

Cylch, the Wales Community Recycling Network

Cylch is the Wales Community Recycling Network, and is a membership organisation and registered charity which promotes sustainable resource (waste) management through education & practical action.



Our ethos embraces community ownership, wealth from waste, sustainability, partnership, and our members work in the following areas:

- Kerbside recycling
- Reuse
- Composting
- Scrapstores
- Re>Paint schemes
- Education
- Provide training
- Provide work placements

Cylch ran a cluster of organisations amongst its membership which learnt about and started social accounting and audit. This was to allow the members to:

- Measure & publicly account for what we do
- Understand whether we are achieving what we set out to do?
- Aiming in the right direction?
- Listen to what others have to say, so that our future work can be more effective
- Prove our worth through independent verification

Social accounting and audit helped us to show that community recycling organisations have a social, environmental and economic impact on their local community, primarily measure tonnage diverted from landfill. It is a means of measuring the 'added value' and a competitive edge on tendering for contracts

12 members + Cylch itself, formed 3 clusters, and undertook an 18 month process. Training was provided by SAN UK, and the Community Enterprise Unit. We now have 5 trained staff and 2 social audit chairs.

Step 1 of the process provided us with:

- Opportunity to really look at what we do
- Clarification of our Mission Statement, Values and Objectives and Activities
- Identification of our stakeholders

Step 2 then allowed:

- Collation of the info that we are already collecting
- Devising methods to collect info that we weren't collecting

- Reminder of importance of feedback
- Questionnaires – most time consuming and difficult but, most interesting and enlightening results

Step 3 also:

- Enabled identification of areas for improvement
- Writing the accounts takes a lot of time & co-ordination
- Its hard work but worth the effort
- Its been a learning process – next year it'll be easier
- Panel experience very constructive

Cylch first prepared accounts in 5005-06 and decided to take some time to implement the findings. We have undertaken partial social accounting in the intervening years but have not formally reported or been verified. We are currently preparing and working on a full set of Social Accounts for 2009-10.

For further information, go to: <http://www.cylch.org>