

Clydesdale Housing Association Environmental Policy

Introduction

Clydesdale Housing Association (CHA) is committed to improving its contribution to Scotland achieving its climate change goals and delivering the Environment Strategy¹.

As a registered social landlord, our biggest contribution to minimising our carbon footprint will be through investing in the energy efficiency of the homes we provide for rent and the advice we provide to our customers. We will also look to the use of our offices, our actions as an organisation and as individual people to support carbon reduction and promote environmental responsibility.

Our starting point must be to establish what our current footprint looks like. Compliance with the latest environmental legislation will be our minimum.

Our vision is *quality homes and excellent services for all – now and in the future*. Our approach to environmental matters should underpin this vision and enable us to fulfil it responsibly.

What will we do

When we have established our baseline position and set our targets, we will continuously improve until all targets are met, and review them to take account of changing national and international goals. Our most significant environmental impacts come from the energy consumed in the homes we provide and the activity involved in the delivering services to our customers.

Investment in improving the energy efficiency of our homes and the energy advice we provide to our customers will make the most positive contribution to reducing our carbon footprint.

We will also work with our suppliers to ensure that fabric investment contracts are delivered in an environmentally responsible way that minimises carbon and waste impact.

How we manage our activities will reflect the lessons we have learned from remote working during COVID restrictions and our review of the blended working arrangements we are currently piloting. Environmental activity will complement staff wellbeing and organisational efficiency.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/environment-strategy-scotland-vision-outcomes/pages/1/>

We will deliver a learning programme to all staff and governing body members so that we are all clear about our priorities, what change is required and the impact each of us has on the environment.

We will share our commitments and learning with our customers, shareholding members, and the wider social housing sector, and we will set high expectations of our suppliers, contractors and partner organisations.

We will set annual targets for key areas, and review progress every six months, reporting to the Management Committee. The policy will be reviewed annually in line with our business plan.

We will communicate clearly and regularly with key stakeholders, stating our objectives and how we will achieve them.

Specific areas for action:

- Energy efficiency of the homes we provide for rent
- Travel
- Recycling
- Minimising waste
- Efficient use of water and energy
- Using materials from sustainable sources
- Sustainable and environmentally responsible supply chain

Our Commitments

We will:

- Comply with environmental legislation and approved codes of practice
- Continually monitor and improve our environmental performance
- Reduce emissions, pollution and waste
- Reduce our use of raw materials, energy and supplies
- Raise awareness of environmental matters and encourage staff and governing body members to play an active part in addressing them
- Support our customers to use our homes and services in an environmentally sensitive way
- Work with other local organisations to maximise our collective efforts
- Communicate our environmental objectives to our people and key stakeholders

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Travel and Subsistence Policy, all staff wellbeing policies and procurement guidance.

Next Steps

To deliver this policy we will produce an implementation plan. The first elements will be:

1. Establish baseline information on our current carbon footprint, use of energy and water.
2. Identify specific areas for improvement, e.g., recycling or reducing waste.
3. Review policies and approaches on business travel.
4. Establish a staff working group spanning every department.

Approved by the Committee of Management on: 29 June 2022

Signed:



Secretary/Chairperson

Signed:



Chief Executive