

BCVS Sustainability Policy

BCVS recognises that good environmental management is an essential part of overall good practice in voluntary sector management. BCVS will therefore strive to adopt the highest available environmental standards in all its areas of operation. We focus on continual improvement with the ultimate aim being to become a zero carbon and waste organisation. This policy defines our commitment towards ethical, sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices to enable us to achieve this aim.

We will commit to following the actions set out in our Action Plan to enable the reduction of our Carbon Footprint each year.

To achieve the above commitments BCVS will involve Trustees, staff and members in implementation of this policy, and in disseminating information about its progress in improving environmental standards. We will do this by making our policy publicly available on our website, in our Worksop and Bolsover reception areas, in meeting rooms, and via new staff induction process. BCVS mitigates its environmental impact where feasible and has:

1. Developed a SMART sustainability action plan to quantify objectives and required improvements
2. Undertaken an energy audit of its Bassetlaw premises to set a base-line upon which to measure improvements [Funded via ERDF in 22/23]
3. Committed to reduce energy consumption and set targets to achieve this
4. Committed to reduce paper usage
5. Moved to a greener energy provider in 22/23 (even though this is not the cheapest tariff)
6. Committed to increase our recycling rate following production of a baseline
7. Committed to procure sustainable office stationery and to ensure all reusable plates, cutlery and cups are biodegradable and compostable when disposable products are essential due to quantity required
8. Started to review our suppliers to ensure they are as locally sourced and sustainable as possible
9. Committed to use of chemically benign cleaning products
10. Committed to use of Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar and other consumables for staff, meetings and events
11. Encouraged the use of sustainable modes of travel
12. Committed to the development of a cycle to work scheme and related expenses
13. Included consideration of sustainability within the BCVS VCSE Group and Consortia Self-Assessment Tool
14. Committed to a Make Every Contact Count (MECC) approach to working with VCSE groups to identify and encourage the development of sustainability actions
15. Developed web pages with links to resources to develop the knowledge and capacity of the VCSE sector
16. Committed that all BCVS staff will undertake sustainability training in 23/24

At BCVS we further commit to:

17. The prevention of pollution where feasible within our work
18. Manage a proactive travel plan to reduce staff's carbon footprint
19. Ensure we comply with all environmental legislation
20. Become a zero to landfill site
21. Consider environmental management system accreditation such as ISO 14001 from 24/25
22. Embed environmental consideration into all our policies, plans, procurement and use of financial resources
23. Include sustainability considerations within consortia development and small grants awards
24. Explore and maximise sustainability opportunities in immediate areas surrounding office bases
25. Identify resource and invest in planning to enable sustainability goals to be achieved
26. Renew and update this policy annually