

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Your local county voluntary council



VOLUNTARY ACTION
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12. Climate change

12.3 Climate change as part of sustainable development

One Wales: One Planet is the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Scheme.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

It sets out the Welsh Government's vision of a sustainable Wales and the priority it attaches to sustainable development. Achieving the vision of the Scheme requires all organisations in Wales to actively commit to sustainable development as their central organising principle.

Sustainable Resource Use

One Wales: One Planet sets out a vision for sustainable resource use:

'Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources.'

This includes a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3% a year in those areas where the Welsh Government has devolved competence. Sustainable development therefore links to the need to reduce our carbon footprint in the third sector.

Wellbeing and social justice

Key to the vision for sustainable development is the wellbeing of Wales whilst living in the environmental limits. This incorporates healthy, prosperous, safe and strong communities with everyone have access to decent housing and community facilities. It is also vital to have a fair and just society where all citizens are empowered to determine their own lives and shape their communities.

This link between wellbeing, equality and social justice whilst living in a way which reduces the environmental impact is key to understanding how the third sector can contribute to sustainable development and the climate change agenda. Many third sector organisations are already working to improve its communities and beneficiaries wellbeing therefore to act 'sustainably' in its fullest sense, third sector organisations will need to meet their core objectives within our fair share of the earth resources, which in simple terms, means reducing your organizational carbon footprint.

Download One Wales: One Planet at

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet>

The Welsh Government's Climate Change Strategy for Wales recognises this role of the third sector, '*the third sector has already taken wide-scale grassroots, community-based action on climate change and sustainable development.*' They recommend that those third sector organisations who are already taking action help inspire and motivate others, pool resources and expertise.

Oxfam - 'The Doughnut'

Oxfam has produced a concept and discussion paper to explore how we can ensure both a sustainable planet and social equity. For further information see:

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/blog/2012/02/can-we-live-inside-the-doughnut-planetary-and-social-boundaries>

The Sustainable Development Charter

The Welsh Government aims to encourage and enable other organisations to make sustainable development their central organising principle. The way we intend to achieve this is through the Sustainable Development Charter.

The Charter:

- Sets out our vision of a sustainable Wales;
- Links the central organising principle to the pursuit of the long-term well-being of people and communities in Wales;
- Describes the benefits making Sustainable Development your organisation's central organising principle;
- Sets out the commitment that you are making by signing up; and
- Explains the next steps we will take to support Charter.
- Signing up to the charter

The Welsh Government provides support and advice for organisations. Charter members are invited to an annual event to share learning and experiences with others, and to showcase best practice examples of their work. A number of third sector organisations have signed up to the Charter, including WCVA.

For more information go on the Charter go to

<http://Wales/topics/sustainabledevelopment/uksusdev/sdcharter/?lang=en>

Cynnal Cymru also provides support for organisations

www.cynnalcyrmru.com/network/sustainable-development-charter

The Sustainable Development Bill

The Welsh Government view sustainable development in the context of developing the Bill as essential to defining the long term development path for our nation. It means healthy, productive people; vibrant, inclusive communities; a diverse and resilient environment and an advanced and innovative economy. They are taking forward a legislative programme to provide new powers, duties and institutional capacity to advance our goals of building a sustainable Wales.

For further information on this legislative programme see the Welsh Government website

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/sdbill/?lang=en>

WCVA supported Welsh Government to provide information to the sector about this Bill. Please see our website for the presentations and report from the Regional Policy Events held in January 2012.

www.wcva.org.uk/policy/dsp_policy_area.cfm?areaid=10&display_sitedeptid=9

Being resilient to the impacts of climate change is also needed to support sustainable communities.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this sheet is intended for guidance only. It is not a substitute for professional advice and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss occasioned as a result of any person acting or refraining from acting upon it.

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