



# Together for Our Planet

## Greening RVS

# Why Charities?

- ▶ All Charity beneficiaries will be impacted by climate change
- ▶ Social Justice - Climate Change impacts those with the least the most
- ▶ Charities lead the way to improve society but are behind on the shift to go green
- ▶ 82% of Footsie 100 Companies have committed to be carbon neutral by 2050
- ▶ 84% of Charities have not yet set an objective to reach carbon neutral

# TFOP at RVS

- ▶ To understand the contribution RVS is making to climate change and reduce it.
- ▶ To educate and raise awareness of RVS Trustees, staff, volunteers and members, of actions that reduce our individual and organisational impacts on the environment.
- ▶ To share our learning with RVS Members and provide a suite of actions, both small and larger scale, to encourage action that reduces their impact on the environment.



# Where can we effect change

- ▶ Trustees
- ▶ Senior Management
- ▶ Strategy and Policy
- ▶ Recruitment
- ▶ Induction and training of staff and Trustees
- ▶ Delivery of projects and services
- ▶ Office practices
- ▶ Personal choices
- ▶ Purchasing
- ▶ The buildings we choose to operate from
- ▶ Our Transport choices
- ▶ Technologies
- ▶ Everything we do has a carbon footprint - we need to identify where we can reduce ours.

# Project Outline

- ▶ Full Team meeting to introduce the TFOP RVS Project
- ▶ 100 Small Wins
- ▶ Creation of a Green Team (made up of team members) to generate, develop and implement ideas for change.
- ▶ Review RVS Strategies to ensure the environmental impact of our work is considered across all areas of organisation.
- ▶ Carry out an environmental audit of our policies and processes (subject to support for this work being secured) to identify which areas of our operations we will target for reduction.

# Project Outline

- ▶ Establish a monthly meeting (in work time not an add on) for staff to focus on this project, share challenges and wins, and generate new ideas for implementation.
- ▶ Implement actions identified through the Environmental Audit.
- ▶ Establish a recording system to capture the changes made and where measured the reductions in CO2 that have been made.
- ▶ Green Focus for RVS Voluntary Sector Forum in June 2023 to share our learning.
- ▶ Continue our journey to minimise our carbon footprint and establish RVS as an example of good practice.

# Our Journey so far

- ▶ Launched to team in January 2021
- ▶ 100 Small Wins board set up - capturing ideas for change
- ▶ Green Team established - not an add on to the day job.
- ▶ Linked with RBC to secure support from RBC Climate Apprentice, Sophie Rogers
- ▶ Staff survey undertaken
- ▶ Updates to the team and days of the week for action
- ▶ Regular slot at Team Meetings to discuss Greening Project and provide an opportunity for feedback from team members
- ▶ Workshop for Senior Management and Trustees to agree Strategic Approach to this work
- ▶ Ebike training offered to staff and Ebike available for staff use.

# Small changes with big impacts.

- ▶ Battery Collection in place
- ▶ Coffee beans collected for Blooming Marvellous Project
- ▶ Food Waste bins installed in office
- ▶ Recycling point planned
- ▶ Plug in the sink
- ▶ Paper use reviewed
- ▶ Red Ribbon - reuse and recycle
- ▶ Challenging our ordering habits
- ▶ RVS Projects - Greener from the outset



Saves a litre of water every 6 seconds.

VSF - actively reduced amount of paper used, reviewed catering and purchased eco banners

# Where are we now?

- ▶ Shift in behaviours and more conversations
- ▶ Workshop for Trustees generated support and discussions at Board Level
- ▶ Agreed Climate Values will be added to the Strategic document.
- ▶ Agreed a budget to support the work
- ▶ Climate Champion Role appointed at Board level.
- ▶ We are putting our house in order so that we can support our Members on their Green Journey.



# What have we learnt

- ▶ One size does not fit all, be prepared to adapt plans
- ▶ People have their day jobs
- ▶ Meet people where they are on their individual paths
- ▶ Do not assume knowledge, be clear on terminology
- ▶ Challenges come from many angles, organisational, individuals, old habits, fear of change, cost concerns...
- ▶ Small actions, lead to increased awareness and often result in further action
- ▶ Continue to meet the needs of our customers and getting the job done.
- ▶ Information and training is available, make use of it.
- ▶ Change is possible and every small actions makes a difference.
- ▶ Be open to conversations and keep them going.
- ▶ Seek support from others who have started their journey.
- ▶ Remember, this is a marathon not a sprint.

# What's Next

- ▶ Keep going!
- ▶ Support Members to on your Greening Journey
- ▶ Create a toolkit on the RVS website
- ▶ Consider networking and information sharing opportunities
- ▶ We can all learn from each other
- ▶ What can you pledge as individuals and organisations
- ▶ Knowledge sharing, an action you will take from today, what would help you to start your green journey?



*Big journeys  
begin with  
small steps*

Let's work together  
to make a change