

It's Time for Action!

‘Sustainable development is not about bolt on initiatives or additional burdens. It is about better ways of working which make positive, long-lasting differences to peoples lives and the world they live in’

Securing the Regions' Futures

You don't have to be a large company or have loads of spare time and money on your hands to help achieve sustainable development. Just by considering the implications of decisions you make, or making small changes in the way you do things can make positive differences to people's quality of life.

NOT JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER

In March 2005 the West Sussex Sustainability Forum launched their new strategy 'Time for Action'. The Forum would like individuals, organisations and communities to adopt the strategy, and help them achieve their aim of a sustainable West Sussex.

'Time for Action' sets out 12 principle areas where we all can take action. It doesn't tell you what you should do. That is up to you. You may be doing work in some of the areas already, or there may be some areas where you can contribute more than others. Every organisation can play a part and tailor the strategy to reflect their own particular interests. There is no expectation that you should be doing it all.

If you adopt this strategy and apply the principles when making decisions and forming plans, collectively we will improve the quality of life for people in West Sussex, now and into the future.



MAKE YOURSELF HEARD

THE GOVERNMENT

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Securing the Future' was launched in March 2005. The strategy aims 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'.

Recently the Government set out more detail of how to achieve its National Strategy at a Regional level in 'Securing the Regions Futures' (April 2006). It states that the best way to achieve delivery is through:

- Engaging wider stakeholders to provide informed views and opinions to inform regional decision-making.
- Encouraging innovative action
- Enabling sustainable development through regional strategies and
- Exemplifying best practice.

By adopting 'Time for Action' you will be letting regional, local and national Government know how important you think sustainable development is for the future of West Sussex.

THE PUBLIC

More and more people are recognising the importance of sustainability, and want to work with organisations that share their concerns. By adopting Time for Action you will be making a public commitment to working to achieve Sustainable Development in West Sussex.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

By adopting the Strategy you will be:

- Making sure your views on sustainability and the importance of Quality of Life are known and heard.
- Joining a growing number of organisations helping to make West Sussex a better place to live.
- Giving a clear message of what you think, and helping to inform regional decision-making.

WHAT ADOPTING TIME FOR ACTION INVOLVES

Once your organisation has adopted the strategy we recommend you develop an action plan to deliver work in line with the principles. This does not have to mean additional work. Many organisations are already doing a lot already. Below are some examples from organisations who have adopted 'Time for Action'.



Chichester District Council used their action plan to draw attention to what the authority is doing to deliver sustainable development locally and to show where others in the District get involved.



Sussex Wildlife Trust has achieved accreditation to ISO14001, an environmental management system. To achieve this they have to audit their waste, energy and water use and work towards reducing these. Their workforce includes paid and voluntary members of staff, and they also work with community groups; scout association etc. They work across all sectors and generations to increase knowledge of the environment and encourage people to take action to conserve and enhance it. Staff buy organic vegetable boxes from a local farm which are delivered to the offices.

Sussex Association of Local Councils

Parish Councils have, or are in the process of producing, Local Parish Action Plans. These give details of sustainable action which support the principles in Time for Action

These Action Plans are developing into Village Design Statements which in turn will become guidance to the District Councils for future sustainable planning. These statements also contribute to community strategies and Local Development Frameworks.

Sussex Air Quality Steering Group

did not feel the need to write a separate Action Plan, as their annual business plan overlaps with the aims contained in Time for Action. By educating people about climate change and the many benefits of healthy lifestyles, including reducing travel to lower emissions, the Group works to improve air quality.



Arundel Agenda 21 Group

works with partners to organise bi-monthly bus trips using the community bus. The trips provide outings for local people who do not have access to transport. They have also successfully cleared an overgrown area of public space to make it an area for the local community to enjoy.

All of these actions complement the principles of Time for Action.

If you agree with the principles set out in 'Time For Action', please demonstrate your support and commitment by adopting the strategy.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

If you adopt the strategy, please let the West Sussex Sustainability Forum Secretariat know at:
West Sussex County Council, Environment & Development, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RH
or email: wssf@westsussex.gov.uk

Copies of Time for Action can be viewed at:
www.westsussex.gov.uk
on the West Sussex Sustainability Forum pages