



## Skills (for Sustainable Communities)

Why is it essential to work in partnership to build robust sustainable communities? How do we ensure all partners see the big picture and understand the importance of collaboration? How do we break down silos and highlight common targets and objectives? How do we improve the implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy? These are some of the questions that our Planit-Sustainability learning-simulation (a serious game) answers. Planit-Sustainability considers these issues, and it makes them relevant and 'real' and brings partnerships and teams together.

## Complexity to Clarity







Planit-Sustainability was developed with funding from Government Office Northwest, Cheshire County Council, Yorkshire Forward, NW Regional Assembly and the NHS for use in workshops to improve skills and knowledge and for use in team building.

Planit-Sustainability models the life of a community. Teams play the role of a local strategic partnership. The partnership need to make the community more sustainable. Win-win-win solutions need to be negotiated and incidents avoided. Finally, after each round, the teams are scored on sustainability indicators and public opinion. Planit-Sustainability brings **clarity to a complex problem** by showing cause and effect. Delegates get to see the 'big picture' and to develop win-win solutions, which makes the issues real, relevant, and manageable.

## Proven Learning Approach

Blending the best of traditional and interactive learning, the approach has been used in over 300 workshops; successfully training more than 4,000 people.

Recent uses of Planit-Sustainability:

-  **Government Office East of England** - Sustainability training.
-  **Sheffield City Council** - Part of a leadership programme.
-  **Rossington High School** - Inspiring reluctant learners.
-  **Liverpool City Council** - Understanding cross-cutting themes.
-  **St Helens Community Voluntary Service** - Teambuilding workshop.
-  **Objective 1 (various South Yorkshire Authorities)**- Improving key skills and mainstreaming of sustainable development.



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creating dialogues, building relationships



"This is a watershed moment for local government - here is an opportunity to recognise the uniqueness of every local area but also a challenge to make every town, city and village a place to be proud of." - **Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.**



Planit-Sustainability 'shows' how decisions affect social progress, the environment, AND the economy. It simulates local partners and their need to work together. Planit-Sustainability has been used in partnership/team building in the public and private sector, sustainability awareness in regional programmes and Government Offices. Sefton MBC use it as part of their sustainability commitment. It has also been used in community engagement including with young people.



"The richness of the experience was in the discussions, as we went through the purchases and the strategic rationale for the decisions made"

**Inspiration (motivation to act) + Simulation (how to act) = Improved Decisions.**



## Key Objectives:

- Increasing awareness of sustainable development.
- Understanding the issues in terms of cause and effect rather than silo perspective.
- Broadening the design input into the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Developing sustainability proofing skills.
- Improving the implementation of sustainable communities.
- Improving generic (Egan) skills required for sustainable communities.

## Real World Improvements

With clarity comes real world improvements. Our delegates consistently highlight improvements in the following three areas, which in turn translate into **improved decisions**.

- **Strategic Thinking** – Understanding the key driver against which your decisions need to be measured. Does a particular decision help you get closer to your goal?
- **Joined-up Thinking** – Understanding cause and effect generates perspective, reduces the chances of perverse outcomes, and increases the likelihood of your decisions being win-wins.
- **Collaborative Working** – Wider involvement improves decision-making. In essence, it allows your organisation to benefit from the ‘wisdom of the crowd’.

**"It encouraged cross team working, common thinking, forward planning and strategic planning"**

- We have helped authorities embed sustainable development into their Community Strategy.
- We have broadened the design input into the Sustainable Community Strategy .
- Helped individuals and organisations improve their decision-making.

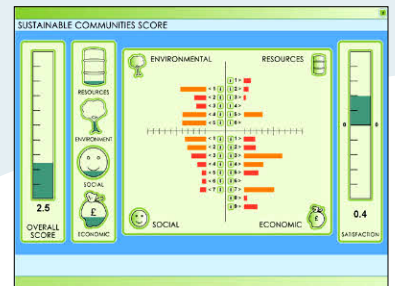
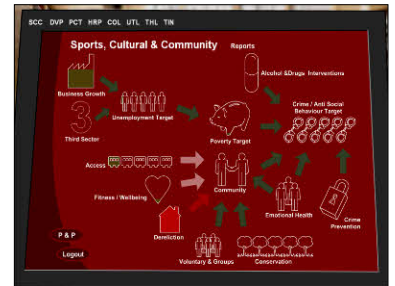
## Who Might Benefit from a Planit-SD Workshop

- Attendees at team working events and away days.
- Neighbourhood and community groups (engagement and consultation).
- Local Strategic Partnerships (implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy).
- Local Authority (implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy/ Sustainable Procurement).
- Students (Induction plus Enterprise, Economics, Geography, Environment and Business Studies).
- Reluctant learners and individuals who need to improve key skills.

***Do you want an innovative approach to training?***



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Over 99% of delegates have rated our workshops good or very good. Long term evaluation has identified better collaboration and decision-making; leading to significant savings.

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For more on learning-simulations visit: [www.pixelfountain.co.uk](http://www.pixelfountain.co.uk)

**... and let learning ripple *through* your organisation**

