

Sustainable Development Policy

Introduction

We see sustainable development as a framework, within which we take decisions that move us further along in the journey towards sustainability.

This Policy is an over-arching statement that recognises that many of the practical actions consistent with a commitment to the principles of sustainable development are accounted for by our other policies.

We recognise the Brundtland definition of sustainable development:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

*It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of **needs**, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of **limitations** imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."*

Cynnal Cymru recognises that it has a crucial role in the balance between the economy, society and culture within the limits of technology, legislation, political expediency and the capacity of the natural environment. We aim to ensure that all our actions take account of the need to protect the environment, promote social equity and develop a resilient economy together with support for the heritage, history and language of Wales.

Our Commitment

- We will develop clear leadership on sustainable development within our organisation and adopt sustainable development as our central organising principle.
- Our staff will be committed to sustainable development and will carry out their duties in a sustainable way.
- We will undertake effective partnership working with local and national organisations, businesses and the public sector.

We agree to uphold the five principles of sustainable development given by the former UK Sustainable Development Commission:

1. We will as an organisation and as individuals strive to live within environmental limits and to take action to improve the condition of the environment and natural resources
2. By our actions, we strive to develop and maintain a strong, healthy and just society – respecting cultural and ethnic diversity, promoting personal wellbeing and creating equality of opportunity
3. We will play our part to build a strong economy and use resources efficiently and responsibly.
4. We will use sound science responsibly, ensuring decisions are made on the basis of best available evidence
5. We will promote and enact good governance, ensuring governance is accountable, open and participatory.



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Policy

We affirm that we will make decisions coherent with the definitions and principles of Sustainable Development as follows:

1. We will ensure the wellbeing of our staff, board and trustees through the implementation of company policies described in the staff and trustee handbooks.
2. We will uphold the principles of good governance by being consistent with the standards, procedures and policies described in the staff and trustee handbooks.
3. Our adoption of appropriate environmental management systems, commits us to ensuring that our work and the management of our premises shall be as environmentally benign as practically possible.
4. We aim to follow the three Rs of the waste management hierarchy:
 - 4.1 **reduce** our use of resources
 - 4.2 to **re-use** any surplus resources *and*
 - 4.3 to where possible **recycle** anything we are no longer able to use.
4. We have committed ourselves to the UN Global Charter as a Signatory
5. We have signed the Wales Sustainable Development Charter
6. We aim to be measured against the UN's emerging Sustainable Development Goals as they affect our work and as our work affects them, with a particular emphasis on embedding sustainability within and across Wales.
7. We support the Welsh Language Commission and its commitment to embedding Welsh across the nation.
8. We support an economy that, is able to support the needs of local people and ensure that paid work be available across the spectrum of local needs. We seek economic activity that is resilient and flexible but that operates within the limits set by the environment.
9. We acknowledge that culture is an intrinsic part of a sustainable community: we support work that promotes and celebrates language, history and heritage in Wales and across the world.
10. We acknowledge that a sustainable community cannot be achieved if there is still poverty and deprivation and so we will work, alone and with others, to address inequity across Wales and elsewhere.

Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales recognises that Sustainable Development is a *process* of continual improvement. As such, we will assess and review this Policy every year.

