

Environmental Policy

LINKS TO OTHER ACCORD POLICIES

This policy links to the Business Plan

CUSTOMER INFORMATION LEAFLETS

Please see the EMS Statement

FORMS AND OTHER LINKS

Environmental Procedures: 1-18

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POLICY STATEMENT

Accord is committed to continual improvement and enhanced environmental performance, always identifying ways to reduce pollution and striving to be the Greenest Housing Association in the UK. The scale of our activities means that our environmental impact is significant and we want to minimise it.

The policy is intended to provide a framework for the setting and reviewing of environmental objectives and targets which form part of the Accord Environmental Management System.

The policy will be communicated to all employees, contractors working for and on behalf of the Association, tenants and stakeholders and will be made available to the public.

POLICY OUTLINE

About Accord

The Accord Housing Association provides over 13,000 affordable homes and services, including health and social care, to 80,000 people across the Midlands and beyond. We are not-for-profit and one of the largest Housing Association's in the Midlands, with 4,200 employees and an annual turnover, including new developments, of circa £100 million.

The Policy

In particular, we want to protect the environment and to prevent pollution, we are committed to saving energy, reducing waste, to the protection of the environment, protecting wildlife/biodiversity, preventing pollution, and cutting the amount of carbon and other emissions generated by our operations, our staff and tenants, the homes that we let and our offices.

Responsibility

The Board of Management and Executive Team are committed to this Policy which was proposed by Accords Directors and Senior Managers and approved by Accords Board of Management.

MONITORING, REVIEW & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Accord has a continual improvement process to ensure compliance is maintained with ISO14001 and all applicable legislation and other requirements in line with the expectation of our regulators (which relate to our environmental aspects – see the Accord Housing Association Environmental Management System, Risk Register).

We will produce performance information monitor and review our performance in relation to this policy against are key objectives.

Aspects and Impacts

The Accord Housing Association have identified the following impacts which result from its service and operations:

| Aspect | Impact |
|--|---|
| Use of electricity | Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change |
| Use of natural gas | Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change |
| Use of vehicles | Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change |
| Hazardous waste generation | Pollution |
| Effect on wildlife/ biodiversity | Potential damage to habitats and loss of Biodiversity |
| Use of office consumables | Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to climate change |
| Use of printed materials | Depletion of Natural Resources, Toxicity and contribution to climate change |
| Use of natural resources e.g. building materials | Depletion of Natural Resources, Toxicity and contribution to climate change |
| Emissions to air | contribution to climate change and Pollution |
| Generation of waste | Pollution and Depletion of Natural Resources |
| Water consumption | Depletion of Natural Resources |
| Waste water generation | Pollution |

Objectives

The Accord Housing Association have agreed the following objectives to which the basis of our targets will be set.

Objective 1 - Reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we emit.

Objective 2 - Reducing the primary energy use kWh/m² from existing housing stock.

Objective 3 - To reduce the amount of waste we produce.

Objective 4 - To reduce our reliance on energy consumption in business premises from unsustainable sources.

PROCEDURE

The Executive Team has responsibility for ensuring implementation of the Policy. The Management Team has responsibility for implementing the Policy through a co-ordinated environmental management system including setting objectives and targets and will ensure regular audit(s) are conducted.

The Environmental Improvement Team will support the Association's Management Team to implement the policy. Accord will make known this Policy to all employees, tenants and stakeholders. Existing forums and regular meetings between Accords suppliers and contractors will be used to communicate the Policy to them.

This Policy has been written so that it is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of Accord's activities, products and services and is intended to provide a framework for the setting and reviewing of environmental objectives and targets.

Signed:

Chris Handy
Accord HA Chief Executive