

Environmental Policy

Last updated: 21:06 11/02/2026



Purpose

ScoutSwap recognises that digital services and online platforms have an environmental impact through energy use, data storage, and the technologies that support them. As a volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation, we are committed to minimising our environmental footprint in ways that are proportionate to our size, resources, and mission.

This policy sets out our approach to environmental responsibility and our commitment to continual improvement.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- The operation of our website and online platform.
- Digital infrastructure, hosting, and data storage.
- Software development and maintenance practices.
- Organisational activities carried out by volunteers in connection with the platform.

Environmentally Responsible Digital Practices

Hosting & Infrastructure

We aim to reduce the environmental impact of our digital infrastructure by:

- Avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and infrastructure.
- Reviewing hosting and infrastructure needs periodically to ensure they remain appropriate and efficient.

Efficient Website & Platform Design

We seek to apply sustainable digital design principles, including:

- Optimising images, media, and code to reduce data transfer and energy use.
- Avoiding unnecessary features, scripts, or auto-playing media.
- Regularly reviewing and removing unused plugins, tools, or dependencies.
- Designing for accessibility and performance across a range of devices, including lower-power hardware.

Data Minimisation & Storage

We are committed to responsible data practices by:

- Collecting only data that is necessary for the operation of the platform.
- Regularly reviewing stored data and removing data that is no longer required
- Limiting long-term data retention where possible.

These practices align with our wider commitment to ethical data use and data protection.

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Sustainable Working Practices

As a volunteer-run organisation with an international community, we aim to minimise environmental impact by:

- Favouring remote collaboration and digital communication
- Reducing the need for travel wherever possible
- Encouraging low-carbon travel options when in-person activities are necessary

Procurement and Partnerships

When selecting tools, services, or partners, we aim to:

- Consider environmental impact alongside cost and functionality.
- Prefer suppliers and partners that demonstrate environmental responsibility.
- Avoid unnecessary hardware purchases and seek to extend the lifespan of devices where feasible.

Awareness and Culture

We encourage volunteers to:

- Be mindful of environmental impact in their work on the platform
- Share ideas and best practices for improving sustainability
- Support the integration of environmental considerations into decision-making where appropriate

Environmental responsibility is viewed as part of our wider commitment to ethical and responsible organisational practice.

Review and Responsibility

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains appropriate and effective as the organisation evolves. Overall responsibility for this policy lies with the organisation's leadership, with implementation supported by volunteers involved in platform management and operations.

Last review: Feb 2026

Next review: Feb 2027

Approval

Approved by the directors on 11/02/2026.

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Director

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