



Education & Skills
Funding Agency



Ixion Group Policy & Procedure

Sustainable Development

Policy responsibility of	Managing Director
Policy next review date	January 2020

Policy Statement

Ixion Holdings is committed to supporting the delivery of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We will seek to minimise our potential impact on the environment, support improvements within the communities in which we work, and adhere to sustainable economic principles in all that we do. This is strongly in line with the way in which we operate to strong commercial principles and guided by a strong moral compass.

As a prime contractor for government funded provision, Ixion will work in partnership with our staff, suppliers and contractors to minimise the environmental and social impacts of our business, supporting the government's, and global community's, sustainable development strategy.

Ixion are committed to reducing the impact of our business activities on the environment through:

- reducing consumption of natural resources (energy, water and raw materials) and conserving energy through implementation of effective housekeeping policies.
- consuming and purchasing less by identifying and eradicating wasteful practice.
- minimising and recycling waste, through a “reduce, reuse and recycle” framework.
- disposing of waste responsibly, including in line with the current Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations for electronic equipment.
- encouraging use of sustainable and environmentally responsible modes of transport.
- developing innovative methods of delivery that consider environmental, economic and social impacts.
- implementing a training programme for staff through Staff Inductions and Team meetings, to raise awareness of environmental issues and enlist their support in improving Ixion's performance.

Through our service delivery, we will support the development of the communities in which we work through:

- understanding the social challenges within our chosen markets and the communities we serve, and adapting our services to address these challenges.
- incorporating socially inclusive activities within our delivery models.
- maximising environmental and community benefits through the training and other back to work activities we organise for customers.
- promoting skills and job opportunities that will work to improving conservation.
- identifying and using opportunities for education and sharing of best practice with customers, partners and stakeholders.
- reducing disadvantage and addressing local skills gaps where possible through our programme delivery.
- supporting local community and third sector organisations to improve local services and community cohesion.

Communication

This policy will be available for all customers, partners, suppliers and other interested parties via the Ixion Cloud and our company website.

Employees and volunteers will receive an introduction to this Policy and provided with training in sustainability to ensure they understand the importance of these issues and how to effectively support implementation of our policy.

We will require all delivery partners providing a service on our behalf, to meet a minimum standard in sustainable development through implementation of a policy and objectives that mirror those outlined in this policy.

Where appropriate we will support subcontractors by offering access to training, sharing best practice, and will have regular discussions about this theme as part of our subcontractor management activity.

Definitions

Sustainable Development is defined as “action for people, planet and prosperity”. Sustainable development must address environmental, economic, and social factors and the interrelationships between them. The UN has launched 17 new Sustainable Development Goals, that build on the Millennium Development Goals. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. We have selected four priority areas:

- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; and
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

These aims will form part of our overall approach to service delivery, management and wider business activities. They will be reviewed and updated annually.

Sustainable Procurement

Through effective procurement processes, Ixion will meet the needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole-life basis, generating benefits for the organisation, and for society and the economy, whilst minimising our environmental impact.

We will incorporate a process of environmental and social risk assessment into procurement activities focusing on expenditure that constitutes our largest areas of spend, and those with a clear sustainability risk. Consideration will be given to the design, resource sourcing, production, transportation, service delivery, operation and maintenance, reuse, recycling and disposal. Responsibility will lie with the procuring manager to remove, reduce and manage risk in line with their assessment.

We are committed to:

- adopting a “whole-life-cycle” approach to procurement decisions.
- integrating appropriate environmental, ethical and social requirements into all procurement activities, e.g. pre-qualification, specification and evaluation stages for preferred suppliers and contractors.
- purchasing goods and services that have been produced or are delivered with minimum impact on the environment.
- having due regard for social issues such as employment conditions and welfare within our supply chain.
- being a “Living Wage” employer.
- meeting local needs using local resources and organisations to promote environmental, economic and social sustainability.
- encouraging a diverse range of suppliers to compete to provide services, materials or expertise, promoting equal opportunities to businesses owned by under-represented groups contributing to increased social and economic sustainability.

Sustainability will be a key consideration in the way we influence suppliers and contractors. We will make all of those who work with us aware of our environmental and social criteria and will seek assurance from suppliers before entering into long-term contracts, that their practices reflect our policy.

Action Planning

Ixion will measure our sustainable development impact and set targets and objectives for ongoing improvement in the form of an organisational annual self-assessment and action plan covering all business areas (Appendix 1).

The Action plan will be a live document to enable us to collectively and proactively progress the sustainability agenda and our performance against our policy commitments. The Action Plan will be review and updated annually.

This requirement will be disseminated on projects delivered via a subcontractor network, ensuring local assessment and subcontractor specific objectives are in place, which will be monitored as part of our subcontractor management activity.

Ixion as a provider of ESF and Match Funded provision in England for 2014-2020

As a service provider for the commissioners DWP/ESFA, HMPPS and Big Lottery, Ixion and our supply chain partners will adhere to the requirements for 'Cross Cutting Themes' and 'Horizontal Principles' which both incorporate the principles of sustainable development, including the preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, as well as the need to prepare for expected changes to the environment and climate, these measures will include:

- having sustainable development governance, policies and implementation /action plans in place (within the commissioner's contractual timescale) for the start of each contract which demonstrate:
 - our commitment to promoting sustainable development and complying with relevant EU and domestic environmental legislation
 - how our commitment will be turned in to actions at a project level, which will be monitored by the commissioner to assess the implementation and compliance during the delivery of the service

Responsibilities

While all staff within Ixion Group have a responsibility to uphold the commitments in this policy, specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Ixion Management Board – responsible for ensuring that sufficient resources are available to facilitate the effective implementation and maintenance of this policy and giving their full support to identifying and changing corporate processes and practices which impact on the environment and promote sustainable development. Responsible for reviewing action plan progress.
- Managing Director – ensuring this policy is fully and effectively implemented and ensuring that relevant processes and practices are in place, and for reporting to the Board on its performance.
- Assistant Directors and Contract Managers – ensuring an impact assessment for their individual contract is undertaken to identify objectives relevant to their area of delivery within three months of contract start and implementing a resulting Sustainability Action Plan in keeping with the general commitments of this policy.

- All employees – responsible for ensuring that their work areas and activities are operating in accordance with company environmental standards, and that they report any environmental issues to their line manager.

Review

This policy and its practical application will be reviewed annually (or more frequently, if legislation and best practice make it necessary), by the Managing Director in order to ensure its continuing relevance, on behalf of the Ixion Holdings. The Director will report back to the Board on its performance annually.

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to all employees, volunteers and subcontractors.

Appendix 1 - Sustainable Development Action Plan 2018/19

The main aim of Ixion Holdings Sustainable Development Action Plan is to highlight the specific actions to be taken to ensure that those involved in delivery of the programme (including Supply Chain Partners) will contribute towards:

- a) Reducing the Environmental Footprint
- b) Contributing to Social Sustainability
- c) Driving Economic Sustainability

Objective a): Reducing the Environmental Footprint

Goal	Sustainable Development Aspect	Actions	Progress Update	Supporting Evidence
Minimising energy consumption	Energy: To reduce usage of electricity	1. All offices to display 'Turn lights off' signs whenever possible, especially if not to be used for 2-hour periods		
		2. Staff reminded to Switch off computers and other electrical appliances over night		
		3. Financial Year Baseline assessment of current position in terms of Energy Consumption from sites where Ixion pay utility bills		

Goal	Sustainable Development Aspect	Actions	Progress Update	Supporting Evidence
Minimising use of travel	Travel: To reduce transport costs and therefore impact on environment	1. Through the use of Click Travel encourage the use of public transport where possible		
		2. Where possible Walk if it is safe to do so		
		3. Where more than one colleague is travelling to a destination by car from the same area, car share where possible		
		4. Advocate the use of video and telephone conference calls for Meetings		
Minimising waste	Paper: To recycle as much as possible and to reduce paper purchasing	1. To ensure all offices operate paper recycling points (if not the same collection points for shredding)		
		2. All confidential waste paper to be shredded and then recycled		
		3. Fobs for all printing at photocopiers to ensure personal accountability for print jobs		

Goal	Sustainable Development Aspect	Actions	Progress Update	Supporting Evidence
		4. Double Sided Print setting as default		
		5. Use email wherever possible for meeting documents		
		6. Dispose of ALL waste using a registered waste collector		
	Utilising Recycled of Goods within Operations	7. Recycle all electrical appliances, computers and related hardware		
		8. Observe and comply with the WEEE regulations and reduce utility consumption		
		9. Financial year baseline assessment of current position in terms of waste minimisations and recycling		

Objective b): Contribution to Social Sustainability

Goal	Sustainable Development Aspect	Progress Update	Supporting evidence/Case Studies
<p>As Part of The Shaw Trust Group we will help to transform the lives of young people and adults across the UK</p>	<p>Number of participants taking part in our programmes which impact on the individual's equity, diversity, social cohesion and quality of life (the 5 dimensions of social sustainability)</p>		
<p>Providing opportunities to staff to engage with local communities through Volunteering Days</p>	<p>Number of Ixion staff taking advantage of their volunteering day</p>		
<p>Ensuring sustainability is promoted / discussed /embedded within our teaching and learning within the services we deliver and within our supply chain partner delivery</p>	<p>Evidence will be collated through observations of teaching and learning and assessment and supply chain partner monitoring reviews.</p> <p>All Supply Chain Partners are to produce project specific sustainable development policies and action/ implementation plans</p>		

Goal	Sustainable Development Aspect	Progress Update	Supporting evidence/Case Studies
Purchasing goods and services that are produced and delivered in line with International Labour Organisation principles in respect to human rights and conditions of employment	<p>Sustainable procurement embedded in organisation;</p> <p>Sustainable management of waste;</p> <p>Commitment to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Relating to trafficking and slavery</p>		

Objective c): Driving Economic Sustainability

Goal	Indicator	Progress Update	Supporting evidence/Case Studies
Supporting job creation both locally and nationally	Number of people entering sustainable employment positions after intervention by Ixion		
Supporting research and development through Innovation Funding	Number of companies and quantity (€) of research and innovation funding applied for, to tackle major UK and EU issues that help improve the quality of life for EU citizens		