

## 2. Environmental and climate policy

This policy guides volunteers and employees with the Swedish Red Cross Youth in how we run activities with regards to sustainable development. Sustainable development has several meanings, and this policy focuses on ecological sustainability. Ecological sustainability means preserving the earth's ecosystem and maintaining the earth's long-term functions such as natural resources, clean water, climate regulation, and recreation. Ecological sustainability is a prerequisite for the other forms of sustainability: social and economic sustainability.

### **Why we work with ecological sustainability**

Major changes are needed in society to effectively address global challenges such as climate change and the over-consumption of resources. Our actions within the organization have a local and global impact. Therefore, the Swedish Red Cross Youth must be a sustainable organization that contributes to the development of a sustainable society.

### **How we work with ecological sustainability**

The choices we make today make a difference in the future. If everyone in the organization thinks about the consequences of their choices, we can make a big difference. Volunteers and employees in the Swedish Red Cross Youth must therefore consume and travel consciously within the framework of our organization.

### **To consume consciously**

We take our responsibility by consuming goods and services that consider social and environmental aspects. Today there are many choices to make for those who want to consume sustainably. Volunteers and employees in the activities of the Swedish Red Cross Youth shall, to the extent possible, consume products that have an ecological and ethical label.

When we collaborate with companies that deliver goods or services to us, it is important that we choose partners who live up to our environmental and climate policy. Further guidelines for corporate collaborations at the local level can be found in the association handbook, which is available to everyone at [www.rkuf.se](http://www.rkuf.se).

This means that:

- Foods we consume must, as far as possible, be organically grown, locally produced and / or Fairtrade-labeled (or equivalent labeling).
- We must also, as far as possible, refrain from using disposable items, alternatively choose eco-labeled alternatives.
- At meetings and trainings at national and local level, we only serve vegetarian food.
- We will recycle and when possible, reuse things we have purchased, such as office supplies.
- Our PR and information material, such as t-shirts and brochures, must be produced with the environment and human rights in mind.
- To reduce resource waste, our products should be used over a longer period of time and in several contexts. We therefore think carefully through messages on printed material.

### **To travel consciously**

At meetings, trainings, and meetings, volunteers and staff at the Swedish Red Cross Youth must always choose the travel alternative that is least harmful to the environment.

This means that:

- For longer trips, we should always choose to travel by train. If the travel time exceeds 6 hours one way, the traveler can choose between train and plane.
- If flights, despite the above, are the only option, the trip must be climate compensated.
- For shorter trips, we will cycle, ride public transport or ride together whenever possible. We will not drive unless it is necessary.