

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020/23

Overall aim

Our overall aim is to ensure that we are making a positive impact through our sustainability performance, by promoting a sustainable culture with our colleagues and customers and taking our environmental responsibilities seriously as a landlord and a commercial business. We are committed to becoming a net carbon zero organisation by 2050. Our strategy will be focused around the following objectives:

- carbon reduction
- resource management
- sustainable procurement
- enhancing biodiversity

An Environmental Management System (EMS) will be implemented to structure our approach and then manage and report on the progress of our objectives.

Our strategy is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and will help to build sustainable communities. As an early adopter of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting for housing associations we recognise the importance that environmental performance will have upon attracting funders as sustainability increasingly becomes factored into investment decisions.

Background/current position

Baseline reporting has been undertaken for the Streamlined Energy Carbon Reporting (SECR) and we are committed to improving this data and including more measures to capture our indirect emissions. This reporting indicates that our largest environmental impacts are carbon emissions from our housing stock and fuel use from our fleet.

The actions required to scope the scale of the challenge and strategy to tackle emissions in our existing housing stock are considered in the Strategic Asset Management Plan, with a comprehensive approach to meeting the estimated funding shortfall put forward in the Portfolio Management Plan.

Historically new developments undertaken by Grand Union have targeted building regulations as a minimum. However, our New Business and Development Strategy sets out our ambition to use the Future Homes Standard as a platform to target the development of zero carbon homes, minimising both the operating carbon emissions and energy costs for our customers. Opportunities to maximise the redevelopment of existing asset sites as pilot schemes for zero carbon homes will be explored and work is underway to review modern methods of construction to start to target embodied carbon emissions.



Customer/ stakeholder engagement

We will engage with internal and external stakeholders to deliver the strategy (customers, colleagues, contractors, local authorities, regulators etc). Understanding our customers when delivering a sustainability strategy is particularly important because sustainability requires behavioural change so the need to understand our customers is essential. As we develop our strategic approach to customer insight, we will use customer segmentation to aid our decisions on how we communicate the strategy to our customers. We will be able to test and tailor our communications and channels to specific representative groups. Segmentation will also be used to gain views on the strategy and to discover what parts of the strategy are important to our customers.

Strategic objectives

To achieve our overall aim, we will:

- reduce carbon emissions

We will reduce embodied carbon emissions in the construction of new homes and reduce operational carbon emissions from our housing stock and our business - including the energy consumed, the type of energy sourced and the fuel that is used for our fleet as much as possible to ensure that we are carbon net zero by 2050. New technology that can support this will be identified/trialled and

implemented as recommended by the Asset Innovation Lead.

- resource management

Improve the way that we manage our resources (waste and water). Our own waste will be managed in line with the circular economy (reducing, reusing, repair, redistributing, maintaining, and prolonging the life of our resources). We shall manage our use of water so that we are using it efficiently.

- sustainable procurement

We will challenge the traditional metrics of value for money and consider the environmental impact when making decisions. Our procurement practises will enable us to purchase products, materials and services that minimise the impact that we have upon the environment. Our approach to environmental sustainability will be reflected through our supply chain.

- enhancing biodiversity

Our Estates/Independent Living gardens teams' ways of working will be adapted to enhance biodiversity in green spaces which will support flourishing nature, ecosystems, and the well-being of our communities.

Strategic targets

To keep ourselves on track and be confident we're delivering, we've set these targets:



For today and tomorrow - we take our responsibilities seriously

- Ensure all our existing housing stock is a minimum of Band C EPC by 2028
- Utilising in- house resources develop an EMS by June 2022. This is essential to undertake first as our procedures around carbon reduction (sustainable travel), resources (waste & water), procurement, enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and promoting a sustainable culture and sustainability reporting will all be structured by the requirements of the EMS
- Between July 2022- March 2023, work with our customers to undertake a trial biodiversity project that tests the financial, operational and customer demands of delivering this part of our strategy
- Reduce business mileage by 10% during financial year 2022/23 based on the 2019 benchmark.
- Increase fleet MPG by 5% during financial year 2022/23 based on the 2019 benchmark.

regulatory requirements as highlighted on the risk register.

We will deliver this strategy using in- house resources and work with our strategic partners to enhance our communities for the future.

Delivery and risk

The Director of Property Services is responsible for the delivery of this strategy supported by the Strategic Asset Manager and the Environmental Sustainability Manager.

For the strategy to be a success every colleague is responsible for its delivery. This strategy ensures Grand Union's compliance with environmental

