

SIFT – Sustainability Improvements for Teams

## Healthy Environment Workshop

### 1 Introduction



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 An Introduction to Sustainability Improvement for Teams (SIFT)

SIFT stands for Sustainability Improvements for Teams - a suite of workshops to support the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act). If you are unfamiliar with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, then read this [simple guide](#).

This document is the guidance for the Healthy Environment Workshop.



## 1.2 Healthy Environment Workshop

The Healthy Environment workshop enables a team to identify its environmental impacts - to reduce the negative impacts and maximise the positive impacts. It looks at the activity of the whole team and also of the individuals within the team.

The team leader will need volunteers to carry out essential roles to run the workshop. These are:



**FACILITATOR**



**NOTE TAKER**

These roles are described in more detail in the next section. Please consider volunteering if you have relevant experience and skills.

The output of the workshop is to develop a team action plan to reduce the team's negative impact on the environment and maximise the positive impacts. The challenge is to then maintain the action plan and update it regularly over a period of years so that your team can track its progress alongside that of your organisation.

## 1.3 Why Use the Workshop?

Your team is a part of a public organisation in Wales. The organisation as a whole has to comply with the Well-being of Future Generations Act (if a 'public body' in the Act), and associated legislation such as the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) and [Active Travel \(Wales\) Act 2013](#). Each team and individual within the organisation can play a part in this. This is not just about compliance, however. By reducing its harmful environmental impacts and increasing its positive impacts, a team can help the organisation contribute to Wales' seven well-being goals, and this will benefit the whole of society including you, and your own families and local communities.

Doing the workshop could also help team members work better together, learn from and support each other, and identify ways that will improve personal and team well-being.

SIFT workshops promote action learning and create an evidence base that can be incorporated into the objectives of the organisation to support improved planning, collaboration and delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The workshop is suitable for any team within an organisation/ public body. Aim to undertake the workshop once a year to support your team planning.

The well-being goals show the kind of Wales we want to see. Adopting sustainable behaviours to support our environment will contribute across the goals, and in particular towards 'a Prosperous Wales' with a low carbon society and 'a Resilient Wales' with a healthy natural world.



## 1.4 The Five Ways of Working

In addition to the seven well-being goals, the Healthy Environment workshop supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act by encouraging teams to embed the five ways of working into everything they do.

### The Five Ways of Working are:



**Long Term** – the importance of balancing short term needs with the ability to also meet long term needs



**Integration** – Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on any separate corporate or strategic objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies



**Involvement** – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that these people reflect the diversity of the area which the organisation serves



**Collaboration** – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself) that could help the organisation to meet its well-being objectives



**Prevention** – How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help organisations to meet their objectives

It is important to use the Five Ways of Working when undertaking the workshop and in further development and delivery of your team action plan because you will have to report on those.

## 1.5 Before the Workshop - What You Need to Do

To get the most out of the SIFT Healthy Environment workshop, please watch the following three short videos presented by Sir David Attenborough in the two weeks before the workshop takes place.

[Climate Change: The Facts](#) – 1 hour

[What is Biodiversity?](#) – 3 minutes

[How to Save Our Planet](#) – 8 minutes

## 1.6 After the Workshop - Follow-up Work

We all need to commit to a long term process of continuous improvement. This means:

- As the team progresses through the year, it should monitor, record and celebrate the achievement of actions. We recommend that the plan and its actions are an agenda item at team meetings every month
- Repeat the workshop after twelve months. You can add to the actions you have already committed to

If your organisation has an Environmental Management System and/or a dedicated Environmental/Sustainability Manager, then share the results of the workshop with the responsible person(s) and invite them to help you implement the actions you have committed to as well as identifying new ones.