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Ethical Fundraising Policy – EcoBerko

v1.0, 26 Feb 2026

1. Introduction

This policy sets out how EcoBerko raises funds in a clear, transparent and values-led way. It ensures we only work with funders and partners who support, or at least do not conflict with, our mission.

The policy helps us:

- Protect our reputation and independence.
- Make clear decisions about donations, grants and partnerships.
- Ensure funds come from ethical and legal sources.
- Provide a process for research and due diligence.
- Avoid being compromised by the requirements of an outside body.

2. Why We Fundraise

EcoBerko raises funds to support our Objectives and Mission, and to help reach toward our Vision.

Our income may come from:

- Grants and foundations
- Public contracts or agreements
- Training, events, or consultancy
- Individual donations and grassroots fundraising
- In-kind support (skills, venues, advice, training)
- Membership fees
- Revenue-generating social enterprises
- Sponsorship

3. Responsibility

- The **Steering Group** holds overall responsibility for this policy.
- The **Grants Officer** manages fundraising and due diligence.
- All decisions must put the interests of EcoBerko first.

4. Principles for Accepting Support

As part of Due Diligence (see “7. Decision-Making and Due Diligence below”) We will only accept funding or partnerships if they:

- Benefit our mission and communities.

- Do not compromise our independence.
- Do not create excessive reputational risks.
- Do not give donors excessive influence over our strategy or activities.

5. Partnerships and Endorsements

- Any marketing or endorsement must reflect our values and be approved by governance processes.
- If we work with an organisation but do not endorse them, we will include a disclaimer.
- Partner access to EcoBerko contacts or data will only be given with explicit consent and in line with data protection law.

6. Who We Will Not Work With

We will not accept funding from those directly involved in harmful practices, damaging to the environment, prospects of children and future generations, including:

- Fossil fuel extraction and promotion
- Environmentally destructive industries (pollution, toxic chemicals, mining)
- Arms and military contracts
- Human rights abuses or exploitative labour
- Intensive farming or genetic engineering
- Tobacco production
- Money laundering, corruption, or illegal activity
- Gambling companies that lead to addiction (i.e. not including National Lottery)

Note that overall, we will complete Due Diligence on potential funders, as below.

7. Decision-Making and Due Diligence

For large donations or partnerships (typically cumulative donations over 2-years of over £1,000), the group responsible for progressing the opportunity will formally consider the Principles of Accepting Support (see above), carrying out checks such as:

- Reviewing public information (Companies House, Charity Commission, press reports).
- Online searches for controversies or unethical practices.
- Verifying donor identity and the source of funds if needed.
- Considering whether the risks are excessive for the reputation of the group.

If risks or issues are found, either the opportunity should be dropped, or reviewed and referred to the Steering Group for a decision.

8. Record Keeping

- We will keep records of checks, decisions, and donation sources. The Grants Officer will be responsible for putting in place the process for these records to be maintained.
- Anonymous donations may be accepted if legal and safe, but details will be kept internally for audit purposes.

9. Public Funding and Grants

When accepting government or foundation grants, we will check that conditions do not compromise our values or indirectly promote harmful industries.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if needed.

Contact: Grants Officer

Definition of Terms

Grants Officer: Person appointed by the Steering Group to the role of Grants Officer. If no person holds this role, then the responsibility reverts to the Steering Group / Board of Trustees.

Steering Group: This is the EcoBerko Steering Group or the Board of Trustees at the point that EcoBerko becomes a Charity.