

Abertay Housing Association	TITLE OF POLICY	
	Sustainability Policy	VERSION
		DATE April 2017
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1.0 Introduction

The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets to reduce emission of greenhouse gases by at least 42% by 2020, as a step towards an 80% reduction by 2050.

As our activities inevitably contribute to the production of emissions, so this policy has been devised to show how Abertay Housing Association will undertake its business activities in a sustainable manner and contribute to this target.

We will support and deliver improvements in the quality of life for our customers and in the communities in which we work and aim to minimise the impacts of our business on the environment for current and future generations.

2.0 Scope of the policy

2.1 The Committee, management team and staff are committed to improving Abertay Housing Association's performance in the provision of high quality affordable housing with regard to environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Abertay aims to contribute to the quality of life of our neighbourhoods and seeks to ensure that our development and business activities meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Abertay is committed to improving our environment and in striving to achieve these aims we will, wherever reasonably practical:-

Corporate Services/Business Operations

- Ensure that waste from our offices are appropriately handled, stored and disposed of

- Reduce the amount of waste produced by encouraging and making available recycling facilities
- Reduce our consumption of raw materials and utilities
- Minimise transport activities
- Provide advice, training and guidance for staff.

Operations

- Improve energy and thermal efficiency standards of our properties through insulation and component specification
- Ensure all our existing properties meet the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) by December 2020
- Ensure all homes continue to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standards with the exception of work refusals
- Help to alleviate fuel poverty through support and advice for tenants on reducing their energy costs
- Improve new build standards by building to silver standard, meet and/or exceed Building Standards
- Adhere to our Development Policy for all new build housing opportunities
- Adopt and promote through suppliers an approach which reduces, re-uses or recycles waste
- Minimise the use of hazardous materials and processes.
- Encourage employment of local labour
- Work with suppliers on innovative, resource efficient solutions for the use of renewable resources and products
- Promote and encourage recycling by our tenants and communities in conjunction with the Local Authority

3.0 Procedures

3.1 We will develop procedures and where appropriate action plans to address any specific issue related to the sustainability policy. We will produce a range of SMART objectives with the aim of gradually improving our attitude towards and performance on environmental sustainability. We will:-

- Review current practices
- Review the use of resources in housing and the organisation
- Assess options for change
- Providing training and resource, where necessary
- Fully implement action plans
- Monitor and review progress regularly
- Promote research into environmental issues, and disseminate information.
- Set targets which are realistic & achievable

The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed every four years. Procedures will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as and when required and in light of applicable legislation and continued best practice.