



ACCEPTED  
by the TBEC Board  
on February 11, 2025

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Paul Sommerfeld,  
Chair of TBEC Board

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

OF STICHTING TB EUROPE COALITION



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY OF STICHTING TB EUROPE COALITION

### **1. Introduction**

Climate change and nature loss are intensifying. Nature is declining at unprecedented rates with the health of ecosystems deteriorating rapidly. The twin crises of climate change and nature loss are also a health crisis. The WHO has warned that climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.

Stichting TB Europe Coalition (“TBEC”) is aware of threats resulting from irresponsible use of natural resources and acknowledges the need for energy and the world’s climate transformation. Responding to the expectations of its stakeholders, TBEC takes actions to mainstream relevant approach into its planning and other activities and to avoid inadvertent harm to the people TBEC is trying to help, as well as to conduct its activities in a sustainable manner and to minimize its environmental footprint.

### **2. Goals of the Policy**

The aim of this Policy is to manage effectively the impact of its activity on the natural environment, in accordance with the sustainable development principles, through:

- minimization of the direct impact on the environment and climate;
- minimization of the indirect impact on the environment and climate in connection with TBEC’s activities.

### **3. Principles of the Policy**

Taking into consideration the overriding aim, which is to manage the environmental footprint effectively, TBEC observes the following principles:

- *The climate crisis needs a collective response from governments, business and civil society:* An international approach based on multilateral frameworks and coordinated across sectors is essential. The Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to mitigate climate change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals govern a unified response. TBEC, as a civil society actor, is a part of such collective response.
- *Healthcare systems are part of the solution to climate change and nature loss:* Better disease surveillance and robust health infrastructures would help to get ahead of the health risks. TBEC welcomes the WHO Climate and Health program regarding building climate resilient and low carbon healthcare systems.
- TBEC is committed to reducing water consumption and wants to help ensure that water is managed sustainably in order to improve public health. In particular, TBEC recognizes the Human Right to Water, which, as defined by the United Nations, entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.
- Waste must be reduced and managed safely for the health of both people and planet. Any waste, including rejected or returned products declared as waste, should be managed appropriately from the point of generation to the point of final disposal in a safe and responsible manner with environmentally sustainable waste disposal systems.



- TBEC is committed to protecting biodiversity through sustainable sourcing and use of materials, particularly with regard to any forest-risk commodities purchased directly by TBEC or within its programs.
- TBEC complies with all applicable environmental laws and maintains all licenses, permits and registrations if required by such laws.
- TBEC takes into account environmental and climate issues (if any) when developing its strategy, in its key decision-making and management processes.
- TBEC manages environmental resources in a sustainable and rational manner.
- TBEC ensures that environmental risks (if any) are identified and assessed, and that appropriate measures are implemented to manage such risks, estimates and tries to limit potential adverse consequences of its activities for the natural environment.
- In its direct activity, TBEC eliminates environmental pollution right at its source and counteracts it.
- TBEC reduces direct and indirect impact on the environment and also promotes pro-ecological attitudes aiming to prevent climate changes.
- TBEC ensures that all confirmed or suspected environmentally adverse events are duly reported and investigated so that actions can be implemented to prevent recurrence (e.g. notification to local or national regulators; evacuation of the site or community or initiation of community emergency response; any adverse news coverage or public complaints).

#### **4. Actions Limiting Direct Impact on the Natural Environment**

TBEC deliberately reduces its direct impact on the environment to protect natural resources and prevent pollution. For this purpose, in particular, TBEC:

- considers environmental and climate-related aspects while selecting premises or buildings for the purposes of conducted activity;
- if it has relevant resources and opportunities, implements energy-saving technologies and innovative technical solutions;
- if it has relevant resources and opportunities, uses energy from renewable sources;
- does not rent or otherwise use any office premises, promotes remote work as well as conduct of meetings and conferences through virtual platforms;
- limits business travel unless it is necessary, prioritizes sustainable modes of transport for business travel;
- encourages limited use of:
  - electrical and thermal energy;
  - water;
- reduces its operational waste;
- limits use of office supplies, including paper and printer toners, prefers electronic documentation flow where possible;
- manages waste reasonably, properly disposing of assets or reusing them;
- conducts informational activity which increases ecological awareness of employees, promoting pro-ecological behaviors at work and home.



## **5. Actions Limiting Indirect Impact on the Natural Environment**

TBEC is aware of indirect impact it has on the environment and reduces adverse influence on the climate. TBEC takes actions limiting the environmental footprint:

- through its activity and dialog with stakeholders and communities, it supports relevant climate transformation efforts;
- when selecting suppliers and partners, it takes into consideration environment- and climate-friendly solutions and encourages its partners to join actively the process of energy and climate transformation;
- where appropriate, it conducts informational activity among its partners in the area of environmental protection.

## **6. Carbon Dioxide Policy**

TBEC is fully committed to reducing the greenhouse gases emissions through:

- maintaining a fully remote work regime throughout the organization, which means absence of central office premises and, as a result, related emissions (whose production is primarily from carbon-based fuel) which may arise from commuting to work, purchased electricity, heat, fugitive emissions due to refrigerant leaks etc.;
- limiting business travel to only necessary one and promoting virtual meetings and conferences, using sustainable modes of transport for travel, avoiding staying at luxurious or expensive hotels and accommodations during travel which produce more emissions;
- limiting use of office supplies, promoting electronic documentation flow in its activities;
- limiting operational waste from TBEC's activities;
- promoting energy-efficient practices, including sustainable IT practices, electronic execution and exchange of documents, limitation of paper use, among TBEC's employees, consultants and partners.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

Director is responsible for governance and oversight of relevant environmental risks and opportunities to ensure that there is an effective framework in place for identifying and managing such risks and opportunities, including compliance with environmental regulations, as well as for taking immediate and appropriate action with regard to them; for raising of awareness among TBEC's personnel. S/he also monitors how TBEC is delivering on its relevant commitments.

All TBEC's personnel must read and understand the Policy, follow its principles and contribute to actions limiting the impact on the natural environment.