

CHASE Environmental Sustainability Statement

In light of the Climate Emergency, CHASE undertakes to:

- minimise the environmental impact of its various activities
- emphasise carbon literacy in our cohorts through training and funding activities
- promote arts and humanities research that reflects on and responds to the climate crisis in terms of questions, conceptual frameworks, methods, activism or modes of dissemination
- encourage the sharing of practical advice between researchers on how to do sustainable research
- support environmental humanities within the Consortium
- seek partnerships with environmentally-led organisations
- discuss sustainability leadership with our partner organisations
- embed sustainability into all areas of DTP policy and planning

The Management Board will keep this policy under regular review and welcomes constructive suggestions to develop and improve our work in this direction. In particular, we are keen to find ways to address these issues in ways that do not fall exclusively or unfairly on individual researchers. We accept that different disciplines and projects require more travel, including overseas travel, than others.

This policy has been inspired by discussions with representatives from the CHASE Climate Justice Network and *The Sustainable DTP* forum organised by NWCDTP.

CHASE Environmental Sustainability Plan

1. TRAVEL

CHASE can fund higher travel costs for sustainable travel and encourages rail travel where possible.

Application forms for travel reimbursements will encourage the transition from 'cheapest' to 'greenest' according to the following principles:

- a. Within the UK, trains and buses should be the norm for travel.
- b. For travel within Europe, researchers are encouraged to use the [EcoPassenger](#) carbon calculator to help them understand carbon emissions in context and to make informed choices about travel.
- c. For any flights, applicants must demonstrate that travel has significant and justifiable benefit for their research. Researchers are encouraged to create added value and durational length to trips (conferences plus archival visits, for example, and pre-preparation via digital archives).

- d. Variations to these norms are acceptable where disabilities, home location, caring responsibilities and personal safety (e.g. arrival/departure times) might make longer journey times unsafe or impossible.
- e. The application form will request information about the carbon impact of the journey, using the Ecopassenger or Climate Care (depending on destination).
- f. CHASE will keep a record of these cumulative emissions (by cohort, not individual) and purchase carbon offsets (woodland or peatland code only) to cover them at six-monthly intervals. We will endeavour to follow best practice in relation to offsetting.¹

2. CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

CHASE is committed to increasing use of digital remote events to reduce travel and other environmental impacts, but recognises the value of in-person engagement and the costs of the digital carbon footprint. CHASE therefore

- supports a mixed economy of online and in-person events
- seeks to minimise the environmental impact of all events

CHASE-led events

- a. Encounters aims to bring researchers together, so we will continue to organise one in-person conference each summer. The winter conference will move online.
- b. Where there are good grounds for not attending in person, organisers will endeavour to allow remote presentations and, with speakers' consent, to stream keynote presentations.
- c. No one is expected to fly to attend Encounters (e.g. researchers on fieldwork abroad). Any request to do so would be considered according to any enhanced criteria developed for funding applications).
- d. Programmes, abstracts etc. will generally not be printed but made available in digital formats.
- e. We will use up the existing merchandise, including name badges, but in future ensure we provide only what is necessary, sustainable, and plastic-free.
- f. We aim to use reusable crockery and cutlery and offer ways to fill water bottles.

¹ Some offsetting schemes are regulated by accreditations like the Gold Standard, but others come with less oversight and assurance. Because it is much cheaper to set up projects in the Global South, buyers are potentially at risk of inadvertently funding projects with negative social impacts, such as the practice of dispossessing people from their land in the name of afforestation or other offsetting ventures.

- g. Catering will be vegetarian by default with other opt-in options, including vegan. We will use caterers committed to zero waste and fair trade. We will aim for food to be local, seasonal and as free of packaging as possible.
- h. To avoid food waste, CHASE will trial the use of Olio at an event of a suitable size (30 people and upwards).²

CHASE-sponsored training events:

Many of our training events are provided by external partners and will have their own guidelines. However, we will share this statement with partners, and encourage them to take environmental impact into consideration in terms of resources, travel and refreshments, as above. A section on environmental impact is included in the Cohort Development Fund Toolkit.

3. SHARING GOOD PRACTICE:

CHASE will use its position to gather and disseminate policies and practical guidance from ongoing discussions around sustainability in arts and humanities research within, between and beyond or member institutions.

- a. We will ask our member institutions to feed back on their local green initiatives so that we can share best practice.
- b. We will ask doctoral researchers via the student survey to alert us to any examples of good practice that they would like us to consider or share.
- c. We will share links, documents and other resources, where appropriate, on the CHASE website.

4. RESEARCH DESIGN

- d. We will ask researchers to include a statement in their annual training needs analysis about environmental impacts and how they have been minimised
- e. We will consult with institutional Research Ethics and Governance officers to explore the feasibility of including environmental impact as part of the ethical review process.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

We will consider adopting a Code of Conduct.

² [Olio](#) is a free, UK-wide food sharing app where anyone can advertise leftover food for collection, and anyone can collect it. Olio also offers options (for a small fee) for organisations to help them with food left over from events. Olio can collect all types of food, including cold buffet food, if it is packaged appropriately and labelled by the caterer in line with legal requirements.

USEFUL LINKS

- a. Policy statements
 - [UKRI's Sustainability Strategy](#)
 - [Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities Green Strategy](#)
 - [Wellcome Trust's policy on offsetting](#)
 - [Code of Conduct to support a low-carbon research culture](#)

- b. Activist networks
 - [CHASE Climate Justice Network](#)
 - [Place-based Climate Action Network](#)
 - [Students Organising For Sustainability](#)

- c. Deciding on greener travel options
 - [Eco Passenger](#)
 - [Travel Better Package](#)
 - [Tyndall Decision Tree](#)
 - [Climate Impact Partners Carbon Calculator](#)
 - [World Wildlife Fund Footprint calculator](#)

- d. Further resources
 - [Sustainability Exchange](#) (for sustainability in education)
 - [The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education \(EAUC\)](#)
 - People & Planet [University League](#) for sustainability.
 - [Carbon Trust](#)

Version	Approved	Notes
1	13/7/22	