



VIY Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Background

Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) delivers a range of construction trade skills training opportunities for young people across England and Wales, from workshops to multi-phased community building refurbishment and renovation projects.

In the process, we are committed to adopting and implementing best practice to reduce the environmental impact of our activities and increase the environmental sustainability of our delivery model/approach.

At the core of our commitment to boosting/enabling environmental sustainability is a combination of three key factors: (a) our organisational policy and procedures, (b) the on-the-ground expertise of our trade skills mentors/site managers, (c) drawing on the knowledge and experience of our core trade/construction sector partners in this area.

Our aims

Overall goal: To reduce the environmental impact of our operations and contribute positively to environmental sustainability. This includes:

- Complying with relevant environmental legislation in the design, delivery and completion of our projects
- Working with sector partners to share knowledge and collaborate in achieving our aims
- Prioritising projects that proactively contribute to environmental sustainability
- Considering the carbon footprint of our operations and aiming to reduce this in line with relevant/applicable targets

Areas of focus

Strand 1: Sustainable procurement

- Considering the environmental impact of the tools and materials we procure
- Working with our partners to reduce the environmental impact of the donated tools and materials we receive
- The selection of green/energy-efficient products wherever possible
- Reducing the environmental impact of procurement choices for our office spaces



Strand 2: Sustainable resource use

On projects:

- Reducing waste materials on our projects
- Disposing of waste responsibly
- Increasing the re-use/recycling of materials within and between projects
- Working with clients and partners to reduce environmental impacts in the design phase of all projects, and incorporate environmentally beneficial technologies where possible

Operationally in general:

- Implementing effective waste and recycling policies in our offices
- Reducing the amount of paper used in our operations
- Reducing the impact of staff travel (central team, mentors and assessors) to and from our project sites
- Where relevant, reducing the impact of our office spaces (e.g. water and energy use)

Strand 3: Facilitating learning about sustainability issues and their relevance to our sector/operations throughout the organisation and among participants on our projects

- Learning from and drawing on the knowledge and experience of our core trade/construction sector partners
- Including environmental sustainability as a learning point on all projects for staff, mentors and young people
- Sharing our own actions and learning to contribute to better outcomes for the wider sector(s) in which we operate

Action plan

This policy is underpinned by an action plan that is regularly reviewed and updated.

This includes:

- Establishing KPIs to measure progress on our aims, to be reviewed regularly
- Monitoring/measuring our performance against our KPIs
- Engaging with key sector stakeholders to share knowledge and insight
- Working with a steering group of staff and stakeholders to guide and advise our work
- Regularly reviewing our impacts and this policy