

## SUSTAINABILITY

To create the kind of world we want for ourselves and for our children we need to consider what we do, how we do it and what effect it will have on other people and the environment. This is called being **sustainable**.

### How to be sustainable

When planning projects or tasks try thinking about the following sustainability issues and the links between them.

- Give as many local people as possible the chance to get involved or develop ideas
- Look at the potential for training or job opportunities in what you are doing e.g. community training or publicity and promotion
- Think about reducing pollution, energy conservation and waste reduction
- Think about the effect on local wildlife – wildlife includes plants as well as animals
- Make good use of local buildings and land

### Now check out your own project or task

- The big advantage of trying out the sustainability checklist, which appears over the page, is that it is simple to use and gives a fairly instant picture of the sustainability issues for your project or task
- Not only does it help you consider the broader links that may otherwise get overlooked, it also gives you an opportunity to put things right wherever possible
- Remember not all categories in the checklist will apply to every project and some categories may not apply at all. Although open to interpretation, the checklist does help you think through the environmental and other impacts of your project at every stage
- Finally, if you are concerned this exercise might show up your project unfavourably, you may be reassured by the fact that it will help to develop your thinking about sustainability, which can only be of benefit

### Useful contacts

**Quakers for sustainability** [www.livingwitness.org.uk](http://www.livingwitness.org.uk)

**Women's Environmental Network** [www.wen.org.uk](http://www.wen.org.uk)

#### Christian ecology link

[www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

#### Eco congregations

[www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues.

Please get in touch if you have further suggestions for useful contacts

## Sustainability Checklist

Does your project do the following?	Yes	No	Does not apply
<b>1. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b>			
a) encourage local action, decision making and involvement in all aspects of a project			
b) take into account under represented groups eg children, youth, disadvantaged people			
<b>2. ECONOMY AND WORK</b>			
a) increase the use of locally produced goods eg food, flowers, craft items etc			
b) increase employment/vocational training opportunities			
c) improve the environmental awareness of local businesses			
d) invest ethically			
e) increase the use of fair trade goods			
f) provide local goods from projects where possible eg coppiced materials, hay,			
<b>3. TRANSPORT</b>			
a) encourage walking or cycling			
b) encourage use of public transport and car sharing			
c) Fit activities in with local bus and train timetables			
<b>4. POLLUTION</b>			
a) consider local pollution eg noise, air, water, land and use of chemicals			
<b>5. ENERGY</b>			
a) maximise energy efficiency eg insulation, low energy products			
<b>6. WASTE AND RESOURCES</b>			
a) consider waste reduction			
b) encourage re-use and/or repair			
c) encourage recycling or use recycled products			
<b>7. BUILDING AND OPEN/SPACES</b>			
a) provide local amenities/reuse buildings			
b) consider access for the disabled			
<b>8. WILDLIFE (plants and animals)</b>			
a) encourage and conserve plant and animal life			

In the sustainability checklist:

**'Yes'** shows a positive benefit, ideally as a result of advance planning

**'No'** shows a possible negative effect, the cause of which may have been overlooked and provides an opportunity to see whether this can be reduced

**'Does not apply'** This particular measure is not relevant to any aspect of the project