



## ENVIRONMENT POLICY

### 1. Aims of this policy

Shoreham & Southwick u3a aims to make a positive contribution to sustainability and the environment and help mitigate climate change. It wants to encourage and support all its groups in considering the environmental impact of climate change in their group activities, enable relevant learning and promote discussions between members.

The aims of this policy are:

- To put processes and policies in place to ensure that Shoreham & Southwick u3a is run in a way that actively aims to limit its impact on the environment.
- For members to take opportunities to inform themselves about environmental issues and the ways in which human activities contribute to waste, pollution and global warming.
- For members to consider ways in which they can minimise their own adverse impact on the environment.

### 2. Measures to be taken

The measures listed below will be considered in order to:

- address the concerns of members and wider society with regard to environmental issues
- encourage communication and dialogue on environmental issues
- encourage a culture of awareness and a sense of responsibility within the membership with respect to sustainability and environmental issues
- provide information to members on how they might reduce their adverse impact on the environment
- minimise the environmental impact of organised u3a activities

These measures are:

- Appoint one trustee as the Environmental Officer to monitor environmental issues arising within Shoreham & Southwick u3a and liaise with the group co-ordinators.
- Arrange speakers on environmental topics for some monthly meetings.
- Wherever possible incorporate environmental concerns into planning and decision making.
- Consider the impact of activities which take place outside, in natural ecosystems e.g. walking and nature groups and how trips and holidays could be made more sustainable.

- Encourage the formation of climate and environmental groups within Shoreham & Southwick u3a and support them.
- Check whether venues operate environmentally responsible policies such as using local suppliers, and encourage them to do so.
- Ensure as far as possible that refreshments are served in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Minimise waste and encourage reuse and recycling.
- Encourage travel to meetings and events by walking, car sharing and public transport where available.
- Make this policy available on our website and draw our members attention to it.
- Review the policy on a regular basis in the light of changing conditions and advice from the Third Age Trust climate change network.

## Definitions

**Environmental issues:** These are the often negative effects of human activity on the natural world, including climate change, pollution, drought and biodiversity loss.

**Environmental protection** is the practice of working to slow, halt or reverse this.

**Climate Change:** The UN defines climate change as referring to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, this is primarily due humans burning fossil fuels. A **Climate Emergency declaration:** (or *declaring a climate emergency*) is an action taken by governments and scientists to acknowledge humanity is in a climate emergency.

### Climate Change Committee

An independent organisation, established as part of the 2008 Climate Change Act, it reports regularly to the UK parliament, and the devolved governments on progress in tackling climate change. It is also acts as an independent advisor on the impact of climate change on all aspects of living in the UK: <https://www.theccc.org.uk>.

**The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)** is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. It prepares comprehensive **reports** on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place: <https://www.ipcc.ch/>.

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Original document	10 December 2024
2.0	Reviewed April 2026 – no changes made. Agreed by Committee	21 April 2026