

Environmental Policy

1.0 SCOPE

Purpose

- 1.1 We recognise that within the context of our organisation and its operations that we have the potential to impact on environmental conditions, in either a positive or negative manner.
- 1.2 This document sets out whg's policy towards delivering the commitment in our Corporate Plan to be an environmentally aware business – caring about the impact we make.

Legal and regulatory framework

- 1.3 We will comply with all relevant environmental legislation. A register of relevant legislation is kept and updated. A brief overview of how we ensure compliance will be set out in our Environmental Management System Manual.
- 1.4 The Regulator of Social Housing requires registered providers to “adhere to all relevant law”. This Policy is designed to ensure that we adhere to the legislation and regulations relating to the environment.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 We will deliver an environmentally aware business that cares about the impact we make, goes beyond compliance and takes into account Our Values. The following commitments shall be applied:
- 2.2 The arrangements for environmental management we have in place will be maintained to meet and exceed the requirements of ISO14001:2015. These arrangements are referred to as our Environmental Management System. We will:
 - Identify environmental risks that are relevant to whg.
 - Identify and implement continual improvement objectives that advance our operational performance and contribute to improving our overall environmental impact.
 - Determine the needs and expectations of internal and external stakeholders that are relevant to our purpose, especially those concerned with our commitment to fulfil our compliance obligations.
 - Determine and communicate an environmental strategy to influence all business thinking and operations.

- Review environmental performance at all levels of the organisation.
- Review the effectiveness of this Policy.

2.3 **Action Beyond Legal Compliance.** We expect:

- Colleagues and contractors to operate in accordance with the requirements of our Environmental Management System and offer innovative best practice across all areas of the operation.
- Contractors to uphold similar environmental standards and to fully comply with the conditions stated in our contracts and procedures.
- All activities to be undertaken with respect and care for the environment and our customers, neighbours and local communities.

2.4 **Responsible Consumption and Production.** We endeavour to source only from responsible and sustainable suppliers. We will:

- When appropriate consider the Social Value and the Environmental Life Cycle associated with specified products, contracted services, significant capital investments and development projects.
- Expect everybody to take responsibility for ensuring efficient use of resources.
- Expect colleagues, suppliers and contractors to support us in our aspiration to become a single-use plastic free organisation.

2.5 **Action on Climate Change.** We will:

- Seek out novel ways to reduce our carbon footprint, introduce applicable technologies and address issues of fuel poverty.
- Monitor corporate and communal energy use. Where appropriate we will install energy efficient equipment and use clean energy sources and suppliers.
- Aspire to ensure that all of our buildings and homes are provided with low energy and water efficient fittings and fixtures.

2.6 **Action on Air Quality and Emissions.** We will:

- Do all that we can to control and minimise emissions and ensure a high level of protection is given through legally compliant operational controls and contract conditions.
- Monitor spending on fuel use and corporate mileage.
- Evaluate the environmental impact of our vehicle fleet during the procurement processes and evaluate alternative technologies when practicable.

2.7 **Responsible Use of Land.** We will:

- Ensure that a high level of protection is given to wildlife and habitat through legally compliant operational controls and contract conditions.
- Produce a strategy to recognise the role of transforming derelict and underused land for the benefit of local communities and to promote biodiversity.

- 2.8 **Waste Management and Preventing Pollution.** We will:
- Ensure that our own operations are always legally compliant.
 - Ensure effective processes are in place to prevent pollution from harming people, the environment, and damaging property.
 - Expect all contractors and partners to deliver legally compliant operational controls, as stipulated in their contract conditions.
 - Expect everybody to be empowered to eliminate, reduce or reuse waste.
 - Expect everybody to segregate waste and utilise appropriate waste management facilities when disposal is the only option available.

3.0 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 3.1 Compliance and certification audits at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the environmental management system conforms to the requirements of ISO14001:2015. This shall include the performance of contractors.
- 3.2 Group Executive shall review the environmental management system annually to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.

4.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 4.1 There are no equality and diversity issues applicable to this Policy.

5.0 TRAINING AND DISSEMINATION

- 5.1 We will communicate our Policy to our colleagues, contractors and the supply chain to enable them to gain a better understanding of how our actions, activities, products and services have the potential to have an impact on, or enhance the environment.
- 5.2 We are committed to investing in a programme of ongoing awareness, training and engagement activities to embed a culture that cares for the environment.

6.0 MONITOR AND REVIEW

- 6.1 This Policy will be monitored by the Corporate Director of Governance and Compliance and reviewed every three years by the Environmental Management Group and approved by the Policy Group.

7.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Documents, policies and procedures associated with this Policy are:

- Register of all applicable primary and secondary environmental legislation
- The Environmental Management System Manual
- Policies and procedures relating to specific areas of environmental management.
- Social Value in Procurement Policy.
- Corporate Plan 2014-2020.
- ISO 14001:2015

Document author	Steven Davis, HS&E Manager
Document owner	Corporate Director of Governance and Compliance
Legal advice	As per consultation below
Consultation	Mandatory colleague consultees. Environmental Management Group.
Approved by	Policy Group
Review Date	Extension requested and agreed until April 2022
Corporate Plan aim	Deliver a strong business, fit for today and prepared for tomorrow.
Equality Assessment	Not applicable.
Key changes made	Policy aligned with the requirements of ISO14001:2015 and our aspirational strategy 'Our Approach' – Actions to address Environmental Risks and Opportunities.