



Fact sheet: Sustainable Community Strategies

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

Every local area must have a Sustainable Community Strategy. Have you seen yours? A Sustainable Community Strategy is an important plan which sets out the vision and priorities for your whole area. It is a blueprint for the future of the area and covers a wide range of issues including health, education, crime, transport and the environment.

It is called a 'sustainable' community strategy because this plan, which is required by the Government, must set out how local agencies will work together to make your community a better place – one which safeguards the environment for future generations.

The Sustainable Community Strategy helps decide the type of place your local area is going to be, now and in the future. It sets out the priorities which local service providers will focus on and also affects wider decisions about housing and development in your area.

A Sustainable Community Strategy is prepared by your local council working together with other local agencies and representatives from voluntary organisations and local businesses.

Communities have a big part to play in preparing and also delivering a Sustainable Community Strategy. Local people need to be consulted and involved.

What a Sustainable Community Strategy can do

Save energy

Set a target for reducing carbon dioxide pollution in your local area and increasing the amount of green energy produced in the area through wind turbines or solar panels.

Travel wisely

Set out how public transport schemes will help more people to get around without needing to use the car.

Shop ethically

Pledge action to encourage local shops, markets and local farmers to team up and increase the amount of locally grown, healthy fruit and vegetables people can buy.



Save our resources

Set a target for increasing the amount of waste that is recycled and expanding recycling schemes to reach more people in the area.

Care for your area

Identify parks, open spaces or nature reserves which will be improved for wildlife and for greater enjoyment by local people.

How to get involved

First of all, get hold of a copy of your area's Sustainable Community Strategy and share this information with other members of your group, club or society. You can get a copy from your local council. What does your area's Sustainable Community Strategy say about making every action count for a better community and a better environment for all?

Why not decide as a group the top three things you would like your area's Sustainable Community Strategy to address in order to make a greener future for your community?