

What do we mean by 'sustainability'?

There are many definitions but the one used in 'Shaping our future', The Community Strategy for Dorset, 2007-2016 is the Government's which states: 'to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations'.

This checklist aims to help you identify the most sustainable way forward for your project. The purpose of your project may primarily be social, economic or environmental but it might have other impacts or benefits that you haven't yet considered.

The checklist questions are grouped under key headings* designed to help you consider a range of sustainability issues at the start of your project planning. These are intended only as a guide and may not all apply to your project or there may be other issues you think are important.

The checklist will help to identify how your project positively or negatively contributes to sustainability. You can then identify what further action you might take to make your project more sustainable.

Shaping our communities - a toolkit to help community groups turn ideas into action

Sustainability checklist

Will/could your project ?

Yes
/ No Further action

<p>Develop sustainability learning and skills ? Support the community to develop learning and skills for sustainability Support local people to develop skills to enable them to participate in society as a whole</p>		
<p>Improve physical and mental well being ? Encourage healthy balanced lifestyles Provide clean and safe environments Encourage supportive & inclusive communities</p>		
<p>Improve equality in meeting basic needs ? Help people (particularly disadvantaged) to access: Essential goods and services Safe and satisfying employment Learning opportunities Leisure opportunities Affordable & sustainable housing</p>		
<p>Be resource wise ? Use natural raw materials , water and energy efficiently Use local renewable energy Reduce, reuse and recycle waste Reduce pollution</p>		
<p>Support low carbon economies ? Support low carbon approaches & technologies e.g. local renewable energy, sustainable construction, local supply chains Generate local employment opportunities</p>		
<p>Reduce high carbon travel ? Encourage walking, cycling or public transport Encourage fuel efficiency and the use of alternative fuels e.g. biodiesel</p>		
<p>Use local and ethical goods and services ? Maximise use of local goods and services Support ethical sourcing</p>		
<p>Enhance regional and local distinctiveness ? Protect and enhance local wildlife Protect and enhance local culture and heritage Use local skills and materials</p>		
<p>Help everyone to join in public decision making ? Support public and community decision making</p>		
<p>Take a long term approach ? Take account of climate change</p>		

* **Note:** Headings are based on the 10 sustainability operating principles from the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (see the Community Strategy for Dorset, 2007 – 2016 for further details)