

Social Value/Corporate Social Responsibility Guide 2024

A guide to aid businesses to shape their Social Value offers when tendering for contracts offered by Solihull MBC, and to help direct Corporate Social Responsibility activity. See our Social Value webpage and policy for further information - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/business/social-value>.

TOM(s) (Themes, Outcomes and Measures):

NT53	Innovative measures to safeguard the environment and respond to the climate emergency to be delivered on the contract - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc.
-------------	---

Summary of delivery area:

The Council has several climate change and sustainability ambitions that support its Climate Change Statement of Intent. This covers a broad range of sustainability activity such as net zero, resource efficiency, waste and circular economy, natural resources, and a just and equitable transition to a low carbon economy.

Priorities:

- 1. Actions that support decarbonising and an improvement of wider sustainability of the council, the borough and/or of supply chains**
- 2. Support adaptation to our changing climate.** Action in this area should support the Council and its supply chain and the wider borough to adapt to climate change actions could include:
- 3. Supporting borough organisations to help them improve their sustainability performance** examples of groups include community groups or SME's. This may include:
 - Sustainability Mentoring - to other businesses/ organisations etc
 - Volunteering
 - Sponsorship of action by council or other groups for example greener schools activities
 - Green Jobs and skills
- 4. Promote sustainability action across the borough.**
 - Utilising own workforce and networks to promote sustainability practices to the wider borough in addition to what is required in the contract.

What can we do for you?

- The council can be a link to schools, community groups and businesses through its networks and current activity, for instance:
 - The Greener Schools Awards works with a network of supporting businesses.
 - Love Solihull work with both community groups and businesses on a range of projects.
 - The council supports businesses in a number of ways, and can link with groups such as the Solihull Sustainable Visioning Group.

Case studies/examples:

- **Transition to low carbon business** – there are programmes and pledges that can provide support and guidance and are accessible through the West Midlands Growth Hub <https://www.businessgrowthwestmidlands.org.uk/business-support/?categories=Decarbonisation>
- **Green Schools work**- a number of businesses have supported the Green Schools Award. Through the Climate Change and Sustainability Team, the businesses fund the award

trophies, and provide rewards for participants, for example, £200 worth of gardening equipment. The trophies are also created by a local charity supporting the development of practical skills in adults with learning disabilities. This project is ongoing and you can get involved through contacting the Climate Change and Sustainability Team.

- **Climate Change engagement and education project** – the Climate Change and Sustainability Team are developing an approach using eco-education games (such as ‘How Green are Bananas’ game). This programme will seek to use the game in multiple settings such as schools, community groups and businesses to educate and engage those involved – and this includes those working within businesses. There are a variety of resources needed to set this programme up which include ‘volunteer’/staff time and financing.
- **Local environmental projects** including tree planting- support for communities can be facilitated by Love Solihull, including specific Corporate Tree Planting programme <https://www.lovesolihull.org/corporate-social-responsibility> for instance a community tree planting with the State Bank of India https://www.lovesolihull.org/files/ugd/bd82b9_636570cbf1ba4feab991747b8587d0e3.pdf
- **Supporting apprenticeships** – Solihull Council working with their partner IdVerde have offered green apprenticeships. <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/growing-equality-forestry-0>