

Social and Environmental Accounting

CAN's vision, purpose, theory of change, strategy, policy and targets

Co-operative Assistance Network

Background

Unlike financial accounting, social and environmental accounting does not have any legally binding conditions. While the commitment to NET zero targets and the Social Value Act have a legal status for public organisations they do not impose conditions on private, social, worker and community owned organisations at the time of writing.

However, a the concept of a triple bottom line (with Financial, Social and Environmental accounting mechanisms) emerged in the 1990s. CAN is committed to ensuring we apply meaningful accounting measures for our social environmental impact and that these can be audited. We will use these for our own needs and those of our commissioners and customers.

We have a Social and Environmental vision relevant theories of change and sustainability, against which we can measure our social and environmental impact.

CAN's Social and Environmental Vision

Our vision is that future communities, organisations and societies will;

1. provide meaningful and equitable opportunities for 'decent work' (as framed by the ILO) in conditions of full employment that enables people to enjoy ever improving health and happiness and a rewarding work-life balance.
2. be socially cohesive, inclusive and internationalist.
3. have a significant level of assets which are held under common ownership with significant democratic control of capital with easy access to non-exploitative, mutually owned, financial services.
4. Have significant socially and environmentally responsible purchasing opportunities
5. Have high levels of equality in their distribution of wealth, income and power between individuals and between communities
6. enable people to easily access high quality and affordable co-operative housing
7. provide high quality education and training with humanist vlaues, available to all from the cradle to the grave
8. enable people to be able to take part in diverse cultural activities
9. have a net zero or better impact on carbon emissions
10. have a net zero or better impoact on pollution and environmental degradation

These visions reflect the United National Sustainability Goals (2017) and the Public Services (Social Value) Act (2013) which requires all public sector organisations and their suppliers to look beyond the financial cost of a contract to consider how the services they commission and procure can improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area.

CAN's Social and Environmental Purpose

CANs social and environmental purpose is to strengthen the knowledge, well-being and power of its workers, clients and customers, in order to create well paid, rewarding and socially useful life experiences and a sustainable natural environment.

We do this by assisting in the development of co-operatives and social enterprises and being a good example of a socially responsible workers' co-operative

Theory of Change

Our theory of change is based on the understanding that through the practical application of effective policies and through the provision of training, consultancy, and co-operative business services we will enable both our workers and our customers and clients to take greater personal and collective control of their lives. Through this control they will all contribute to efforts to bring about our vision.

Strategy

Our strategy is to continually assess and improve CAN's financial, social and environmental well-being and sustainability internally and in our work assisting people to develop and operate their organisations in ways that enable these sustainability goals to be reached and maintained.

Policy

CAN will appoint a Social Environmental Accounts lead.

Name

date

CAN s and E Accounts lead will ensure workers have access to up to date information on the social and environmental impact of CAN work related activity and aim to minimise any negative impact and maximise positive impacts.

CAN S and E accounts lead will regularly review its theory of change and align its work to create as positive an impact on social value and environmental sustainability as it can.

CAN workers will record the impact of CANs work activity against the goals we set both internally and in our choice of and work with other social and environmental businesses.

Targets and measurement 2024

- 1) Provide meaningful and equitable opportunities for 'decent work'**
Significant influence over decision making
Pay levels on or above the UK real living wage
High levels of worker satisfaction and well-being
Record of Equality and Diversity in action
- 2) Be socially cohesive, inclusive and internationalist**
High levels of collective decision making
Evidence of non-discriminatory practice
High level of work with clients from diverse communities
Support social purpose organisations
- 3) Have a significant level of assets under common ownership and easy access to non-exploitative, mutually owned, financial services**
Member shares
Asset lock
Credit Unions
Pensions
Cooperative Capital
- 4) Ensure CAN's procurement is socially and environmentally conscious**
Policy
- 5) Have high levels of equality in their distribution of wealth, income and power**
Pay differential Policy
Democratic structure
- 6) Enable easy access high quality and affordable co-operative housing**
Work with Housing co-operatives and provide tools, policies etc.
- 7) Provide high quality education and training with humanist values**
All training reviewed and where possible accredited
- 8) Enable people to be able to take part in diverse cultural activities**
CAN to support the cultural sector
- 9) Have a net zero or better impact on carbon emissions**
Travel record (Public transport Policy, minimal travel,
Low carbon workspaces? digital services, all offices are home based,
- 10) Have a net zero or better impact on pollution and environmental degradation**
Support environmental purpose businesses

Notes on measuring Social and environmental impact and accounting tools

- Employment terms and conditions report
- CAN capital report
- Equalities report
- CAN workers well-being report
- CAN CPD report
- Carbon footprint report
- Recycling and environmental sustainability report