

Corporate Social Responsibility

Re-approved	August 2023
Review by	August 2024
Authorised by	C Gavaghan (CEO)

Introduction

Corporate social responsibility is a term used to describe when businesses look beyond their initial duty to staff, customers, learners, and the community. This policy brings together the ways in which Derwent Training Association ensures that its activities are carried out ethically, sustainably, and for the public benefit.

Context

Derwent Training directors, staff and learners take social responsibility seriously and see it as an integral part of the business. As an independent training provider, small medium enterprise, and employer, we have a major role to play in the social and economic welfare of Ryedale District and the wider region, as well as an ethical responsibility to our planet.

Derwent Training is committed to promoting environmental sustainability, where the needs of the present do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and is committed to the dual ethos of sustainability and responsible global citizenship. It recognises that its activities may have effects on sustainability and will ensure legislative compliance, and where practicable, exceed this minimum requirement by incorporating sound sustainability management practices into all aspects of its operations.

Derwent Training has a major role to play in building the capacity of its learners, staff, and local communities to effectively participate in translating the rhetoric of sustainable development into reality. Of particular significance is the sector's role in facilitating social inclusion, sustainable regional development, and responsible global citizenship.

This strategy details the commitment of Derwent Training to energy savings and a sustainable environment through the three themes of curriculum, centre, and community. It will be published on our website. Staff should endeavour to apply its aims to all aspects of our operation and its delivery of the curriculum and associated services. This encompasses space utilisation and maintenance of the centre, catering, energy management, use and recycling of paper and materials, health & safety, and waste management, purchasing strategies and contractual arrangements, curriculum delivery, and transport.

As part of the training experience, learners are encouraged to consider their own social responsibility throughout their training programmes. Social responsibility also underpins activities supported by the many equality and diversity initiatives both within the training centre and within the wider community.

Derwent Training recognises its responsibilities to increase awareness of environmental and sustainable development responsibilities among staff and learners and aims to incorporate sustainable development skills and knowledge into all learners' programmes. In promoting and developing environmentally sustainable practises, we will:

1. use both the curriculum and CPD to promote and practise knowledge, attitudes and skills that enable individuals to make informed decisions relating to the impact of their actions on the environment (internally & externally)
2. include discrete development qualifications as additionality if appropriate
3. reduce the use of paper by promoting the use of email, virtual learning environment, intranet, and other technology such as video conferencing as far as practicable,

alongside double sided and black/white printing and copying where the use of print is unavoidable

4. remove as far as possible single use plastic items within the centre
5. promote a sustainable world environment through reducing, reusing, and recycling wherever possible, and implementing safe and ethical disposal procedures in line with the local district council recycling plans
6. support cycle to work scheme and provide bicycle storage facilities for staff and learners
7. reduce to a minimum the corporate fleet of cars
8. minimise use of energy and scarce resources through good practice, prudent maintenance, and use of energy efficient resources
9. continually improve and maintain the environment both within the centre and, where appropriate, externally
10. ensure compliance with any legal requirements concerning the environment, and work towards meeting targets of Government initiatives for a sustainable environment
11. minimise pollution by seeking environmentally acceptable economies in the use of transport
12. reduce the use of water where possible and further investigate rainwater harvesting, the use of greywater systems and reducing the volume of water used within the toilets
13. hold a Sustainable Development event annually
14. reduce the carbon footprint caused by staff travelling to, from and for work
15. reduce the carbon footprint associated with purchasing resources. Cost will not be the primary concern. We will ask suppliers about their corporate social responsibility action and consider the mileage involved in receiving deliveries.
16. swap all lighting to lower energy LED lighting
17. invest in solar power installation to reduce carbon-generated energy

Derwent Training recognises its responsibilities and in promoting and developing environmentally sustainable development, we will collaborate with appropriate external organisations and communities in order to improve the mutual understanding of environmental problems and their solutions.

Local people and local businesses depend on Derwent Training to provide education and training, employment, and advice to make a real difference to their success. Close relationships with the community enhance what we offer our learners such as working with local projects and networks in order to maximise community engagement. Fundraising by staff and learners is organised throughout the year to benefit a range of charities both locally and nationally. Each year Derwent Training will select a local charity for which it undertakes fund raising.

Monitoring and Audit

Overall responsibility for the implementation of this strategy rests with the Leadership Team.