



## Building Bridges Environmental and Sustainability Policy

In the UK Sustainable Development Strategy '*Securing the Future*' 2005, the government aims to have a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being, in such a way as to protect and enhance the physical and natural environment and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible. The three core issues to be addressed are:

- A better local environment;
- A better local economy;
- Better social conditions.

The Building Bridges Partnership recognises its responsibility, both as a Partnership and as individual organisations, to Sustainable Development and is committed to meeting the requirements of relevant legislation to ensure the project meets the environmental, economic and social needs of both current and future generations in an integrated way. Our aim is to reduce the impact on the environment from our operations.

### Our environmental/sustainability action plan

We will comply with environmental legislation and will commit to continuously improve our environmental performance. We will make it a priority to encourage the development of environmentally policies and behaviours in our organisational activities.

We aim to:

- Minimise consumption of resources.
- Use materials and equipment and develop practices and procedures which do not cause harm to the environment.
- Promote awareness and a balanced understanding of environmental issues through courses and organisational activities which address environmental issues and promote sustainable practice.
- Seek to persuade partner organisations, external agencies and suppliers through our contracting policies and other business relationships to adopt an environmentally responsible approach themselves.
- Promote recycling and develop embedded procedures for recycling waste.
- Promote the use of transport and travel plans and other sustainable forms of travel that contribute to the overall aims of the Building Bridges Partnership
- Encourage behaviour change

### Objectives

#### Purchasing

- To include environmental criteria to guide the procurement of goods and equipment and ensure that these requirements are reflected in all standard contracts' conditions.
- To encourage partners and suppliers to switch to biodegradable materials where possible, e.g. cleaning materials.



- To encourage the purchase and consumption of sustainable catering supplies.
- To encourage minimising the amount of paper usage by encouraging alternative methods of disseminating information, e.g. use of file sharing systems, discs, downloading from internal systems, E-mail information, etc.

### **Recycling**

- To encourage recycling by providing a means of collecting waste products which can be recycled, e.g. aluminium cans, paper, and glass.
- To encourage partners and other suppliers to re-use any disposable items and consider the implications before disposal.

### **Energy and Consumables**

- To encourage conservation of energy in the Building Bridges partner buildings
- To encourage partner organisations to periodically monitor consumption, including use of electricity, heating fuel, gas, water, paper, and other consumables.
- To monitor, consider and evaluate new green initiatives and promulgate them within the partnership where practicable.
- To identify efficiencies and incorporate into our internal systems.

### **Waste Management**

- To encourage partner organisations to use materials and equipment and to develop practices and procedures which minimise harm to the environment. This includes disposal of all special wastes.
- To encourage partner organisations to keep an inventory of all special wastes, together with the approved method of disposal.

### **Catering**

- To encourage partner organisations wherever possible to use sustainable and locally sourced food streams for partnership activities.

### **Transport**

- To encourage the use throughout the partnership of alternative, environmentally responsible means of transport, including the provision of lift sharing and facilities for the safe parking of cycles at our office.

### **Staff Development and Sustainable Lifestyles**

- To encourage the development of 'lifestyles' and practical and personal 'skills of citizenship' which enable both partner staff, management and the participants we are supporting to evaluate and address the environmental issues associated with both their work and lifestyles.
- To encourage the development of environmental awareness training across the staff and trustees of the partner organisations and as part of the support we provide to participants.

### **Monitoring**

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Strategic Partnership Group including setting measurable targets in the following areas:



- Minimising energy usage
- Waste management
- Resource efficiency
- Enhancing/ protecting the physical and natural environment
- Improving the wellbeing of people through improving the local environment
- Training, awareness and communication

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually and when there is new legislation.

### **Approval:**

The Building Bridges Sustainable Development Policy and implementation plan is endorsed by Lynn Gibson, Chief Executive of Community First.. This version (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) takes effect from: 1 December 2016

### **Policy Owner:**

Community First, West of England Works Project Manager

### **Revision history:**

<b>Edition number</b>	<b>Date agreed</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Changes made</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	Lynn Gibson	Policy written and approved
2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition			

