

MAYOR OF LONDON

GLA ESF Co-Financing Programme

Sustainable Development Policy



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GLA ESF Co-Financing Programme Sustainable Development Policy

Greater London Authority CFO

Introduction

This document sets out the Greater London Authority's (GLA's) commitment to promoting sustainable development through the delivery of the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme and provides details on how this policy will be implemented,

The GLA is the strategic authority for London and sets a framework for the future development of London. It is made up of a directly elected Mayor and a separately elected Assembly.

This sustainable development policy and implementation plan for GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme was developed in accordance with the requirements of the 2014-20 ESF Operational Programme as set out in the Cross-Cutting Themes Guidance for European Social Fund (August 2018) and the overarching themes of the Mayor's London Environment Strategy (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-environment-strategy>) and the Mayor's London Plan (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan>) which is currently in the process of being updated.

Sustainable development is a regulatory cross cutting theme for all projects within the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme. Although the following policy has been specifically constructed for this programme it will unequivocally align to the Mayor's underlying criteria and objectives for London.

The purpose of the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme sustainable development policy is to provide a statement and demonstrate our public commitment to promoting sustainable development. We will comply with the relevant environmental legislation and undertake to ensure all of our ESF providers and activities abide by these in delivering their projects and have their own active policy and implementation plan(s) which also encompasses their subcontractors' activities.

The GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme supports the delivery of skills and employment to ensure Londoners have the skills to gain sustainable jobs and London's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) have the support they need to innovate, grow and remain competitive.

These main priorities and commitments build on the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 Sustainable Development strategy, by recognising the needs of:

- the economy;
- society; and
- the natural environment.

The ESF England Operational Programme explains that the objectives of the ESF programme will be in line with the principle of sustainable development, including the aim of preserving and improving the quality of the environment as well as the need to prepare for expected changes to the environment and climate.

Sustainable development in the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme has an environmental focus – to help provide some balance to the ESF's strong social and economic focus (its main mission). All projects within the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme, whether they have an environmental focus or not, must take the environment into account when delivering their services and provide evidence of a process for review and improvement. The GLA will outline its approach to reviewed and continuous improvement in the accompanying implementation plan.

Sustainable development policy

The GLA CFO is firmly committed to promoting sustainable development whilst delivering activities funded through the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme, and requires a similar assurance from all providers and their sub-contractors or sub-grantees, who are required to have in place their own active policy and implementation plan(s), which are in accordance with at least the basic requirements of the ESF cross-cutting themes and specific to the ESF project being delivered.

The GLA CFO will: (a) dispose of its waste using a registered waste collector and (b) observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations and in particular ensure that WEEE is not mixed with general waste and is disposed of legally. The GLA will also require confirmation that each organisation involved in delivery of the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme (both providers and their sub-contractors/sub-grantees) meets these requirements.

Day to day responsibility for the implementation of GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme Sustainable Development Policy will lie with the Assistant Director for Skills and Employment who will be responsible for reviewing, monitoring and developing the policy on a regular basis. The implementation plan for the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme demonstrates the actions to support this policy.

The GLA CFO commits to assessing providers' sustainable development policies and implementation plans through procurement and grant award processes and confirming all providers have a basic policy and plan in place which, as a minimum, meets the ESF requirements prior to the commencement of project delivery. These policies and plans will be subject to review, monitoring and continuous improvement by the provider. Providers will be required to reviewed their sustainable development plans and policies on a periodic basis once project delivery commences.

The GLA CFO's Grant Agreements and Contracts will require that providers for the GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme and their sub-contractors have in place suitable Sustainable Development Policy and implementation plans that meet the ESF requirements, as a minimum.

All activity by providers is subject to regular monitoring and compliance checks undertaken by the Delivery teams within Skills and Employment Unit as set out in the implementation plan.

GLA's ESF Co-Financing Programme Sustainability Policy is authorised by the Assistant Director for Skills and Employment who has approved our implementation plan.

The Policy will be communicated to all and refers to staff, participants and providers in the same way

The GLA ESF programme delivery team are committed to reviewing and renewing this policy periodically.

Other formats and languages

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