**CSEN Sponsorship Policy**

1. ABOUT

CSEN is a network of civil servants from a wide variety of backgrounds. Our mission is to build environmental knowledge and capability across the Civil Service.

This document outlines the guidance and principles that underpin the decisions we make about whom we will work in partnership with. This policy has been devised to ensure clarity and openness in how we work with external partners.

2. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We recognise the value of working in partnership with corporations, non-governmental organisations, charities, not-for-profit corporations, cooperatives, and educational institutions and are looking for opportunities to collaborate and partner with organisations on topics of mutual interest.

We believe that external funding and support of our work can lend greater scope and ambition to our activities, as well as allowing us to expand our programme of activities.

We therefore seek to work with a range of organisations that support our work – whether that is through funding our activities, joint initiatives with partners, or sponsorship of our events. The organisation we will seek partnerships from organisations whose values align with ours.

3. AVOIDANCE CRITERIA

CSEN will not partner with companies involved in:

* Tobacco Manufacture
* Fossil Fuel Extraction and Processing
* Weapons Manufacture
* Partnerships with companies involved in any of the following activities will be avoided as far as possible:
	+ Organisations that have not shown demonstrable and credible commitment to their transition to carbon neutral operations and supply chains.
	+ Organisations which are engaged in institutional or systemic discrimination against individuals on the basis of gender, race or ethnic identity, disability, sexuality, or age
	+ Organisations that do not promote safe working conditions, fair pay, recognise trade union membership or that employ unethical tax avoidance practices

4. PRINCIPLES

Several important principles underpin decisions we make about whom we will partner with, accept funding from, or enable to sponsor our activities, such as events. These are:

* Maintaining our independence: our reputation relies on our ability to operate in an environment free from the external influence of others. Any partnership we enter must not compromise our independence. If it does, then we will consider withdrawing from any such partnership or sponsorship.
* Editorial control: we will only accept sponsorship where we retain control over the activities and intellectual property of the project in question. We will always maintain editorial control over published material.
* Integrity and transparency: we will be transparent about whom we are working with and the nature of the partnerships we are engaged in. All partnerships will transparently set out the benefits to both CSEN and the partner. CSEN will communicate its commitment to this policy to the organisation's stakeholders. A full list of corporate sponsors will be maintained on our website. A copy of this policy will be displayed on our website within 3 months of its adoption.
* Marketing: we will not endorse specific companies and/or products. In addition, partners and sponsors will not be allowed direct access to the individuals and/or organisations whose details are held on our database.
* Civil Service Code: we will ensure all conduct of CSEN committee, in relation to funding partnerships, follows the guidance as set out in the Civil Service Code including adhering to the defined standard of behaviours of impartiality, objectivity, honesty, and integrity, especially to ensure not being influenced by improper pressures from others.