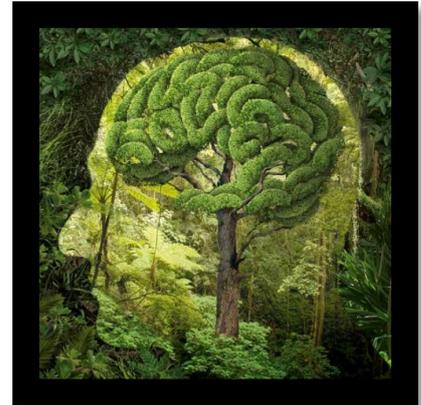


INCLUDING NATURE IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Why have policies that support and help nature?

- Most importantly as responsible voluntary organisations we often intend to influence others through our principles and behaviour.
- Secondly, we are ideally placed to influence and encourage positive behavioural change through our own actions and methods of overcoming barriers.
- Thirdly, funders or people who may want to procure our services want us to demonstrate we are socially responsible and that we are a well-rounded, sustainable organisation.



Suggestions below show some examples of how you can bring nature into your existing environmental policies.

1. State an understanding or commitment

This sets out what your group believes and hopes to achieve.

E.g. Name of Group recognises the importance of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment in meeting its obligations under the Well being of Future Generations Act 2105; in particular Goal 2: “A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)”

To this end Name of Group is committed in all its activities to ensuring that it acts to maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment:

E.g. Name of Group regards making space for nature as an essential component of community development activity. Individuals and communities cannot exercise full and meaningful control over their own lives if they do not also have a measure of responsibility and the capacity to influence their own environment. Name of Group is committed to making its own work an example of best practice for others in the area.

2. List the chosen actions that your group intends to take

Your environmental policy may already cover areas such as recycling, resource use, climate change or energy efficiency. If nature is not included, here are some suggestions. Not all of these may apply to your group and there may be many others than you prefer to take. The Investing in Nature guide will give you many ideas to consider.

Natural Environment

Name of Group will:

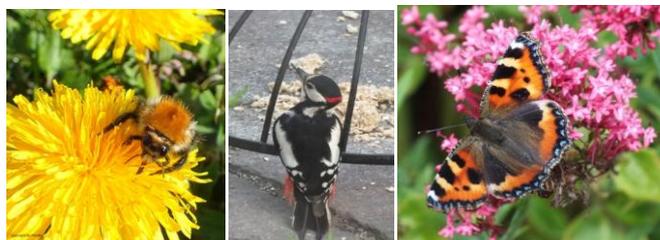
- *Encourage wildlife to establish new habitats within its grounds*
- *Provide feeding opportunities for wildlife.*
- *Create a new habitat or feeding station each year*
- *Take nature into account in all its actions.*
- *Take advice when planning projects on what the impacts might be and how to minimise negative impacts on nature*

In addition:

- *Wood or timber products will be from local (where possible), sustainably managed woodland*
- *Cleaning products will be limited, both in amount of usage and quantity of products.*
- *No use will be made of peat or peat based products.*

Relationships with Others

- ***Name of Group** will ensure that its practices comply with all legal protection of habitats and species and will not work with those who flout the law.*



The following sections are likely to already be included in your Environmental Policy and are included only for information. If your group does not have an Environmental Policy, WCVA's guide about drafting one is [here](#).

Monitoring

- ***Name of Group** will monitor implementation of this policy annually to ensure that its practices comply with the requirements of the Policy.*
- *They will report on any major issues arising in relation to the policy in his her regular reports to the Board/steering group.*
- *All staff and volunteers will seek to implement this policy in all aspects of the business; to this end proposals for improvements will be submitted to **Role Title** for consideration and implementation.*

In due course the Board/steering group will consider setting specific targets by which performance against this policy can be more closely monitored and evaluated

Responsibilities: *This commitment affects everyone who works with and for **Name of Group**, including Board members, staff and volunteers. The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with **Job Title**.*

Promotion

All Board members, staff and volunteers will receive a copy of this policy and will be made aware of its content and requirements

Going Further

If you would like to do more for nature you can find further ideas and resources at www.wcva.org.uk/environtecymru.

You can also find out how your actions are contributing to a resilient and biodiverse environment at a national level, by reading the [Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Plan](#).

This resource was produced by Alison Davies and Jo Horsley of Resources for Change for Environet Cymru with funding from the Welsh Government.