

Environmental Protection

The IPA believes in doing its part to help protect the environment, contribute to tackling global warming, promote conservation of natural flora and fauna, and pollute as little as possible.

The IPA aspires to being “part of the solution” rather than being “part of the problem”.

Islington has the smallest amount of green space of any London Borough, so making the best of what is available is particularly important.

Internally

- There will be a fixed agenda item on staff meetings once every three months where staff will be asked for ideas to improve on the agency’s environmental impact and reduce its carbon footprint.
- Office and workplace waste will be disposed of in a responsible manner and recycled whenever possible.
- All electronic equipment that can be practically switched off when not required will be and will be switched off over night and at other times when workplaces are not in use. Office practices, staff inductions and planning for any modification and equipment purchases will all reflect this requirement.
- Partnership with Islington Council environmental initiatives such as their energy metering and energy doctor projects will assist in developing best practice.
- Long life low consumption lighting will be used whenever possible and a 6 monthly review will be held of all IPA premises to check and sustain progress on this. A chart will be drawn up to show what lighting is in place in which buildings and any instances where the best low consumption option is not followed must be justified along with a plan for improvement.
- Cycling and use of public transport will be encouraged and provision for the secure storage of cycles will be made wherever possible at workplaces.
- Use of motor vehicles to commute to and from work and for travel for work will not be encouraged and no parking spaces will be provided unless there are overriding factors – for example staff or IPA members/volunteers with disabilities that make car use unavoidable.
- When planning and developing new projects development staff will examine the environmental impact and outcomes the new work may generate and seek to build into new work positive environmental activities/features.
- Recycled office materials, for example paper, computer ink and packaging will be used whenever possible.
- Building work on adventure playgrounds will use recycled wood and other recycled materials whenever possible.

- Staff training and staff development planning will take due account for the need for IPA staff, volunteers and members to be well informed and equipped to deliver work in line with this policy.

Work as a second tier development and support agency

The IPA, when working with member groups, community groups and partner organisations will:

- Promote an informed and responsible approach to conservation and environmental protection.
- Seek to ensure that affiliated and partner groups and other community and voluntary sector groups adopt similar environmental policies to the IPA's and encourage and enable them to work with and for children and young people to ensure that they understand the importance of environmental responsibility.
- Seek funding to enhance the IPA's work in the field of nature conservation and environmental protection and assist user groups and partners to do the same.
- Liaise with the Local Authority and other statutory agencies so that the IPA can contribute positively to progressive environmental public policy initiatives.
- Collaborate whenever possible with non-statutory agencies, groups and campaigns that share the IPA's environmental policies
- When advising on the design of children's play areas and other children's services, staff will apply due regard to environmental aspects – for example encourage the use of rainwater run-off for water play, promote and enable tree planting to provide shade for play and reduce urban "heat island" effects and general promote bio-diversity and nature conservation. Staff will promote low-cost, low environmental impact forms of play, over those that require expensive or energy consuming equipment.