



YHEC: Corporate Social Responsibility Statement

YHEC undertakes health economics research with the aim of helping decision makers to improve population health and health-related social wellbeing. We are a subsidiary company of the University of York. All our profits go back into the University (a registered charity), funding developments in facilities, research and education. This statement summarises the approach to social responsibility within our company.

We want our staff to be happy to come to work and to enjoy the work that they do. Putting our people first is a core part of our culture. We have shaped our values around our staff because we believe that this is the best way to drive our business forward.

All YHEC staff are included in setting our business objectives. We invest in staff training and we encourage a two-way dialogue through an open-door culture. We provide opportunities for people with potential to join YHEC, to develop their careers and, as our existing team will tell you, we also seek to promote from within where appropriate because we value the knowledge and expertise of existing staff.

Equality and Diversity

As a subsidiary of the University of York, YHEC is aligned with the University's equality and diversity policies: <https://www.york.ac.uk/about/equality/policy-guidance/policies/>

The University of York works to create a working, learning, social and living environment which is safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone. YHEC is also fully committed to this aim and all members of our team have the right to a fair, welcoming and inclusive environment that is free from all forms of harassment and bullying. Dignity and respect are at the heart of the way we work at YHEC. Our policies and practices recognise and value difference, and all staff undergo training to ensure they understand legal requirements and best practice. YHEC has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which all staff are eligible to join, which works to ensure that EDI policies are implemented successfully and in alignment with YHEC's vision and values.

Health and Wellbeing

YHEC recognises the importance of mental health support for staff. We have six trained mental health first aiders and all staff can access training on resilience and mental health. Staff also have access to 24-hour confidential care support lines and YHEC has a comprehensive health and wellbeing strategy and three dedicated workplace wellbeing groups, co-designed and co-delivered by staff. Our policies offer a range of flexibilities that enable us to support staff in the context of their individual circumstances.

Charity Fundraising

Every year, YHEC's staff nominate and select a charity to support and undertake a wide range of challenges to raise money for the chosen charity. Recent activities have included quizzes, an Easter egg hunt, a 'Great British Bake Off' sweepstake and sponsored sporting events.

YHEC matches staff fundraising efforts up to £5,000: for every £1 raised by YHEC staff, YHEC will give a further £1 to the chosen charity.

Charity Giving

YHEC staff can donate to charity via payroll giving; this is a way of giving money to charity without paying tax on it.

Volunteer Days

YHEC supports voluntary and charitable activities and staff may set aside up to two days (pro rata) per year (in work time) to undertake such activities. As well as being an opportunity for YHEC to benefit the wider community, this contributes to staff wellbeing and happiness. Staff can choose to do the voluntary work individually or as a group activity, and participation is entirely optional.

Procurement

As a subsidiary of the University of York, YHEC's purchasing follows the University's procurement guidelines and we benefit from the sustainability principles that they follow. The procurement department recognises the need to be responsible in the choice of suppliers and to understand the life cycle of the products bought. The principles behind the procurement policies aim to:

- Appoint environmentally responsible suppliers where practical
- Take a long-term partnership approach with key suppliers to reduce our joint environmental impact
- Endeavour to purchase goods and services with the least environmental impact during their life cycle
- Reduce paper-based transactions within the purchase cycle
- Support local businesses and the economy wherever possible

Further details are available at: <https://www.york.ac.uk/about/sustainability/what-we-are-doing/procurement/>

Slavery and Human Trafficking

YHEC follows guidance from the University of York in acknowledgement of Section 54 (1) part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in our supply chains or in any part of YHEC activities. Further details are available at: <https://www.york.ac.uk/about/sustainability/strategy/slavery-human-trafficking/>

Energy Efficiency/Environmental Awareness

YHEC leases office space on York Science Park (YSP). The facilities management teams at YSP and the University of York oversee our building and undertake green energy assessments of it. YHEC also has access to the resources on sustainability developed by the University of York: <https://www.york.ac.uk/about/sustainability/>

YHEC's Environment Group, comprised of staff volunteers, works to ensure that YHEC operates as sustainably as possible. Staff are encouraged to shut down IT equipment when they leave work, rechargeable batteries are used where appropriate and YHEC is signed up to 'Cyclescheme' to support staff to cycle to work.

Recycling

YHEC provides facilities to enable staff to recycle a wide range of items. Although a fully paperless office is not practical, staff are encouraged to avoid printing unnecessarily.

We use the University's 'Warp It' Reuse Scheme to offer YHEC's unwanted goods and furniture to other departments and to source items that we need.

YHEC staff can use the nearby British Heart Foundation donation bank for their unwanted clothes, books and other small items, and can use the relevant University Slack channels to advertise and source items for personal use.