

PSI Policy on Environmental Sustainability

PSI approaches environmental sustainability from two perspectives: the work that we do, particularly in sexual and reproductive health; and the sustainability of our own operations.

In addition, as an employer and social business manager in over 40 countries around the world, we have a responsibility to undertake our work in an environmentally sustainable way whenever possible.

Rapid environmental changes and instabilities bring risk of disrupting the markets people depend on, leaving critical health services and products out of reach, essentially upending the critical work PSI has been doing for over five decades to make it easier for people to lead healthier lives.

PSI progressively takes action at all operational levels to reduce our environmental and carbon footprint, increase our contributions to sustainability and mitigate climate change.

At the global level:

- Our policy commitment to the environment is demonstrated by our signature to the United Nations Global Compact in 2017 and by fulfilling our reporting requirements under the Compact.
- In 2020, PSI recognized the threat posed by climate change by adopting it into our organizational risk management framework, ensuring that it is addressed alongside every other external risk factor facing our organization. This move reinforces the importance of our policy to be a good environmental steward.
- Our commitment is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 30% by 2030. We will do this by first measuring PSI's baseline emissions and using that data to create a climate action plan that will reduce and mitigate our footprint, without sacrificing mission-critical activities. We made this commitment by joining an alliance of development organizations called Climate Accountability in Development (CAD).

At the country level:

- We support and adhere to government environmental standards, as well as advocate for sustainable practices and policies when we have the opportunity.
- Many of PSI's country offices have implemented "green gathering guidelines" to reduce the environmental impact of our meetings and conferences. These guidelines have been used as criteria to assess meeting venues, selecting only ones that utilize reusable dishware, do not use plastic water bottles or paper, and reduce meal waste. Offsetting the carbon incurred from travel and utilities are also considered in the green gathering guidelines.

At PSI Global Offices:

- The PSI Global Office in Washington DC was renovated in 2018 and measurable steps were taken to ensure the building updates were as environmentally sustainable as possible, using recycled and eco-friendly materials, as well as investing in energy and water conservation appliances and systems.

- We have made efforts to conserve energy through our green roof, which improves storm water management by reducing runoff and improving water quality, conserving energy, reducing air pollution, sequestering carbon, and increase urban biodiversity by providing habitat for wildlife.
- We have an ongoing recycling program throughout the building in Washington, we use 100% recycled paper, non-toxic cleaning products, and we no longer purchase single use or non-compostable items in our kitchens.
- The Global Office in Washington also encourages adherence to the “green gathering guidelines” and when possible through donor funding, staff take advantage of carbon offsetting investments to counter necessary long-haul air travel.

At the community level:

- We integrate principles of environmental sustainability by taking steps to ensure proper management of waste generated by our programs.
- In the programs we implement, we assess capacity of collaborating health facilities to appropriately dispose of increased clinical waste due to the impact of the program prior to project start up. Discussions are held with local authorities to implement action plans and improvements for waste disposal.
- PSI complies with the required Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans for projects funded by the US Agency for International Development, assessing perceived risks to the environment before a project begins.