



# **SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

## **Definitions**

Viabtes Community Association, (hereafter VCA or The Association), believes sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come by:

- Creating a more inclusive society where everyone shares the benefits of increased economic prosperity.
- Protecting and improving the environment.
- Ensuring we do not waste natural resources.

The UK Government definition of sustainable development involves meeting four objectives at the same time:

- 1.1 Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone (Sharing in increased prosperity, enjoying a cleaner environment, improving access to services, tackling social exclusion, reducing the impact of poverty, poor housing, unemployment, and pollution)
- 1.2 Effective protection of the environment (Reduce effects of climate change, poor air quality, and toxic chemicals and protect and conserve the things that people value)
- 1.3 Prudent use of natural resources (Efficient use of non-renewable resources and sensitive use of renewable resources)
- 1.4 Maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth and employment (An educated and skilled workforce, supportive infrastructure and investment for high living standards and job opportunities)

## **Aims**

Viabtes Community Association recognises that its resources can be limited, having an impact on how much progress we can make to a sustainable future and how quickly that might be achieved. However, it is committed to working towards sustainable development by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the interests of future generations:

### **1. Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone by:**

- 1.1 Building strong partnerships with other organisations and sectors
- 1.2 Increasing community participation in local affairs
- 1.3 Promoting good citizenship

- 1.4 Supporting "quality of life" development, especially where there is disadvantage and special need
- 1.5 Ensuring access to services for all

## **2. Sustainable development in managing the Viables Community Centre by:**

- 2.1 Adopting policies and procedures that preserve the Community building and enhance the biodiversity of its grounds
- 2.2 Annually reviewing our working practices, aiming to reduce, reuse and re-cycle materials that we consume where possible
- 2.3 Buying re-cycled or environmentally friendly products wherever possible
- 2.4 Requiring waste service providers to act responsibly and provide adequate certification of compliance
- 2.5 Including environmental considerations in service contracts e.g. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/countysupplies/sustainability>
- 2.6 Maintaining and improving productivity levels of our services to keep down costs to the community.

## **3. Sustainable development in the Association's working practices by:**

- 3.1 Minimising waste, e.g., no unnecessary photocopying or printing e-mails; electronic sharing of files
- 3.2 Saving energy by switching off lights; fuel efficiency
- 3.3 Reducing car mileage by implementing cloud-based systems that we can access from home or an alternative office base
- 3.4 Recycling paper and cardboard as much as possible
- 3.5 Encouraging regeneration of the environment - our gardening club looks after the grounds, taking care of planting and turning over soil and encouraging and attracting insects such as bees for pollination. Our Community Wardrobe reduces waste to landfill and enables recycling and reuse of clothing.
- 3.6 Increasing community co-operation to support us in our aims.
- 3.7 Providing social, environmental, and economic conditions that impact on health and social well-being.
- 3.8 Recognising the needs of our community and individuals within it to promote social inclusion.

Reviewed: March 2023

Next Review: March 2024