

Sustainable  
Development  
Action Plan

Harrogate  
International  
Centre

# Sustainable Development Action Plan

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A widely-used and accepted definition of sustainable development is:

“Development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Harrogate International Centre (HIC) is committed to tackling the many challenges of sustainable development and will endeavour to operate as a responsible business within the community.

We aim to further grow and develop the conference and exhibition business in Harrogate whilst operating the venue in an environmentally-friendly way.

As a responsible business we accept that we have a duty to promote best practice amongst our staff, our clients, our contractors, our suppliers and our partners within Harrogate.

## To achieve this HIC:

- Ensures its Business Strategy takes into account sustainable development across all facets of its operations
- Works with clients to develop and promote sustainable events
- Promotes sustainable practices within the venue
- Engages with industry colleagues to develop best practice in the events industry
- Ensures that all staff are engaged in the commitment to sustainable development

## Key initiatives being undertaken in pursuit of these aims include:

- Purchasing energy from renewable sources, where possible
- Reducing energy use on the site through an energy efficiency programme
- A maintenance programme on all plant machinery to ensure kit is running to optimum efficiency
- A commitment to replacing old plant machinery with more efficient eco-friendly kit as soon as possible
- Water-saving measures in rest rooms and kitchens
- Introducing recycling in all facets of operation, where possible
- Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill
- Working with clients/partners to reduce waste created during event activities

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- Utilising advances in technology to improve efficiencies in operations and reducing waste from operations
  - Monitoring emerging technologies to identify opportunities for efficiencies
  - Using environmentally-friendly materials in cleaning and catering operations
  - Reducing the use of paper, and using recycled paper in offices instead, for promotional materials and for catering and washroom operations
  - Promoting the use of the HIC website for event information, rather than hard copy
  - Choosing and working with suppliers who operate a strong environmental policy
  - Working with the Carbon Trust and other environmental groups to reduce HIC's impact on the environment
  - Educating staff, contractors, clients and visitors to increase environmental awareness
  - Working with clients and transport providers to encourage visitors to utilise public transport, where possible
  - Operation of a "Car Share" scheme for staff, with priority parking for scheme members
  - Operation of a "cycle to work" scheme for staff which allows staff to buy a cycle and equipment at reduced rates and over extended payment terms
  - Operation of a "Plant a Tree" scheme – whereby HIC plants trees within the Harrogate District in return for every major event staged at the venue
  - Endeavouring to reach an excellent, or very good, BREEAM rating for all new building projects
  - Promoting events industry best practices in sustainability
  - Continually reviewing HIC activities and the effect said operations have on the environment

Stuart Quin  
Director  
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