

The Skills Partnership Sustainability Policy

Introduction

The Skills Partnership is committed to promoting sustainability. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to our professional activities and the management of the organisation. We aim to follow and to promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impact of all our activities and where possible to encourage and support our learners, employers and other stakeholders to do the same.

Principles

Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:

- To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our decisions.
- To ensure that all staff are fully aware of our Sustainability Policy and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise the impact on sustainability of all office and transportation activities.
- To make all staff, learners, employers and other stakeholders aware of our Sustainability Policy, and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices including:
 - a. Food and drink – An unhealthy diet contributes to obesity and poor concentration.
 - b. Healthy, ethically sourced foods can offer high nutritional benefits while protecting the environment and supporting local producers and suppliers.
 - c. Energy – Rising demand for energy is storing up problems for future generations. Energy conservation can tackle this problem and save money.
 - d. Water – Rising demand for water is storing up problems for future generations. Water conservation can tackle this problem and save money.
 - e. Travel and traffic – Rising vehicle use adds to road congestion, road accidents and pollution. Car-sharing and public transportation help ease these concerns, while walking and cycling boost fitness and well-being.
 - f. Purchasing and waste – Waste, and the “throw away” culture that encourages it, can be tackled through sustainable consumption. Employers can reduce costs and support markets for ethical goods and services at the same time.
- To review, annually report, and continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.

For information, advice and guidance contact us:

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Practical steps

In order to put these principles into practice we will endeavour to:

Travel and meetings

- Walk, cycle and/or use public transport to attend meetings etc, apart from exceptional circumstances where the alternatives are impractical and/or cost prohibitive. Long journeys within the UK will normally be undertaken by train.
- Avoid physically travelling to meetings etc where alternatives are available and practical, such as using teleconferencing and efficient timing of meetings and coordination to avoid multiple trips. These options are often more time efficient, while not sacrificing the benefits of regular contact with staff, employers, learners and other stakeholders.
- To reduce the need to travel to meetings and elsewhere, and facilitate regular contact, we will provide a mobile phone to staff free of charge for the duration of their employment at the Skills Partnership.
- Reduce the need for our staff to travel by supporting alternative working arrangements, including working from home and promote the use of public transport.

Purchase of equipment and consumption of resources

- Where possible, minimise our use of paper and other office consumables, for example by double-siding all paper used, and identifying opportunities to reduce waste. As far as possible arrange for the reuse or recycling of office waste, including paper, computer supplies and redundant equipment.
- Reduce the energy consumption of office equipment by ensuring lights and other equipments including radiators are switched off when not needed. All lighting to use low energy bulbs
- As office equipment is replaced, purchase the most energy efficient equipment when compared with alternatives of a similar cost and performance.

Monitoring and reporting

Our Sustainability Policy will be monitored and reported on annually via the SAR.