

Introduction

This is the FareShare Environmental Policy.

FareShare recognises that its day-to-day activities have an important impact on the local and global environment and that the health and well being of the environment and ourselves is closely linked. It also acknowledges that it has an important role to play in raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues within the whole community.

FareShare is committed to working with others to protect and enhance the environment, especially with the Community Food Network partners. One of the aims of FareShare is to develop our Environmental strategy that sets out, through the development of specific action plans, how the long-term vision for the FareShare network can be delivered. The development of these action plans will help FareShare to work with all stakeholders and partners to improve and protect the environment.

This policy:

- Defines what FareShare means by sustainable development and how it plans to help bring this about
- Commits FareShare to improving our environment through its environmental aims
- Outlines how it intends to put these aims into practice
- Provides a framework within which to develop more detailed objectives and action plans
- Meet all legal environmental requirements

Sustainable Development

The Environmental Policy cannot be seen as a stand-alone document where environmental issues are tackled in isolation, but needs to be seen within the bigger picture of sustainable development. The following explanation of this concept is based on the Governments definition, but has been modified slightly to better reflect the aspirations of FareShare.

Sustainable development is about providing a good quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. Although the idea is simple, the task is substantial. It means meeting four interrelated objectives equally and at the same time, in the UK and the world as a whole:

- **Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone.** This includes a healthy, safe and diverse environment. Everyone should be able to share in the benefits that accompany a good quality of life.
- **Protection of the environment.** We must act to limit global environmental threats such as climate change along with more local pollution problems. We also need to protect and enhance those things that people need or value or that have importance in their own right, such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.
- **Prudent use of natural resources.** This means using non-renewable resources like oil and gas wisely and making sure that we encourage and facilitate the development of alternatives to replace them as a matter of urgency.
- **Maintenance of high stable levels of economic growth and employment.** This is so everyone can share in good living standards and job opportunities. We must also remember the needs of people in less developed countries.

The FareShare Environmental Policy will play a key role in working towards sustainable development, because the health and well-being of our environment is crucial for providing us all with a good quality of life, both today and for the years to come.

FareShare's Commitment

'Our overall goal is to protect and enhance the environment while sustaining it for future generations. We will do this by working in partnership with others to continually improve our environmental performance.'

Aims:

1. Climate change

FareShare will continue to raise awareness of the existence and causes of global warming and promote ways of mitigating and adapting to its effects. We will consider the implications of climate change on our strategies, plans and activities and encourage strategies that support the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

2. Natural resources

FareShare will promote the importance of conserving fossil fuels and peat and the sustainable use of resources such as water and timber. It will also adopt water and energy waste reduction measures and take into account natural resource considerations when procuring goods and services.

3. Transport

FareShare will endeavour to reduce the use of motor vehicles in our operating areas by controlling our own activities and investigate more sustainable modes of transport.

4. Pollution

FareShare will identify, monitor and seek to reduce and prevent air, water and land pollutants and improve air quality, including local issues such as noise and nuisance, this will be done by controlling our own activities.

5. Waste

FareShare will minimise waste by re-use and recycling of items and control our activities to keep waste to an absolute minimum.

6. Purchasing and contracts

FareShare will encourage partners to purchase goods and services that cause the least harm to the environment. It will also work with contractors and suppliers to encourage them, when working with FareShare, to adopt equivalent environmental standards.

7. Energy

FareShare will promote the benefits of energy conservation and reduction in the community and adopt energy saving measures in their buildings. It will promote the benefits of renewable energy sources, whenever possible, and source renewable power when this option is appropriate.

8. Environmental education

FareShare will work in partnership with others to encourage its Community Food Partners, organisations and its own employees and volunteers to appreciate, protect and improve the environment. It will do this by providing relevant advice and information and by making the best environmental choices as attractive as possible.

Putting the policy into practice

It's no good having an Environmental Policy if you can't put the various commitments into practice. In order to do this, FareShare will:

- Put its own environmental house in order and set the environmental standards for our Community Network Partners to follow.
- Give full consideration to environmental implications, as it does to the economic and social implications of all its activities
- Aim to meet or exceed all its statutory environmental responsibilities and encourage other organisations to do the same
- Avoid or minimise the risk of damage to our environment by employing safe technologies and operating procedures
- Adopt the international environmental management systems standard ISO14001, to help provide a systematic approach to improve the environmental performance of FareShare and Community Network

Authorised by



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