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Developing an Environmental Policy

This section gives community groups some pointers towards developing a simple Environmental Policy.

Developing an Environmental Policy should be a key starting point for your SD Action Plan. It can link to and guide you in developing a green purchasing programme.

If you wish to take this further you may wish to develop an accredited Environmental Management Schemes.

Why Have an Environmental Policy?

An environmental policy, however simple, sets out your intentions and commitment to improving your own environmental performance. It can identify and establish areas for action and the priorities for your Action plan.

The policy should be able to stand for several years and should therefore focus on your aims and intentions rather than on detailed implementation work, which would come into the Action Plan. Your policy should be agreed by staff and formally by trustees and displayed in the office. Its aims should be clear and understandable by everyone involved in the organisation.

What goes in an Environmental Policy?

Statements usually include references to recycling, energy use, purchasing and transport. You could frame your policy around the 5 EAC themes as used in this website. See the [sample environmental policy](http://eaclink.info/?HCFDG), <http://eaclink.info/?HCFDG>, page for an example.

You may also want to use this as an opportunity to link your environmental work to your wider social goals. The [Access and Equality Issues](http://eaclink.info/?HRONK), <http://eaclink.info/?HRONK>, page may be relevant in this context.

Increasingly, funders are requesting information on environmental performance, sometimes as a prerequisite to awarding a grant. An environmental policy should be an active document not just a 'wish list' or something done to secure funding.