

Our Pledge to Provide and Support Environmentally Sustainable Family Mediation¹

As an organisation supporting family mediation, recognising the urgent need to reduce our impact on the climate, we are committed to the following:

1. We will take steps to reduce the environmental impact/ carbon footprint of our office/workplace, conducting a formal or informal environmental audit or “carbon conversation” from time to time
2. We will consider environmental factors in our decision-making wherever possible, including:
 - The shapes, formats and venues of any events, training or conferences we promote or participate in, including environmentally friendly catering
 - The appropriateness of travelling to, and our mode of travel to and from, meetings, conferences and other events, wherever possible encouraging and using live streaming/remote participation options or transport with a lesser carbon footprint;
 - The extent to which any contractors are encouraged/ discouraged to work from home/ attend the office, taking into account any contractors welfare/ mental health implications of such decision
 - Promoting correspondence and communication by electronic means, unless hard copies are expressly required in the circumstances, while recognising that electronic communication itself is carbon emitting and should be limited to what is necessary;
 - In all aspects of our work, considering the most environmentally friendly way to travel if travel is necessary, and, if appropriate, encouraging colleagues, clients and others to do the same
 - Encouraging, wherever possible, an environmentally friendly approach to the use of consumables (for example the avoidance of single-use plastic) and the use of energy (for example reviewing the level of air conditioning and heating);
3. In our support of mediation activity we will adopt the following principles:
 - We will encourage our mediator members explicitly to consider the environmental impact of any decision whether to meet with clients in person, for the purposes of either assessment or mediation, in the context of all other key factors such as safety, effectiveness and accessibility
 - Unless there is a special need to do so arising from the nature of the discussions or financial disclosure, our members are not required to request hard copies of documents and we discourage the use of hard copy documents generally as part of mediations;
 - If screen sharing/video technology is appropriate, accessible and acceptable to all concerned, we will encourage its use in all aspects of our members’ mediations
 - We will encourage our mediator members to offer clients and their advisers the most environmentally friendly venue for their mediations
4. We will avoid flying where it is feasible and reasonable to do so, and offset the carbon emissions of any flights or significantly carbon-emitting journeys to and from meetings and events (using an effective and fair offsetting system) and encourage others to do the same
5. We will seek to raise awareness of this pledge, for example by referring to it and the World Mediators Alliance on Climate Change on our website and/or email footer, and by encouraging colleagues and other mediation organisations to follow suit.

Signed

On behalf of **Family Mediators Association (FMA)** Dated **6 January 2022**

¹ This pledge is based on the “Illustrative Green Pledge” to be found at <https://womacc.org/> and can be amended to suit individual preferences. It should be accompanied by signing up to the <https://womacc.org/> pledge, to demonstrate a developing community of mediators who recognise the linkage between their profession and “making peace with the planet.” This specimen pledge is designed to be adapted by organisations which support mediation, including the Family Mediation Council and Member Organisations