

Constitution For Sustainable Redland

Name

1.1 The name of the group shall be Sustainable Redland

Aims and Objectives

2.1 Sustainable Redland aims to support its members in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions for which we are all responsible. Through encouraging good practice amongst ourselves, we hope to encourage others within the community to do the same, as well as other communities within the City of Bristol.

2.2 We recognise that we will be working in the areas of domestic energy, transport, recycling, food mile reduction, education, research and the social and economic benefits of energy conservation.

2.3 We aim to link with other organisations with similar aims. Examples are Bristol City Council and the groups it has set up to foster sustainability within the City, National Government organisations, local businesses, NGOs and local groups with similar aims.

2.4 We aim to:

- support each other in reducing our carbon emissions
- use our buying power to reduce the costs of energy efficient technology
- encourage a cleaner, more efficient transport system
- encourage the take up of more environmentally friendly energy production
- promote recycling and reducing household waste
- encourage the take up of government grants for energy efficiency
- support local businesses that promote sustainability and encourage change in those that don't
- lobby and involve local government in our projects
- encourage local shopping
- encourage local farmers markets to enhance local food shopping
- raise the sustainability profile by running public information days, campaigns and working in schools
- monitor our progress
- find out what the sustainability issues are that concern local people and research ways these can be addressed
- be aware of the social and economic implications of energy conservation
- make our research available to the wider community
- use the combined knowledge and experience of the group, as well as that of experts in the field of energy efficiency, green energy, transport or some other area beneficial to our aims
- use local and if need be national media

Membership

3.1 Membership is open to people interested in working together to achieve the aims of the group. At present they will have agreed to join the mailing list, but as the group progresses, a modest membership fee may be considered.

Officers

4.1 The group will have a Chairman, to be elected annually at the AGM. The Chair's responsibility will be to ensure the smooth running of meetings, that decisions are made, and will take on other responsibilities as they arise.

4.2 The group will have a Secretary, whose task will be to inform everyone of meetings, and take minutes. This responsibility can be shared with the Chairman.

4.3 There will be a Treasurer who will oversee the group's money and any payments it makes. The Treasurer will report regularly to the Membership.

4.4 There will be other officers designated who will be responsible for monitoring, managing and keeping up to date with information about the different aspects the group is involved with. These are:

- domestic energy
- transport
- recycling
- local food shopping
- raising local awareness

Meetings

5.1 All meetings will be open, with special officers to guide decisions. The purpose of the meetings is to share information and make decisions. Meetings will be governed by the constitution, and to achieve a quorum, the minimum number present shall be four.

5.2 At present meetings are open, held monthly and reports are distributed to all members. Decisions are reached by the majority vote of all people attending. Throughout the year, there should be a minimum of four meetings, and an AGM, with reports written for all.

AGM

5.3 A date will be set for this, with 21 days notice given to all group members. An agenda will be prepared and the meeting will be used by the officers to inform members of the group's activities throughout the year. Reports will be given by the Chairman and Treasurer. Other reports that the officers feel the members will want may also be given. Reporting officers unable to attend shall give a written report to the Chair prior to the meeting.

5.4 Members of the group should contact the Chairman in writing ten days beforehand, with anything they would like included in any other business.

5.5 The following year's Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected at the AGM, and committee members appointed as necessary.

5.6 A simple majority of votes by any members present will be used to reach a decision, and should there be an equal number, the Chairman will cast the deciding vote.

5.7 The group can affiliate with other organisations upon agreement at the AGM.

5.8 Other general or extraordinary general meetings can also be called by an agreement of at least five members.

Finances

6.1 At present no annual subscription has been set for members, but this may be reconsidered at a committee meeting, followed by the seeking of general approval from the membership, or at an AGM. An annual subscription date will be set should this decision be reached.

6.2 The group's accounts will run from 1 April to 31 March

6.3 The appointment of Bankers will be made by the Treasurer on the decision initially at a meeting, and the AGM.

6.4 The Treasurer will pay incoming monies into the bank account, and will account to the membership for all monies.

6.5 Any withdrawals will require the signature of the Treasurer and the Chairman.

6.6 Based on an assessment of income and expenditure, the Treasurer will furnish financial forecasts.

Alteration of the Constitution

7.1 Any proposal to alter the Constitution must be approved at the AGM by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting.

7.2 To facilitate the group's functioning, such a proposal can be convened at a special general meeting.

7.3 Such a proposal will be accompanied with a relevant part of the existing Constitution and the proposed amendment for the AGM.

Termination of membership

8.1 If the actions of a member shall, in the opinion of the membership, harm the group's interests, the membership is empowered to suspend him or her.

8.2 Termination of the membership will be agreed at the AGM by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting.

Dissolution of the Group

8.3 The group may be dissolved only at the AGM, or at a special meeting convened for the purpose. The motion to dissolve must be carried by a 3/4 majority of members present and voting.

8.4 Before the vote is taken, the members shall determine how assets of the group shall be disposed of in the event of the motion being carried. After dispensing of any debts and liabilities, remaining assets shall be transferred to any other charitable organisations with similar objectives to Sustainable Redland, which the meeting considers suitable.

8.5 The Constitution was adopted on the 25th day of January 2006

Signed	Position
Signed	Position
Signed	Position
Date	