**TREE TO ME - TEN QUESTIONS FOR PUBLISHERS**

**1. Have you signed up to Publishing Declares, the Publishers Association’s pledge on climate action, or do you have an alternative reduction strategy?**

By signing up to Publishing Declares, publishers, agents, booksellers and authors pledge to take action to limit global warming to 1.5°C, protect nature and biodiversity, collaborate across industry, and to advocate for sustainability and educate others. publishingdeclares.com

**2. Have you set emissions targets with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), the global standard? Have you set a net zero goal?**

Science-based targets provide companies with a clearly defined path to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals. More than 4,000 businesses around the world are already working with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) – publicly setting near term, long term and net zero goals, and asking their suppliers to do the same. sciencebasedtargets.org

**3. Do you disclose your carbon emissions annually to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and/or are you reporting in other ways?**

CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. It is considered the gold standard of environmental reporting. cdp.net

**4. Do you use 100% renewable electricity across your operations?**

Switching to a renewable electricity supply is a change that organisations of any size can make without any changes to infrastructure. Many organisations are setting deadlines for their suppliers to make the change too.

**5. Do you plan to use 100% recycled paper, or otherwise sustainably source the paper used for packaging, books (where possible) and across your operations? Have you stopped using plastic packaging?**

According to Hachette’s research, 95% of the carbon footprint of a printed book comes from the paper it is printed on. Even FSC-approved paper contains virgin paper pulp, with resultant losses to biodiversity, soil health and indigenous communities, and increased rates of CO2.

**6. Have you taken specific action to protect biodiversity, limit deforestation and reduce water usage?**

Use of virgin paper in publishing has a range of negative impacts. Cutting old growth forest for plantations destroys ecosystems, including human settlements with livelihoods dependent on forests, while fast-growing plantations of trees such as eucalyptus requires irrigation and pesticides, while the disruption of soil releases CO2. We all have a responsibility to minimise our impact, whether as individuals or organisations. Publishers have a duty to play a major part in this.

**7. Do you use foils and finishes or lamination? What proportion of these can be recycled? Do you offer more sustainable formats such as trimmed sizes?**

The more complex the range of materials used in a book, the more energy-intensive its production and end-of-life recycling will be, with many common finishing materials not recyclable at all. Print book production can be a circular economy, but only if publishers, designers, printers, authors and others work together to ensure each volume’s lifespan is sustainable.

**8. Does your organisation have a corporate governance system to hold it accountable for sustainability? Do you provide staff sustainability training?**

A commitment to organisation-wide change needs to be driven from the top. Many commercial organisations today embed responsibility for sustainability at senior management level by setting sustainability performance indicators that impact senior staff bonus payments.

**9. Do you disclose any of your organisation’s investments (including employees’ pensions) in the fossil fuel industry?**

While the level of investment in renewable energy continues to rise, so too does investment in fossil fuels as energy use worldwide increases. Organisations and individuals with any kind of investment can make a difference here – by divesting organisational funds and working with employees to invest their pension funds sustainably.

**10. How can you help me communicate this prominently to my readers?**

We want to feel proud of our books – not only our words and artwork, but also the physical volumes. If our work is printed and distributed sustainably, by a publisher committed to net-zero targets, this is something we want to share with readers to engage and educate.

**More information: societyofauthors.org/TreeToMe**

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