency figures, low CO2 emissions and investigate the use of more environmentally friendly alternative fuels

## **4. Energy**

- 4.1. We will seek to minimize the use of energy in all our activities
- 4.2. Standard electric light bulbs will be replaced with those that are more energy efficient
- 4.3. Lights and equipment will be switched on only when in use and not left on 'standby'
- 4.4. We will investigate the appropriate use of renewable energy and/or a *green energy* supplier

## **5. Water**

- 7.1. We will conserve water where possible

## **6. Biodiversity**

- 6.1. We will endeavor to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity
- 6.2. When possible, native, wildlife friendly species will be used for planting schemes
- 6.3. To prepare for potential climate change impacts, drought tolerant species will be used wherever possible

## **7. Hazardous Materials and Chemicals**

- 7.1. We will take all possible measures to not expose the environment to chemicals that can harm people or nature
- 7.2. We will promote the organic agriculture and products

## **B. Field level activity**

### **1. General Environment**

- Issue based study
- Action researches
- Co-ordination of institution – network / collaborations
- Data based local level planning
- Adoption of conservation methods (soil & water)
- Promotion of local technical and traditional knowledge / skills
- Awareness generation / sanitation
- Facilitating appropriate agricultural practices

### **2. House construction**

- Study / observation of the area
- Area based planning
- Collaboration / network with the institutions
- Use of appropriate traditional styles and techniques
- Model creation
- Simplicity
- Cost effectiveness
- Awareness generation

### **3. Sanitation**

- Awareness generation
- Creating responses
- Use of new technologies / methods
- Co-ordination programmes through SHGs
- Proper study and planning
- Success study
- Model creation

### **4. IGPs**

- Use of technologies for waste management
- Awareness generation
- Monitoring and evaluations
- Action researches
- Model creation
- Co-ordination of institutions

## **Enforcement Date**

The Environmental Policy KAIROS will come in to force with effect from the date on which it is approved by the Governing Body.

## **Right of access to environmental Policy Document**

The KAIROS Staff will have access to the Environmental Policy.

## **Conclusion**

The successful implementation of this policy depends on the awareness and commitment of all staff/volunteers/members of the management committee of KAIROS. Hence, all new staff/volunteers/members of KAIROS will be made aware of its existence and on joining the organization, and reminded they must conform to it on a regular basis. The success of the policy will be evaluated on an annual basis. A healthy environment benefits everyone, and our commitment to environmental stewardship will be a long-term one.