



PawPrints: Sustainability Statement

Contents

Our Commitment to Sustainability	3
Environmental Commitments	4
Social Commitments	4
Governance Commitments	6
Summary of Our Commitments	7

Our Purpose at Dogs Trust Ireland

At Dogs Trust Ireland, we believe every dog deserves to live life to the full.

Our mission is underpinned by a dedication to sustainability, striving to create safe and sustainable environments for future canine generations. In a world of constant change, dogs' health and well-being face increasing threats. We advocate for - and act in the best interests of - our canine community, addressing issues that directly impact their long-term welfare.

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Our “Why” for Sustainability

Sustainability Ethos: At Dogs Trust Ireland, we are working towards a future where every dog thrives in a healthy, happy, and sustainable environment - and every action we take at Dogs Trust Ireland respects people, planet, and community trust.

Our “How” for Sustainability

Our Sustainability Commitment: We commit to embedding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters into our organisational strategy and objectives, to ensure continuous improvement in our sustainability performance, and to lead the way as a trusted sustainable charity in Ireland.

Our “What” for Sustainability

Our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments embody the “what” or the “essence” of our sustainability agenda. These commitments will evolve as we advance on our sustainability journey, and will be accompanied by time-bound goals, actions and targets.

Environmental Commitments

Scope of “Environmental”: At Dogs Trust Ireland, we acknowledge that our efforts in rehoming and caring for dogs require resource consumption and discharges, which, in turn, impacts the environment. The most pertinent environmental matters that we have detected to date include: our Carbon Footprint, Biodiversity & Pollution, Water usage and Waste.

Our Commitment to the Environment: As an organisation, we commit to better understanding our environmental impact and putting measures in place to reduce risks, lower negative impact and boost awareness across our people to ensure a more sustainable future for the planet and for dogs.

Our Environmental Commitments:

1. **We commit to getting the full picture:** We will regularly measure, assess and set milestones and annual targets against our key environmental matters.
2. **We commit to making change:** We will progress environmental performance improvements wherever feasible, without detracting from our core mission. We will develop partnerships that help to advance sustainability goals and share our journey with others, to boost widespread awareness and manage the environmental impact of our activities.
3. **We commit to formalising the change:** We will embed environmental matters in the review and development of our policies, procedures and guidance relating to our activities.

Social Commitments

Scope of “Social”: Dogs Trust Ireland recognises that its work to create a positive social impact for dogs and the people who love them directly and indirectly affects various stakeholders. At Dogs Trust Ireland, we aim to be a charity that is truly inclusive, with a diverse community of stakeholders who feel that they belong. Key social groups identified to date include Workers and the Affected Communities of our activities.

Our Commitment to our People: We will promote long-term, sustainable workplace practices that nurture wellbeing, inclusivity, and purpose.

We recognise, value and appreciate our people and aim to do everything we can to support them, within our means as a charity, and to serve our charitable purpose.

Our People Commitments:

1. **We commit to owning** what Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEI&B) means for Dogs Trust Ireland in the context of our charitable mission, behaviours, and culture.
2. **We commit to forward-focused people policies:** We will embed practical, impactful policies that comply with Irish equality legislation, best practices, and our values.
3. **We commit to fostering an inclusive culture and experience** that attracts, develops, and retains diverse talent throughout the employee lifecycle, upholding our standards as a responsible employer, and measuring our progress.

Our Commitment to our Communities: At Dogs Trust Ireland, we approach our mission through a social impact lens, advancing opportunities to create systemic change in animal welfare across communities and with external stakeholders in our remit.

Our Community Commitments:

1. **We commit to working with communities:** we will work across the country to educate, inspire and motivate people to act in the name of canine welfare.
2. **We commit to working with businesses:** we will co-create with corporate partners to educate and train, to activate social impact and to track and measure what we have called ‘The Dog Effect’.
3. **We commit to taking a rigorous, evidence-led approach:** Our aim is to deliver authentic value within society, informed by research and data, delivered by experts, and measured by impact.

Governance Commitments

Scope of “Governance”: Our definition of governance at Dogs Trust Ireland focuses on key areas essential to managing a charitable organisation of our nature. These include Animal Welfare, Political Engagement, Corruption and Bribery, Ethical Fundraising, Data Privacy, Safeguarding, and Whistleblowing. Additionally, we address broader Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) matters pertinent to our organisation.

Our Commitment to Good Governance: We commit to going beyond compliance to set a new standard for sustainable leadership, transparency and accountability in the charity sector - specifically in relation to animal welfare.

Our Governance Commitments:

1. **We commit to embedding ESG into the organisation:** We will equip our leadership with the essential knowledge and frameworks to effectively guide our ESG strategy and its implementation. We will clearly define ownership, systematically track performance, and report on our progress.
2. **We commit to driving good governance:** We will continue to assess risks and ensure accountability and ownership of key matters across the organisation and within formal structures such as our risk registries and organisational objectives.
3. **We commit to maintaining strong safety and security practices:** We will regularly review safeguarding, security and incident-response procedures to uphold safety standards for our people, volunteers, visitors, and the dogs in our care.

Summary of Our Commitments

In the short term (2025-26) we commit to formalising and embedding Sustainability into the organisation through clear, structured internal processes that will ensure a stable foundation for future efforts. To boost performance across sustainability matters, we aim to complete baseline assessments on our environmental impact as an organisation, continue championing DEI&B, systemically address societal challenges relating to dog welfare and maintain high standards in responsible governance.

In the mid-term (2026-onwards), we commit to setting environmental goals that are data-driven, as well as actively pursuing strategic innovation projects and engaging stakeholders on key environmental matters as they relate to animal welfare and our systems change commitments. We commit to continuing to invest in our people and continuing to lead in sustainable leadership and governance.

In the long-term (towards 2030 and beyond), we commit to unlocking strategic opportunities for animal welfare stewardship and scaling best practices across communities, leveraging our systemic change commitments, so that future generations of dogs have the best chance of living life to the full.

Note: Dogs Trust Ireland commits to continuing to evaluate our sustainability agenda and impact through ongoing measuring, tracking, reporting and improvements.