

Environment Policy for Washington Village u3a

Aims of this policy

To ensure Washington Village u3a reflects on the impact of its activities on climate change, biodiversity loss and the environment. Specifically to help:

- the committee put processes and policies in place to ensure our u3a is run in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- members inform themselves about environmental issues: how human activities contribute to waste, pollution and global warming.
- members minimise their adverse impact on the environment.
- members maximise their positive impact on the environment.

Rationale

This policy suggests ways to incorporate environmental guidelines into our activities to make a positive contribution to sustainability and the environment, and to mitigate climate change. Specifically, the measures listed below help Washington Village u3a to:

- address concerns of members and wider society with regard to environmental issues
- encourage communication and dialogue on environmental issues within the u3a;
- encourage a culture of awareness and a sense of responsibility within the membership with respect to sustainability and environmental issues;
- provide information to members on how to reduce their adverse environmental impact;
- minimise the negative environmental impact of organised activities.

Practical Measures

Washington Village u3a aims to do the following:

- Appoint an Environmental Officer to monitor our environmental impact.
- Run an environmental group within the u3a.
- Arrange speakers on environmental topics for some monthly meetings.
- Incorporate environmental concerns into planning and decision making where relevant.
- Consider the impact of activities which take place outside (in natural ecosystems) and whether they be made more sustainable.
- Check whether venues used operate environmentally responsible policies such as using local suppliers, and encourage them to do so.
- Ensure as far as possible that refreshments are served in an environmentally friendly manner e.g. using crockery rather than disposable cups and plates.
- Minimise waste and encourage reuse and recycling.
- Encourage travel to meetings and events by walking, car sharing or public transport.
- Conduct a survey of members to seek their views on climate and the environment and suggestions for actions which might be taken by the u3a.
- Have the Environmental Officer conduct an annual review of our performance against these measures.
- Make this policy available on our website and draw our members' attention to it.