



Environmental Policy - Statement of Intent

Cardiff Community Housing Association

In accordance with our duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and fulfilling our legal obligations I have produced the following statement of intent in respect of CCHA's commitment to environmental protection.

The Executive Team and our Board are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest possible environmental standards and recognise that CCHA's business activities have an impact on the local, regional and global environment. It is my aim to reduce our activities environmental impact and to ensure that CCHA's services operate in an environmentally responsible way.

The Corporate Director of Property takes the corporate lead on my behalf and is supported by the Health and Safety Manager, Head of Governance and the cross organisational Green Group; who will meet regularly to discuss performance in relation to our commitment and implement and monitor any identified improvements to our environmental standards. However, our holistic approach towards environmental protection means that all our staff and senior leaders must take responsibility within their own operational areas to meet our agenda.

The **main commitment** of our **environmental agenda** is to **reduce** our negative impact on the environment by reducing **CCHA's CO₂ emissions**. This commitment will also directly tackle fuel poverty and consider the direct or indirect impact of any of our carbon reduction impact measures on our tenants. This commitment is also intrinsically linked to our Asset Management and Development Strategy objectives.

To support this agenda, I will ensure that adequate resources and training are provided. We will set annual targets for our environmental performance and make sure that these contribute to any national targets or local priorities.

Whilst I recognise that legal requirements define minimum acceptable standards, our goal is to exceed these where possible and in doing so hope to operate to a ISO 14001 which will include the following commitments:

- a) Implement an environmental management system (EMS) throughout the company;
- b) Meet, the minimum relevant environmental legislative and regulatory requirements. We will also meet any requirements imposed by our customers and other relevant parties such as the Local Authority or the Environment Agency;
- c) Through an impact assessment process, we will monitor and review all our business activities and operations against the environment. This is in order to identify, understand and evaluate any direct and indirect environmental aspects or effects. We will prioritise any actions to address issues identified;
- d) Support continuous environmental improvement by establishing challenging, achievable and measurable environmental performance targets that will be reviewed and reported on a 6 monthly basis. We will assess our performance annually against our peers and undertake external benchmarking assessments as needed.
- e) Reduce energy and resource consumption by utilising effective and efficient working methods, and processes and practices consistent with best practice;
- f) Implement a waste minimisation and recycling programme in order to achieve objectives and targets for reducing waste;

- g)** Minimise the environmental effects of the handling, transportation and subsequent treatment of any waste generated by the business;
- h)** Avoid where practicable the use of toxic materials in business operations, services and products;
- i)** Prevent, minimise or render harmless releases of pollutants arising from our business operations and services;
- j)** Prevent community impacts associated with noise or vibration from our business activities;
- k)** Promote modes of transport that minimises our own environmental impact. This will include assessing the impact of our white and grey fleet vehicles (and how they are driven) on the environment, providing and supporting any possible affordable solutions or initiatives;
- l)** Maintain effective communication on environmental matters to ensure that our staff are aware of all relevant environmental issues and of their own roles and responsibilities in meeting our agenda;
- m)** Include environmental management duties into all our job descriptions for our staff. We will provide training awareness programmes such as carbon literacy training and more detailed training for those with particular responsibilities;
- n)** Pursue ambitious green initiatives at our head offices such as installing energy generation systems (PV), low cost heating and lighting and creating green office space reducing our commercial carbon footprint;
- o)** Regenerate and improve our housing stock in line with Welsh Government Decarbonisation Targets (tackling fuel poverty) and in line with our Asset Management Strategy Objectives.
- p)** Develop any new homes in line with Welsh Government Decarbonisation Targets and in line with our Development Strategy Objectives.
- q)** Keep abreast of relevant technical and legislative environmental developments in order to continue operating in accordance with current best practice.
- r)** Promote our environmental objectives and to respond positively to any enquiries and suggestions from both inside and outside the business.
- s)** Through responsible procurement and the adoption of a robust environmental question set, ensure that our key suppliers, partners and contractors, as far as practicable, provide all their goods and services in line with our environmental agenda.

This statement of intent and any supporting management systems put in place will be subject to regular review, of at least every 12 months. Any revisions will be brought to the attention of all staff and others who may be affected by our business decisions.

Working towards excellence in environmental management requires a collective commitment and effort from our Board, all staff and contractors. Our personal commitment is clear and unambiguous – non-compliance with our agenda is not an option. We all have a duty to protect the environment from any CCHA activities that may be detrimental and I am confident that you will work with me to achieve this standard.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Jones', written in a cursive style.



Hayley Selway
Chief Executive Officer
October 2020

Document control

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Document History			
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