

Sustainability Policy

Interlink is the County Voluntary Council for Rhondda Cynon Taff, supporting individuals and organisations to work together to make a positive impact on the life of people who live and work in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Our definition of sustainability is

‘to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

Community and voluntary organisations address sustainability through:-

- Involving local people in community activities
- Helping and supporting people in communities
- Improving the environment and well-being of communities
- Engaging, encouraging and supporting people to become active, and move into volunteering, learning and employment.

Interlink are committed to promoting sustainability and addressing climate change locally in our work and we will:

1. Make our organisation more environmentally sustainable. We will look at what we do and carry out actions that will reduce our impact on the environment.
2. Supporting and increasing the awareness and capacity of citizens, communities and the voluntary sector in addressing sustainability and well-being.
3. Support equal opportunities and social justice and respect all individuals and groups we work with and treat them equally and fairly. Our activities will be accessible to as wide a range of individuals and groups as possible
4. Review this policy annually. At this meeting we will decide and record what and how we can make our activities more sustainable and how we can improve the environment.

Some Sources of Information and Advice we will use.

- The Centre for Economic and Social Justice
<http://www.cesj.org/thirdway/economicjustice-defined.htm>
- The Community Foundation Network
<http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/>
- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/>
- The Welsh Assembly Government
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/?lang=en>
- Sustain Wales
<http://www.sustainwales.com/home/en/>

We believe a sustainable future is one in which a healthy environment, economic prosperity and social justice are pursued simultaneously to ensure the well-being and quality of life of present and future generations.

Our Sustainability Policy covers these areas through our specific policies for the environment, equalities and social justice and economic prosperity and well-being.

Environmental Policy

We strongly believe in environmental values in all that we do and are fully committed to continual improvement of our environmental management and performance.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Work with community and voluntary sector groups and other partners in RCT and to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues and support action to address their priorities.
- Comply with all applicable legislation, regulations and other requirements to which we subscribe relating to our Environmental Aspects.
- Commit to pollution prevention through the adoption of best practice.
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as much of our waste as is feasible.
- Address all areas of environmental impact including energy usage and ensure our environmental management system remains effective.
- Commit to setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets.

We are committed to raising awareness and support the training our employees as appropriate and to promote improvements in environmental performance; and will raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues and this policy through effective communication with all our stakeholders, members, staff and volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed annually or if there are any fundamental changes to our activities; *and will be made available to all interested parties on request.*

Social Justice and Equal Opportunities Policy

We strongly believe in social justice, a definition of justice is 'giving to each what he or she is due.' We believe to make progress on addressing equal opportunities, we need to work proactively with those people and communities that are most likely to experience social exclusion. For example, many communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf suffer multiple deprivation in terms of high unemployment, poor health and low levels of education.

We believe this can be addressed by a community development approach that takes into account the full involvement of citizens, building their capacity and skills in order to develop resilient and sustainable communities.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Proactively support the participation and involvement of individuals, communities and voluntary organisations to take part in and influence decision making at a local, regional and national.
- Support the development of community and voluntary sector organisations through information, advice, support and training; building their capacity to address local priorities.
- Work with all partners to target resources at individuals, groups and communities.

We are committed to raising awareness and support the training our employees as appropriate and to promote social justice; and will raise awareness of social inclusion and equal opportunities issues and this policy through effective communication with all our stakeholders, members, staff and volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed annually or if there are any fundamental changes to our activities; *and will be made available to all interested parties on request.*

Economic Prosperity and Well-Being Policy

We strongly believe developing the skills and capacity of individuals and communities is the cornerstone of supporting sustainable community economic regeneration. We believe this can be addressed by a community development and coproduction approach that takes into account the full involvement and well-being of citizens and communities, working alongside committed people working in the voluntary, public and private sectors.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Support and develop volunteering and active citizenship in RCT, working with others to support people to move from economic inactivity to play their full part in society and realise their potential.
- Develop and support projects that promote and improve well-being.
- Work with all stakeholders to promote the engagement of individuals and communities in developing learning that is accessible and relevant to their needs.
- Work with all stateholders at all levels to involve individuals and communities in develop and deliver services that support community economic regeneration and social enterprise. We will do this through building the capacity of individuals and communities to support the development of resilient and sustainable communities.

We are committed to raising awareness and support the training our employees as appropriate and to promote social justice; and will raise awareness of social inclusion and equal opportunities issues and this policy through effective communication with all our stakeholders, members, staff and volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed annually or if there are any fundamental changes to our activities; *and will be made available to all interested parties on request.*