

## Wales Institute of Work Based Learning -

The Wales Institute of Work Based Learning (WIWBL) is committed to principles of sustainability through education, and recognises a responsibility to the environment in its practice.

### Policy Framework

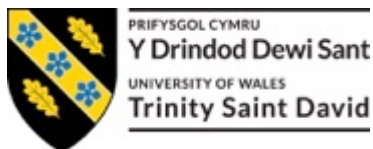
The generally accepted definition of Sustainable Development is outlined in the Brundtland Commission (1987), which defines Sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

Through this definition of Sustainable Development, WIWBL recognises the core environmental imperative, and also that to achieve this, a balance is required with social and economic concerns. WIWBL is committed to sustainability in the following ways:

- Environmental protection, and living within environmental limits that do not compromise future generations. Work-based learning is itself a more sustainable approach to learning than residential taught education. It has an immediate effect on transport, consumption and use of resources. Furthermore, the focus on the workplace in learning, as opposed to purely academic learning, provides opportunities to directly influence that workplace and the wider community. WIWBL also offers specific modules that can help accelerate the transition to more sustainable practices, awareness of environmental protection and value creation.
- Social equity in ensuring a just and aware society, meeting the needs of existing and future generations through its unique ability to respond flexibly to learning needs and promote personal wellbeing, quality of life, and economic inclusion. WIWBL addresses these needs through the modules of study offered and through the flexible means of study. Work-based learning involves a different set of challenges to traditional academic learning, and WIWBL recognises that learners may require support in engaging with the learning processes. Personal tutor support is offered through a variety of flexible inclusive mediums, in order to offset isolation and allow them to progress in line with their abilities and aspirations.
- Economic development and security in helping to adopt sustainability practices by expanding the range of modules offered as a response to increasing and changing learner demand. This may include issues such as corporate responsibility, energy efficiency and waste management which may provide a competitive advantage to the business.

### Institutional Commitment

WIWBL recognises that sustainability is important in its functioning as a provider of distance and work based learning, but also in the WIWBL workplace itself. It is committed to ensuring that issues of sustainability are considered when making decisions about WIWBL practice and procurement, and that



awareness of environmental issues is raised among its staff, learners and communities. This is achieved by its representation on the University Sustainability Committee, and in the inclusion of aspects of Sustainability in its monthly review meetings.

### **University of Wales Trinity Saint David**

The environmental, social and economic approach of WIWBL to Sustainable Development is framed by the Governance of UWTSD which promotes a culture of sustainability through the Institute of Sustainable Practice and Innovation (INSPIRE). INSPIRE has been working alongside other universities across the UK to embed sustainability within its core operations and culture. The University's commitment to Sustainable Development is laid out in its Strategic Plan, where the integration of sustainability as a core principle across all aspects of the University is identified as a priority area.

As part of UWTSD, WIWBL is committed to implementing the requirements of all relevant sustainability legislation and regulation, and where possible to exceed any minimum requirements.

### **Continuous Improvement**

WIWBL is committed to communicating, monitoring and reviewing its Sustainability Policy Statement on an on-going basis as part of its growth and continuous improvement. The Sustainability Policy Statement will be formally reviewed on an annual basis, and WIWBL hopes to reflect its progression in its aspiration of attaining excellence in this area.