

Involve Kent

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Date First Approved:	June 2017
Last Review Date:	January 2021
Approved By:	Board of Trustees
Policy Review Interval:	3 years

1. Introduction

Involve Kent's mission is to unleash the power of giving to improve lives

Involve exists to support, enable and value giving in all its forms. This includes caring, volunteering, peer support, skill sharing, giving views to shape policy, social and community action, philanthropy, and corporate social responsibility. We improve wellbeing and reduce isolation by bringing people together to help and support each other, recognising and enhancing everyone's potential to improve their lives and the lives of others.

As part of the responsibilities implicit in our strategy and in our ongoing commitment to the local community and those who are most in need Involve Kent aims to be an environmentally conscious organisation contributing towards a safe and healthy environment for our local community now and for the future.

2. Aims

Involve Kent is committed to:

- Promoting and resourcing work to minimise any negative environmental impact of its activities.
- Aligning its work to the wider sustainability agenda e.g. carbon emission reduction and the use of ethically sourced goods.
- Measuring its environmental aspects and impacts by setting objectives, targets, and monitoring outcomes to enable continual improvement.
- Innovate, develop and maximise technological solutions to reduce environmental impact

3. Objectives

- To strive to adopt high environmental standards in all areas of Involve Kent by reducing or removing environmentally damaging activities and encouraging activities that improve or conserve the environment.

- To adopt and aim to apply the principles of 'sustainable development' – that is, development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs.
- To aim to include environmental considerations in all Involve Kent decisions.
- To assess on an annual basis the environmental impact of all Involve Kent activities.
- To adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy.
- To minimise the use of all materials, supplies, and energy, and, wherever possible, to use renewable or recyclable materials and components.
- To minimise waste and aim for 'waste-free' processes.
- To encourage third parties involved with Involve Kent (e.g. suppliers, contractors, partner organisations etc.) to work towards establishing similar standards.

4. Method

- Publishing Involve Kent's Environmental Policy on its website.
- Improving Involve Kent's environmental performance through an annual action plan and monitoring progress.
- Increasing the environmental awareness of staff, contractors, trustees, and volunteers, thus generating their support and enthusiasm in tackling everyday environmental issues in the workplace and in their daily lives.

5. Action plan

Involve Kent will produce an annual action plan which will be circulated to all staff in order to:

- Generate staff support and involvement in working together to tackle environmental issues.
- Identify and implement those actions which could be developed to save money or at no cost to the organisation, some of which will bring about saving in the medium or longer.
- Tackle those environmental issues which will necessitate some funding, particularly those with a lower payback period.