

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

1. Together Trust as a responsible organisation recognises that it should have a significant, positive impact on the local environments in which it operates, and the global environment in general. The pursuit of effective environmental policies fits with our organisational vision and values.
2. We recognise that we need to integrate our environmental policies with our operational activities - in line with the Government's Local Agenda 21, which seeks sustainable development in a way that measures performance by looking at: Environment, Economy and Social Equity - (the "three E's").
3. This policy is supported by a set of environmental management documents, which lay out action plans and responsibilities in the areas of:
 - Pollution prevention
 - Energy and water
 - Re-use, recycling and waste
 - Materials
 - Natural environment
4. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented throughout the Together Trust. However, to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance, this policy requires the support and action of all in the Together Trust. Communication, consultation and training are key requirements at all levels.
5. This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the Trust's commitment to annually review all Policies and Procedures.

Pollution Prevention

We will seek to:

1. Prevent potential pollutants from entering the drainage system and water supply.
2. Avoid materials that have undesirable environmental impacts.
3. Minimise air pollution and energy consumption resulting from car use and encourage staff and young people / service users to use alternative transport where practicable.
4. Where it is financially possible, we will procure fuel efficient and low emission company vehicles.

Energy and Water

We will:

1. Use energy and water efficiently by use of proven resources.
2. Encourage people to switch off lights, use less water, and conserve energy generally.
3. Demand energy efficient designs and facilities when commissioning or renovating buildings.
4. Co-operate with energy suppliers to increase energy efficiency.

Re-use and Recycling - the Reduction of Waste

We will:

1. Minimise the production of waste wherever possible.
2. Manage waste products, and products that are at the end of their useful lives in line with good practice to ensure that they are handled, stored and disposed of properly.
3. Use systems for the re-use and recycling of household and commercial materials at the end of their useful lives.
4. Participate in local partnership schemes that help reduce waste and provide better methods of re-use and recycling.
5. Encourage our young people/ service users to take an active role in re use and recycling schemes.

Material and Resources

We will:

1. Use recycled goods wherever we can.
2. Consider the lifetime costs of materials when developing property.
3. Consider the environmental impact of design plans.
4. Maximise the use of IT, and use less paper. We will promote the use of double sided printing.
5. We will ask all services to purchase Fair Trade consumables in particular coffee and tea.

Natural Environment

We will:

1. Think about the impact of our activities on local habitats and wildlife.
2. Work with our local communities to enhance and protect the natural environment.
3. Celebrate World Environment Day each year.

Environmental Management

In order to put this environmental policy into action, we will:

1. Promote understanding throughout the organisation that our values and core objectives require us to minimise the impact of our activities on the environment.
2. Develop strategies that minimise the impact, working in partnership with others to do so.
3. Contribute to the development of a sustainable environment by continually improving our environmental practices.
4. Comply with all relevant environmental laws and regulations.
5. Analyse our operations each year to identify activities that have particular impact on the environment.

Sustainability

The Together Trust is committed to acting in a socially responsible way and promoting sustainability. As a charity educating and caring for children and young people in particular, concern and care for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda to ensure a bright future for them are integral to our professional activities and the management of the organisation. We aim to follow and to promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our clients and partners to do the same.

Principles

Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:-

- To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of our Sustainability Policy and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise the impact on sustainability of all our activities.
- To make suppliers aware of our Sustainability Policy, and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices.
- To review, annually report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.

Guidance for Staff at the Together Trust

Sustainability principles should guide the Trust's day-to-day operations and its role and impact on the community. Thought should be given to any new activities which may be improved by reflection upon sustainability principles

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own particular needs whatever they might be. Staff are encouraged to think beyond meeting the immediate need and be aware of the impact of their decision on the future of the Trust

Health and wellbeing of its Staff

The Together Trust aims to provide a safe and healthy working environment for staff and volunteers by means which do not adversely affect carbon emissions.

Local Economy

We will purchase from local companies and suppliers wherever practical to reduce travel needs and stimulate the local economy.

Purchase of equipment and consumption of resources

The Together Trust will seek to:-

Minimise our use of paper and other office consumables, for example by double-siding all paper used, and identifying opportunities to reduce waste.

As far as possible arrange for the reuse or recycling of office waste, including paper, computer supplies and redundant equipment.

Ensure that all our properties are properly insulated and have high efficiency boilers

Reduce the energy consumption of domestic appliances and office equipment by purchasing energy efficient equipment and employing good housekeeping practices.

Purchase electricity from a supplier committed to renewable energy. Seek to maximise the proportion from renewable energy sources, whilst also supporting investment in new renewable energy schemes.

Transport

Reduce the need for our staff to travel by supporting alternative working arrangements, including home working and a cycle to work scheme etc, and promote the use of public transport by locating our workplaces in accessible locations.

Procure low emission, fuel efficient vehicles for the Trust where needed.

Use a recording scheme for business travel to monitor our impact