

SOVA and the environmental benefits of PQASSO

About the organisation

SOVA began in 1975 and works with young and adult offenders, ex-offenders and others who through social exclusion and other factors are at risk of offending. Volunteers still lie at the heart of our activities and we offer employability services, basic and life skills, advice and guidance, group work with children and young people alongside volunteer mentoring.



What environmental benefits has PQASSO helped you to achieve?

We first identified the need to address environmental sustainability through carrying out our PQASSO self-assessment. Our sustainable development policy works in line with the PQASSO standards. SOVA carries out annual project quality audits which incorporate PQASSO standards and our progress in implementing the sustainable development policy is monitored accordingly

What steps have you taken to improve your environmental sustainability?

Our sustainable development policy includes recycling, energy consumption measurement, purchasing recycled stationary and consumables, staff training and taking simple steps such as double-sided printing. A working group support the implementation of all actions in each region.

We had an 'eco audit' of two of our regional offices and will be implementing the recommendations. We also actively encourage our staff members to think green and implement the strategy into their home lives.

What savings and efficiencies have you achieved in your use of resources?

We hope to reach our target to reduce energy consumption by 10% in 2011.