

Sustaining Change



third sector ideas into action for
a sustainable future



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What is Sustaining Change?

Sustaining Change is a unique programme brought to you by MERCi, one of the North West's leading sustainable development charities.

MERCi aims to create a network of inspirational Greater Manchester third sector organisations who are committed to operating in a more sustainable way ensuring the long term success of their organisation.

The Sustaining Change programme will support your organisation by working with you to develop a bespoke package tailored to your needs. This may include a sustainability audit, training, networks, peer mentoring with other third sector organisations or simply by having access to the MERCi 'one stop shop' website.

The idea is that you and your organisation can take as little or as much as you want from the programme; there are no set rules because every organisation is unique. We will work with you to ensure that the programme is complementary to your current working practice and builds on your strengths while highlighting any opportunities.

We believe that the future of the third sector lies in evidence based practice. We aim to help you to develop the skills and expertise to strengthen your position within the sector so that your work is recognised and celebrated by funders and service users.

The programme is funded for 4 years from 2008 by the Big Lottery Fund and is FREE for Greater Manchester third sector organisations that have at least one paid member of staff and operate out of premises.



What is sustainability?

Sustainability is many things to many people. In an age of economic insecurity and environmental concern the word sustainability is being used as a one size fits all solution to addressing a multitude of issues.

MERCi understands sustainability and has been actively promoting and delivering sustainable practices for over ten years.

MERCi's definition of sustainability is: the commitment to developing the skills, values and knowledge to maintain or support an activity over the long term through continued development.

The process by which sustainability is achieved can be described as sustainable development and can be broken down into three interlinking key themes: economic, social and environmental.

Achieving economic sustainability will enhance your organisations ability to invest in your staff and communities and will ensure that you are operating responsibly, protecting your local environment and the welfare of the one planet we all inhabit.



How do you achieve sustainability?

By saving money and bringing more money into your business! Ok its not quite as simple as that, a lot of hard work, innovative ideas and enthusiasm is also required which MERCi wants to share and pass on to you.

Saving money is the easiest place to start. We can help reduce your energy bills and show you how to use your resources more efficiently and effectively.

Funders and investors are increasingly concerned about the impact organisations are having on the local and global community and want to see evidence that organisations are responding to the challenges. Having an environmental policy is a good start but if it sits on a shelf and is not implemented as part of your daily delivery it is less than worthless. This programme helps you embed a culture of quality management to assist you in securing future investment. In the future a sustainability audit and the development of a sustainability policy and action plan will be recognised and valued by everyone.

There is more competition from the public and private sector for commissions, tenders and contracts than ever before. MERCi wants to offer you the opportunity to develop your expertise and strengthen the skills of your workforce so that you are able to compete.



The Sustaining Change programme

MERCi believe that in order to achieve long term sustainability three themes need to be addressed: economic, social and environmental. We have broken down the three themes into eight manageable areas. All of these areas will be covered in detail through our training sessions, network events, audit and website.

Food and Drink

Organisations that source their food and drink from ethical, organic, locally produced or fairly traded goods are not only protecting the environment but are helping to create a fairer society and are also putting money back into the local community.



Purchasing and Procurement

Purchasing goods and services from local suppliers and other third sector organisations will enable you to reduce your costs while supporting the local community and keeping money in our sector.



Energy and Water

The rising demand for energy and water across the planet is storing up problems for future generations. By tackling your energy use you not only lessen your environmental impact but you also benefit from real cost savings.



Travel

Rising vehicle use adds to congestion, road accidents and pollution. Car sharing and public transportation helps ease this concern and can also save you money. Walking or cycling boosts your fitness and increases concentration.



Buildings and Local Neighbourhood

The design and management of a building and its local neighbourhood can effect your environmental performance and your ability to offer a safe and comfortable working environment for staff and service users.



Inclusion and Participation

Your organisations can promote community cohesion by providing an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that values everyone's participation and contribution. This is an important factor in establishing a sustainable future.



Partnership and Promotion

With their community locations, facilities and extensive networks third sector organisations can act as hubs of learning and catalysts of change in their local community promoting the sustainability agenda and leading by example.



Waste

By adopting a 'reduce, reuse and recycle' approach you will save money and will be more efficient in your use of resources.



EN4M

MERCI Projects

EN4M Directory

EN4M Consultations

EN4M Directory Search

EN4M Directory Google Maps Mashup

EN4M Search consultations

HERBIE

Sustaining CHANGE

Bridge Mill

Herbie Home Intro

Herbie About you

Herbie Recipes with searchable database

Herbie Volunteer for herbie.

Sustaining Change home

Herbie Timetable

Herbie business delivery service

Herbie events we will be at

Sustaining Change Training calendar

Sustaining Change Auditing

Sustaining Change Case Studies.

Sustaining Change Events

Transport Pool Documents

Transport Pool links

Transport Pool Contact us form

Sustaining Change News

Sustaining Change opportunities

Transport Pool Documents Pool Submits

Transport Pool Documents as a result of pool issues

Transport Pool links Campaigning x3

Transport Pool Links Car Sharing x3

Transport Pool Information

Sustaining Change Directory Advice + info suppliers

Sustaining Change Buildings + grounds

Transport Pool Documents Member Submits

Transport Pool Documents Partnership Minutes

Transport Pool Links - Transport + health x1

Transport Pool Links - Transport Dloys x3

Transport Pool Get involved

Sustaining Change Directory Service Providers

Sustaining Change food + drink

Transport Pool Documents Pool Minutes

Transport Pool Links - Useful Resources

Transport Pool Links Pedestrian x1

Transport Pool Embedded Video Player

Sustaining Change Directory Product Suppliers

Sustaining Change Travel + Traffic

Transport Pool Links - Cycling

Transport Pool Links - Public Transport

Transport Pool Forum

Sustaining Change Global dimension

Transport Pool Links - EN4M Geographical Networks

Transport Pool Links - EN4M Communities of interest

Transport Pool Podcasts

Sustaining Change local wellbeing

ds Pool (blog)

ds Pool form

Sustainable Neighbourhoods About this blog

Transport Pool Polls

Sustaining Change purchasing + waste

In practice

MERCi, through the Sustaining Change programme, aims to support the third sector in the following ways:

FREE Auditing

A sustainability audit tailored to your needs which has been designed to complement your everyday working practice. The audit will enable your organisation to develop expertise and new skills and will offer a mechanism whereby you can demonstrate your accountability to funders and service users developed through a robust quality management system. You can take as little or as much as you like from the audit process.

FREE Training

We will support and guide you through the audit process by offering bespoke training delivered by a pool of sustainability experts. We can deliver training within your organisation, in your borough or at the home of MERCi, Bridge 5 Mill.

FREE access to a Network

Access to a sustainability network with members from across Greater Manchester. The network is an opportunity to share good practice, support each others learning and develop new partnerships through networking events.

FREE Website

A website tailored to your needs, created in response to consultation conducted by MERCi with the third sector. A 'one stop shop' for anything you want to know about sustainability. Packed full of tool-kits, web links and a directory of local goods and service providers.

FREE Peer Mentoring

A peer mentoring project for organisations that are committed to improving and sharing their sustainable practice. We want to celebrate your achievements by organisations becoming Sustaining Change Trailblazers so that you will be recognised as leaders in sustainable practice within your sector.

Funding Opportunities

We will endeavour to bring more money into the sector by applying for joint funding to support developments in sustainable practice. We will facilitate the development of partnerships who will apply for funding.

Monitoring and Evaluation

An external evaluator will be contracted by MERCi to evaluate the programme. We will ensure that you are actively involved in the evaluation process and any feedback is disseminated so that you can use this information to offer evidence to trustees/ directors, funders, service users and other interested parties.

Details of dates for training, network activities and general events will be posted on the website: www.merci.org.uk/sustainingchange

Welcome to the team

The Sustaining Change team is made up of full and part time paid members of staff, trainers and volunteers who are passionate about promoting sustainable practices and are committed to the aims of the programme.

The team have many years experience working within and for the third sector as well as the public and private sectors so they are able to offer a diverse perspective taking the best practice from all the sectors. We have environmentalists, teachers, IT technicians, social entrepreneurs, campaigners, scientists, business managers, consultants, horticulturists, facilitators, auditors, utilities experts..... the list keeps on growing as we develop new partnerships.

Some of the team are pictured below. More details about all the team, their individual expertise and backgrounds can be found on the website.



Be part of something sustainable

If you are interested in being part of this exciting new FREE programme please register your interest on the website:

www.merci.org.uk/sustainingchange.

and we will contact you to discuss how we can support you and your organisation.

If you wish to discuss the programme in more detail please email the team at:

sustainingchange@merci.org.uk.

or telephone reception on: **0161 273 1736** and ask to speak to the Sustaining Change Programme Coordinator.

...be part of something sustainable

0161 273 1736

email: sustainingchange@merci.org.uk
web: www.merci.org.uk/sustainingchange

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