



DurhamDirections Sustainable Development Policy 2020 - 2023

Version 2

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Introduction

The DurhamDirections Sustainable Development Policy is aimed at core staff, Delivery Partners and their staff and DurhamDirections participants.

The aim of the policy is to confirm our commitment to sustainable development, detail our priorities and confirm how the policy and Sustainable Development Implementation Plan will be communicated, promoted and monitored across the wider project.

Objectives

- Improve information for employees, partners and participants about their roles and responsibilities in relation to sustainable development and climate change.
- Improve cost control.
- Conserve raw materials and energy.
- Improve monitoring of environmental impacts.
- Improve efficiency of processes.
- Respond to the global and local climate change emergency
- Comply with all regulatory requirements and contribute to tackling the challenges as defined by the UN sustainable development goals

Responsibility

DCC as the lead partner for DurhamDirections (DD) along with the Cross Cutting Themes Steering Group will be responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Policy and Implementation Plan. The Policy and Plan will be monitored by the DurhamDirections Operational Management Group bi monthly as a minimum alongside a Cross Cutting Themes Steering Group made up of staff and Delivery Partners. Subcontractors will be invited onto the group where appropriate.

DurhamDirections Commitment:

Durham County Council (DCC) as Lead Partner for the DurhamDirections project, publicly affirms its commitment to looking after the environment through promoting sustainable development. The nationally recognised Investors in the Environment (IiE) management system has been developed by DCC to record, monitor and improve all environmental aspects of organisational operations leading to an auditable, externally verified accreditation. This project, led by the council, will carry out its activities in compliance with DCC and relevant environmental legislation and is committed to continuous, measurable improvement in environmental performance whilst delivering European Social Funded (ESF) activities.

Durham County Council, as the lead partner for the DurhamDirections project, will share best practice with all staff, internal and external Delivery Partners (named in Appendix 1) and participants. This policy provides assurance that they will also support sustainable development in line with the DurhamDirections Sustainable Development Plan. All delivery partners will be required to have their own

Sustainable Development Policy and Sustainable Development Implementation Plan which is either aligned to the Programme Level Policy and Plan or reflects it. DurhamDirections will work closely with DCCs Sustainability and Climate Change Team to access information and best practice from them through external partnerships such as the Environmental and Climate Change partnerships including the Environmental and Climate Change Partnership, NECA and NELEP.

The above will also apply to any Sub-contractors who may join the DurhamDirections project.

Principles:

In line with DCC policies and procedures, the following principles will be implemented throughout DurhamDirections wherever feasible, within existing financial constraints across all internal and external partners and subcontractors where possible.

- **Energy Consumption and Climate Change**

In line with DCC's declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' in February 2019, DurhamDirections will actively work to reduce CO₂ emissions from its buildings and operations. It will seek to address energy use from heating and powering buildings and from transport and transport infrastructure. This will primarily be done through reducing demand, smarter working and through staff education.

- **Waste Minimisation**

The project will work to prevent waste from being generated by its operations. Any waste will be disposed of, using registered waste disposal collectors, in a safe, legal, and responsible way, prioritising re-use, repair and recycling and, where possible, avoiding disposal in landfill. As the lead partner, Durham County Council will check that all partners and subcontractors dispose of their waste using a registered waste collector and observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE) regulations 2013 ([WEE regulations](#)) and ensure that WEEE is not mixed with general waste and is disposed of legally.

- **Minimise the use of Travel**

The DurhamDirections project will work to reduce the environmental impacts of staff, Delivery Partner and participant travel and seek innovative solutions to travel around the county. It will promote the use of video conferencing where possible and car sharing when meetings are a necessity. It will actively seek ways in which to reduce air pollution from Council activities through the promotion of public and green transport where travel is unavoidable.

- **Awareness Raising, Monitoring and Review**

DCC as the lead partner will ensure that DurhamDirections staff, Delivery Partners subcontractors and participants are familiar with this policy and associated Implementation Plan. Individual and team responsibility towards the environment will be promoted through the Steering Group, 'Climate Change' Champions and the implementation plan. Indicators will be developed to measure environmental performance, will be reported to a Project Steering Group and through the quarterly project Progress Report to DWP. Sustainable Development will be written into all Delivery Partner Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and into Subcontractors contracts. Sustainability will also be incorporated into the monitoring and review process. Any new partners or subcontractors will be required to promote sustainable development in line with legislation and to have a Sustainable Development Policy and Implementation Plan aligned to the programme level plan.

Appendix 1

Delivery Partners

This DurhamDirections Sustainable Development Policy covers all activity delivered through DurhamDirections either directly by Durham County Council or via Delivery Partners and Subcontractors.

External Delivery Partners:
Cornforth Partnership
Groundwork NE and Yorkshire