# **DOC-BOARD-22-03-01 ANNEX**

# First draft Green EDF Policy

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# Introduction

As the world's largest minority, persons with disabilities are very heavily impacted by the climate crisis. Considering that there are 1 billion people around the globe with disability, and 100 million in Europe alone, our actions to combat climate change will also have a huge impact.

EDF has been working on climate related issues in recent years, and range of our previous actions are listed in [Annex 1](#_Annex_1:_EDF). [Annex 2](#_Annex_2_Our) elaborates some of the networks and alliances EDF already works on in the field of climate. This policy was developed by assessing the current situation, by discussing with our members and by trying to identify the key areas where EDF can have an impact. This policy will form the framework for EDF action on climate change. It will be followed by a roadmap and regular monitoring (to be integrated into EDFs existing monitoring system.

The areas covered in our policy are in four broad, interrelated fields:

* **Advocacy and networking**: building a greener, more accessible and inclusive future through inclusive Global and European climate action
* **Climate action within EDF:** reducing our own impact on the environment
* **Research and evidence**: studying the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and generating knowledge and best practices to influence change
* **Capacity building** for a stronger, more sustainable disability movement

## Advocacy and networking

Persons with disabilities in every part of the world are more impacted by climate change - so while climate change dominates the political agenda, persons with disabilities should be part of this political dialogue. In addition, the [EU Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) and [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:82:FIN) are key instruments which the EU will use to combat climate change, both in Europe and around the world. These give a range of opportunities for EDF to support the sustainability agenda, and to advance disability rights through the green agenda. Examples of the rights which can be advanced through the green agenda, include meaningful participation, accessible public transport, accessible buildings, access to training and work, inclusive disaster risk reduction, the ‘just transition’ including mitigating the negative impact of the transition on persons with disabilities, and the digital transition.

## Climate action within EDF: reducing our own impact on the environment

EDF as an organisation has an environmental impact. It is important that we are aware of it, know what negative impact we have and take measures to reduce it. This covers our office, energy consumption, digital management, staff and members’ travel, our events, including travel, catering, materials we use and how we use them. Known sometimes as the idea “to practice what you preach” this is particularly important for the Disability Movement. We sometimes find ourselves arguing against climate measures which have not been discussed with the disability movement, or which are blatantly ableist (such as blanket bans on assistive products like plastic straws, without any alternatives put in place). To convince the world that the disability movement is not climate denying, and to pro-actively use the opportunity to advance disability rights in the context of sustainability, we should contribute to the development, and practice of inclusive, accessible climate mitigation and adaptation policies. EDF has a very wide membership, advocating for the rights of 100 million Europeans with disabilities. If EDF, our member organisations and their members engage in the fight to combat climate change we will be a powerful force for environmental sustainability.

## Research and evidence

The disproportionate impact that environmental degradation and climate change have on persons with disabilities needs to be better researched and documented. There is still a major gap in evidence in this field, which we need to address as the disability movement. The impact of rising temperatures, raising fuel costs, catastrophic weather events, need to be studied more deeply so policy solutions can be found. Climate mitigation measures which are fully inclusive and accessible also need to be identified and shared so that these kinds of practices can be expanded.

## Capacity building for a stronger, more sustainable disability movement

EDF and its members must be part of the main discussions affecting our communities, our countries and the EU. Building our own knowledge and capacity to work on climate action - and influence those measures which affect persons with disabilities is essential. All climate measures impact persons with disabilities (such as modernising buildings for carbon neutrality); some measure particularly impact persons with disabilities (such as banning plastics and stopping cars entering zones of cities). We need the knowledge, networks, resources and skills to engage.

# Who is this policy for?

Firstly, EDF is adopting this policy for the work of EDF - our advocacy as well as our operations. This means the policy will be overseen by the Board and its implementation guided by the secretariat.

Secondly, the policy can explain also to partners our priorities in relation to environmental sustainability. It will communicate to the service providers we use what our expectations are and explain to our supporters the measures we are taking to promote environmental sustainability.

# Disability and environmental sustainability

Although persons with disabilities constitute 15% of the world’s population, actions taken in the field of climate change, at national level and at multilateral level, have neglected to consider the rights of persons with disabilities and have not included representation of persons with disabilities in climate negotiations to-date. The failure to include persons with disabilities in the world’s efforts to combat the climate crisis has dramatic consequences.

The impacts of climate change – from disasters such as wildfires, to more gradual changes such as droughts, temperature increase, and sea level rise – have disproportionate effects on the lives, well-being, and livelihoods of persons with disabilities all over the world. When disaster hits, be this a wildfire or a doubling of your heating bill, people with disabilities are at considerable risk.

Due to inaccessible preparedness systems, systemic discrimination, and widespread poverty, people with disabilities are left behind in emergency relief and response efforts. The consequences of climate change are especially severe for members of the disability community that experience intersecting forms of discrimination, including women, children, Indigenous peoples, and other minority groups; for those experiencing poverty; and for underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, such as persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

In addition to being more exposed to the impacts of climate change, persons with disabilities may also be adversely affected by States’ responses to climate change. Policies to reduce carbon emissions, such as carbon pricing schemes or bans of carbon intensive products, are often designed without consideration of the rights, perspectives, and the requirements of the disability community and do not address the differential costs and burdens that these may impose on individuals with disabilities. These types of ableist climate mitigation policies create barriers for persons with disabilities and reinforce social inequities

Energy availability and energy prices affect us all. Persons with disabilities face greater risk of (energy) poverty, and in some cases higher energy costs than the general population

As the world moves forward with measures to combat climate change, it is vital that countries design and implement disability-inclusive policies that enhance, rather than undermine, the human rights of persons with disabilities.

New investment in green jobs can be targeted to reach people most excluded from the labour market, such as persons with disabilities.

Building and renovation of buildings to increase energy efficiency can be a way to also make the building more accessible- but if accessibility is not considered, the opposite might be the result. Climate measures are driving changes in physical infrastructure such as housing, schools, universities, hospitals, transport and workplaces: these drastic changes are also an opportunity to make buildings more accessible. An accessible building will be more sustainable.

# EDF commitments

## Advocacy and networking: building a greener, more accessible, and inclusive future through inclusive Global and European climate action

Dealing with climate change is a core priority of governments around the globe, and a key political priority of the EU. Climate measures are important politically and in terms of the finances being invested. Climate change and the measures taken to address it will impact our daily lives. EDF advocacy will aim to:

* Ensure inclusive climate discussions and dialogues: when decisions are being made representative organisations of persons with disabilities should be present
* Influence the development of inclusive, accessible climate policies which advance the human rights of persons with disabilities; these policies include but are not limited to transport, energy/energy pricing, infrastructure, communications, economic transition, employment and training, education, disaster preparedness and management and humanitarian action.
* No policy measures proposed or adopted should in any way infringe on the rights of persons with disabilities or reinforce discrimination

## Climate action within EDF: reducing our own impact on the environment

EDF will carefully study its own environmental impact and take steps to reduce our negative impact on the environment. The main fields we will look at is

* our operations: our everyday work and working infrastructure, - including our office, our digital infrastructure, and how we use it. EDF’s primary office is Mundo Madou, which was developed and operates on principles of environmental sustainability. Located right beside public transport and with ample bike spaces and recycling facilities, our location at Mundo Madou already reduces our environmental footprint.
* our advocacy and networking actions: our meetings and events. EDF is a movement, and we need to meet and work together. During 2020 and 2021, we enhanced our ability to cooperate online. We have developed means of meeting, training, voting, and advocating online. However, we intend to rebuild our opportunities to personally connect within our membership and with policy makers. We will continue to use online meetings, and we will carefully plan our face-to-face meetings with environmental measures in mind, reducing waste, using accessible and public or collective transport.
* our publications and communications and promotional materials. EDF has traditionally made our publications and reports available in a range of formats- on paper, and online in accessible formats.

Objectives:

* Measuring: EDF has a clear overview on its annual environmental impact for its operations, its meetings and events, and its communications and publications, and its events. (2022)
* Mainstreaming: EDF includes environmental impact in its work planning: for events, for communications and publications (2023) and in all HR, administration, travel and procurement policies (2022-2025)
* Reporting back: EDF reports on the measures it has taken to reduce environmental impact (2023-2025)

## Research and evidence: studying the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and generating knowledge and best practices to influence change

EDF will prioritise this are while mobilising resources for climate action- it will be challenging to generate new data and evidence without specific resources investment.

To begin with, EDF will aim to collect testimonies, stories and good practice examples related to the areas of this policy and create one disability voice newsletter per year, bringing together the examples and evidence we have. Collected resources will be shared in a specific place on our website. (2023).

## Capacity building for a stronger, more sustainable disability movement

It is important that we build knowledge skills and resources within the EDF secretariat and membership if we are to be successful for both our advocacy work and our environmental sustainability measures.

Build staff capacity: The EDF secretariat will be fully aware of the environmental impact of our full range of work and will be able to identify and implement mitigation steps so that EDF reduces its negative impact on the environment. Staff will be informed about the choices and their impact and be able to weigh up factors such as accessibility with sustainability. This will be done through a series of staff trainings and a toolkit to be developed for our office. In addition, as policies are revised over the coming years, there will be an environmental sustainability section which will be inserted to align our work to this policy. (2022 and 2023)

Build capacity within broader EDF: EDF will create opportunities for learning and exchange for DPOs in environmental sustainability and make technical resources available to its membership (2023-2025)

Develop technical resources: EDF will have human, technical and financial resources available for its own use, and its membership who wish to strengthen their work on environmental sustainability. This will be done through fundraising and cooperation and partnership with environmental expert networks. (2022 and 2023)

# Measuring progress

This policy will be monitored in a number of ways. In year one baseline data will be collected- such as the carbon footprint of EDF. Therefore, in 2022 EDF will develop a clear overview on its annual environmental impact for its operations, its meetings and events, and its communications and publications, and its events. Other indicators will be elaborated in 2022 for each focus are of the policy; these will be integrated into our regular monitoring system. Here is a list which gives examples of the kind of indicators which can be developed for each field.

* **Advocacy and networking**: building a greener, more accessible and inclusive future through inclusive Global and European climate action

Examples of possible indicators:

Number of policy changes at the EU level (including disability, accessibility, inclusion in any form of climate policy, programme or funding)

Number of partnerships created with organisations/ networks in climate action

Number of climate meetings/debates including DPOs

* **Climate action within EDF:** reducing our own impact on the environment

Examples of possible indicators:

Mainstreaming: EDF includes environmental impact in its work planning: for events, for communications and publications (2023) and in all HR, administration, travel and procurement policies (2022-2025)

Indicator: Checklist items for event planning focussing on sustainability

Reporting back: EDF reports on the measures it has taken to reduce environmental impact (2023-2025)

Indicator: Number of articles on EDF website and in newsletters

Indicator: item on the EDF AGA reporting back on environmental impact

* **Research and evidence**: studying the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and generating knowledge and best practices to influence change

Examples of possible indicators:

Number of articles/ position papers developed bringing new knowledge and data in this field

Number of best practices in inclusive accessible climate action published and disseminated (and used by others)

* **Capacity building** for a stronger, more sustainable disability movement

Examples of possible indicators:

Building staff capacity

Indicator: Number of staff trainings given on the topic

Building capacity within broader EDF:

Indicator: Number of info sessions and trainings run for EDF members

Indicator: new funding available to EDF and members to engage in inclusive climate action

* Develop technical resources:

Indicator: Number of guidance documents published and distributed

# Annex 1: EDF advocacy past actions and policy development on climate and disability- a timeline

**February 2022**[: EDF publishes analysis of recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edf-analysis-of-the-commission-proposal-for-the-revision-of-the-directive-on-energy-performance-of-buildings-2010-13/)

**November 2021** - EDF actively participated (with official Observer Status) in the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). For more information, read the [pre-event web article](https://www.edf-feph.org/un-climate-change-conference-of-the-parties-cop26-towards-a-green-and-inclusive-future/) and [post-event blog](https://www.edf-feph.org/blog/good-cop-bad-cop-inclusive-cop/).

**September 2021**: EDF joined the Just Transition Alliance and [co-signed a statement to ask for a transition to a social and sustainable Europe](https://www.edf-feph.org/a-call-to-deliver-a-just-transition-to-a-social-and-sustainable-europe-edf-co-signed-a-joint-declaration-by-the-european-alliance-for-a-just-transition/)

**September 2021**: [EDF input to the new Urban Mobility Framework](https://www.edf-feph.org/the-new-urban-mobility-framework-how-we-can-make-public-transport-more-accessible-for-persons-with-disabilities/) also includes recommendations on the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)

**July 2021 -** EDF was granted provisional [Observer Status](https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/admitted-ngos/list-of-admitted-ngos) for COP 26 and UN FCCC mechanisms moving forward

**June 2021** - EDF participated in the European Development Days (EDD) 2021. EDF had a stand at the 'Global Village', launching our [video on disability inclusive climate justice](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36jwHDRtmGg), as well as various resources from partner organisations. [Read full EDD web article here](https://www.edf-feph.org/the-european-development-days-edd-2021-have-left-persons-with-disabilities-behind/).

**May 2021** - EDF Executive Committee approves EDF strategic plan on climate justice

**March 2021** - The [EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A101%3AFIN&qid=1614872097963) has no mention of the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities in Chapter 6 (external action), although disability inclusion and participation in green transition are mentioned in Chapter 5.6.

**March 2021** - Recognition by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of the need to include representation of persons with disabilities/OPDs. This has been a significant development and plans are under way to discuss how to use this opportunity for maximum impact at the upcoming COP26 negotiations.

**February 2021** - The European Commission adopted its new [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0082&from=EN). Disability is mentioned twice (with no mention of participation):

* + **9**. Talking about fostering local, individual and just resilience, it says that “Unequal exposure and vulnerability to climate impacts of different regions and socio-economic groups worsens pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. The impacts of climate change are not neutral. Men and women, older people, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, or socially marginalised have different adaptive capabilities. Adaptation measures need to consider their situation.”
  + **17**. Talking about international action, it recognises that “ Specific, tailored measures are needed to address the disproportionate impact climate change has on vulnerable groups and on human rights. 71 ." (Where '71' refers to the Disability Rights Strategy).

**2020** - The EU launched its “Green Deal” in 2020 and has been implementing different initiatives under the strategy such as the “Renovation Wave”, the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy, the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, etc. which directly affect persons with disabilities. EDF had meetings amongst others with the Cabinet of Commissioner Timmermans and published an [Open Letter to ensure the Green Deal will also be inclusive.](https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-green-deal-must-also-include-accessibility-persons-disabilites/)

# Annex 2 Our current partnerships and networks

* Multi-stakeholder level
  + EDF is European Focal Point for the [Global Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sgpwd-drr) (TG-DRRCA)
  + EDF is part of an informal multi-stakeholder group on climate action and disability. Members of group include International Disability Alliance (IDA), World Blind Union (WBU), CBM Global, McGill University, Human Rights Watch, Inclusion Scotland, Sustained Ability
  + Part of the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program (DICARP) Advisory Panel (since May 2021)
  + EDF is member of the “Just Transition Alliance” led by SOLIDAR
* Bilateral level - EDF working with CBMG on climate action resource development
* Institutional partners – EDF is working with the European Commission’s different services to give feedback on sustainable and inclusive policies; for example EDF is represented in the External Advisory Body on the Climate Pact (DG CLIMA) by the chair of the Youth Committee, Kamil Goungor

# Annex 3 Glossary of terms

Climate change

Climate justice

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Just transition