

Sanctuary Group Environmental Statement

Environmental Statement

Background

Sanctuary, as a not-for-profit housing association providing homes and care for more than 250,000 people, is committed to reducing its environmental impact and behaving sustainably.

Environmental issues such as climate change, fuel poverty and sustainability have a direct impact on the Group's mission to build affordable homes and sustainable communities where people choose to live.

Twenty per cent of all carbon emissions in the UK are caused by housing and Sanctuary has a responsibility to all its stakeholders to deliver environmental good practice, energy and waste reduction and assist the UK Government to meet its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Legal and regulatory framework

Sanctuary will comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements and also ensure our suppliers and contractors are compliant.

This includes continuing to submit data for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (we are currently tax exempt), ensuring all eligible buildings have Energy Performance Certificates, maintaining our waste in adherence with Controlled Waste Regulations and seeking to reduce environmental impacts such as pollution arising from our processes, operations and work activities.

Energy consumption

Sanctuary has a responsibility to ensure that tenants live in warm homes that are cost effective to heat reducing levels of fuel poverty and increase quality of life for tenants.

The UK Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy aims to ensure that all fuel poor homes reach a minimum energy standard of Standard Assessment Protocol (SAP) Band C by 2030. Sanctuary is committed to meeting this target by installing loft and wall insulation, solar panels, air sourced heat pumps, and other energy efficiency measures.

Sanctuary's Energy Management team continuously monitors energy consumption, and Sanctuary is committed to measuring its carbon footprint. Sanctuary will continue to target property reinvestment at inefficient homes, reduce its carbon footprint and improve residents' quality of life and reduce their energy consumption, through practical advice and support.

Development

Sanctuary aims to develop sustainable homes that are fit for purpose, adhering to environmental standards and ensuring that their environmental impact during and after construction is minimised.

With a commitment to innovation and environmentally friendly features in design, Sanctuary investigates the latest building techniques to reduce its environmental impact including smart technology to reduce energy costs and incorporating the Future Homes Standard into design practice to ensure government standards are delivered.

Sanctuary's MORE programme builds on this by encouraging sustainable design practice in its neighbourhoods and engagement with local residents on environmental matters, while committing to ensure that wildlife can flourish within its developments through the creation of green spaces and the use of environmentally friendly design techniques.

Waste reduction

Waste from development activities currently accounts for 32 per cent of all waste sent to landfill. Sanctuary will always investigate how waste can be managed to reduce its environmental impact while creating cost efficiencies.

Sanctuary is committed to investigating how waste can be reduced across its portfolio. Sanctuary will investigate how waste water can be recycled efficiently and effectively, and continue to improve waste recycling practices throughout offices and schemes, including the use of technology to reduce reliance on paper.

Procurement and fleet management

Through an effective management of procurement, Sanctuary challenges its supply chain to reduce their environmental impact and deliver necessary economic and environmental value, while adhering to Group values.

Sanctuary will continue to investigate how emissions can be reduced on the current fleet of vehicles. This will be achieved through efficient automotive technologies, such as electric cars, and how these can be incorporated into the Group's fleet management strategy.

Neighbourhoods and community investment

Sanctuary recognises that the environment and public space play a key role within the communities in which its tenants live. As such it works closely with individuals and community groups to ensure that the built environment where people live is welcoming, safe and that people are engaged with their surroundings.

Sanctuary will continue to offer communities and local groups funding to develop community gardens, green spaces and other community benefit projects that help to create inviting spaces for people to live and encourage local engagement with the environment.

Working practice

Sanctuary will aim to reduce carbon emissions through more efficient ways of working, utilising improvements in technology to reduce travel and travel times between offices, as well as continuing to encourage car sharing and cycling to work to lower the Group's impact on the environment through reductions in travel.