



Sustainability Policy

Version	2.0
Agreed by	Brockenhurst Village Trust Board
Date ratified	Jan 2024
Next review due	Jan 2025
Related documents	



1. Purpose of this policy

We are committed to sustainable development as defined in the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). 17 Goals to Transform Our World. Concern for the Environment is an integral and fundamental part of that commitment.

What is Sustainable Development?

- Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonise three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

Principles/Commitment

Brockenhurst Village Trust recognises that we have a responsibility to the environment beyond the legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and will strive to continually improve our environmental performance and to monitor our progress.

Our long-term aspiration is to apply the highest standards of sustainability across all Community Hub activities provided by the BVT which includes the hall, MUGA and the "green space" in Highwood Rd and the "Brock Shop" in Brookley Rd, Brockenhurst. Whilst recognising this will not be achieved immediately, we will review this policy annually and agree a progressive series of targets to ensure we continuously improve our sustainability performance.

Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:

- As a minimum. to comply with but exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice. As a benchmark we will aim to achieve a permanent net carbon neutral at our site by 2025 or earlier

Our Sustainability Definition and Ambition

We endorse the spirit of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

17 Goals to Transform Our World

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.



- To integrate sustainability considerations into our business decisions
- To ensure that all employees, customers, volunteers, suppliers and tenants are fully aware of our Sustainability Policy and are committed to implementing and improving their own sustainability performance in line with this policy.
- To minimise the impact on sustainability of all our activities.
- To communicate and promote our Sustainability Policy to our local community and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices.
- Review, report annually and continually strive to improve our sustainability performance
- ensure that our policies and services are developed in a way that is complimentary to this policy.
- not prioritise funding needs ahead of sustainability requirements
- to work in collaboration with other local “Green “ organisations e.g. Greener Brockenhurst

2. Vision

- 2.1. Permanent carbon neutral at our Highwood Road site by 2025.
- 2.2. Minimise waste by utilising; reduction, re-use and recycling methods.
- 2.3. Encourage wildlife and biodiversity on the Highwood Road site.

3. Practical Steps: In order to put these principles into practice we will:

3.1. *Awareness and Education - As a Centre of Sustainability Excellence we will promote.*

- the use of renewable energy and the use of energy efficient
- encourage wildlife and biodiversity on the Highwood Road Site
- the principles of *Reduce, Reuse & Recycle* on the BVT site
- encourage walking, cycling and the use of electric/hybrid vehicles, including the provision of electric vehicle charging points
- actively encourage and support the use of computer skills for all
- actively encourage and support environmental education in the community

3.2. *Energy & Water*

- Ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use.
- Use water efficiently and with care.
- Avoid pollutants entering the drainage system or the environment.

3.3. *Waste*

- Reduce the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging, especially single use plastic.
- Encourage re-use, repair and recycling of materials including organic waste.
- Dispose of waste in a safe and environmentally responsible way.
- Facilitate electronic communication as an alternative to paper.



3.4. Built Environment

- Undertake an Environmental Audit of the Village Hall and charity shop at intervals not exceeding 5 years.
- Take action to implement the recommendations of the Environmental Audit and to achieve the highest thermal performance and energy reduction performance of the Village Hall building having regard to the nature of the existing design, fabric and available resources.
- Ensure proposed building work, including renovation work, will be planned and constructed to achieve and maintain an overall net zero carbon standard.

3.5. Natural Environment

- Take appropriate measures to conserve and enhance the natural environment surrounding the Village Hall
- Be sensitive to the impact of all activities taking place on the BVT site on the local environment.

3.6. Travel

- Make every effort to reduce and restrict the causes of CO2 emissions and air pollution resulting from the use of transport and the Internal combustion engine.
- Actively encourage Village Hub users and visitors to travel by foot, mobility scooter, bicycle or on public transport where possible.

3.7. Materials & Resources

- Purchase products which are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way and locally made/produced goods where practicable.
- Consider the lifetime cost of materials when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises.
- Maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials.

4. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

- Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all Trustees, overseen by the BVT Chairperson.
- The policy will be reviewed annually
- Performance against agreed goals/targets monitored quarterly.
- A copy of the policy will be made available on the Trust's website.

