



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2015

Foreword

We are reliant on the natural environment and high levels of consumption are putting pressure on the Earth's natural resources, which causes serious consequences.

Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) recognises its responsibility to minimise the impact on the environment of its own operations, and acknowledges the contribution the organisation can make to protect natural environment.

We are committed to incorporating sustainability factors into our business decisions and to the continual improvement of environmental performance such as reducing waste and improving energy efficiency. For our direct operations (controlled by NPH) we intend to measure the impact of the carbon footprint and make improvements to reduce waste and costs.

One Planet Living

The One Planet Living guiding principles are the framework for NPH Sustainability Policy. The ten principles will help NPH to analyse the sustainability challenges, develop appropriate solutions and monitor organisational sustainability commitments.

Zero carbon	making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technologies
Zero waste	reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill
Sustainable transport	encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel
Sustainable materials	using sustainable and healthy products, such as those with low embodied energy, sourced locally, made from renewable or waste resources
Local and sustainable food	choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets and reducing food waste
Sustainable water	using water more efficiently in buildings and in the products we buy; tackling local flooding and water course pollution
Land use and wildlife	protecting and restoring existing biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration into the built environment
Culture and heritage	reviving local identity and wisdom; supporting and participating in the arts
Equity and local economy	creating bioregional economies that support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade
Health and happiness	encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being

Who is responsible?

Everyone has a role to play in adhering to the principles laid down in this policy, from NPH staff, NPH contractors to the Board Members. This is because sustainability is our collective responsibility and we will be working together to make sustainability an integral part of NPH culture.

We recognise our wider role within the local community. We are committed to improve stakeholders and tenants environmental awareness and encourage individuals to take responsibility for their actions.

Our **Environmental Sustainability Action Plan** will identify the specific actions that will deliver the objectives of this Sustainability Policy. This action plan will follow the principles of One Planet Living.

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful."

Marie Sklodowska - Curie

NPH Priorities

Based on the One Living Planet principles there are five priority areas in which NPH would like to excel. These are carbon reduction; transport and travel; water, waste, tenants and communities.

1. Carbon footprint

Making our existing housing stock more energy efficient and investing in the renewable technologies will be vital to minimise the carbon footprint.

We will ensure that new developments will be undertaken in accordance with the Code for Sustainable Homes.

We would also implement procedures to monitor record and publish NPH carbon emissions data from NPH own estate and operations.

The Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Policy will give further structure to this response.

2. Transport and Travel

This principle is to find ways to reduce the need to travel encourage lower carbon transport and develop smarter driving styles to reduce air pollution.

NPH will work to help employees and communities minimise the environmental impact of commuting.

NPH will develop and maintain a travel plan to reduce single occupancy vehicle use to our sites; implement measures to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport as principal modes of commuting and business travel for staff and visitors.

Transport and Travel will be discussed further in **The Sustainable Transport Policy**.

3. Water

Water is one of the most important renewable natural resource and therefore this principle is about using water more efficiently in NPH offices and the existing housing stock.

The sustainable water management is also required to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the local environment.

Therefore, NPH will ensure to incorporate of water-saving measures in the existing housing stock and NPH offices.

NPH will support healthy land – use (new development) to avoid local flooding and avoid pollution to watercourses.

The Sustainable Water Policy will give further structure to this response.

4. Waste

NPH will work to minimise waste and make the best use of resources by encouraging employees, Members and contractors to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

NPH will design and implement a waste reduction programme using baseline data and set annual waste reduction targets.

We shall ensure that our business practices effectively enable us to re-use or recycle materials and reduce waste.

Waste management will be discussed further in **The Sustainable Resource and Waste Management Policy**.

5. Tenants and Communities

This principle is about:

- ✓ **Shaping new culture of sustainability** among our tenants and communities by raising awareness of environmental sustainability, and
- ✓ Improving the quality of life of tenants by **reducing fuel poverty**.

NPH will promote environmental sustainability by education, information provision and open consultation.

NPH will tackle fuel poverty across the board, in partnership with numerous bodies. We are committed to supporting the eradication of fuel poverty and provision of affordable warmth through raising awareness of all NPH staff and partners (contractors) to identify potential households and signpost them to relevant sources of help.

The Tenants and Communities Wellbeing Policy will give further structure to this response.

Mission, Vision, Values

At NPH our Vision, Mission and Values underpin everything we do. What we aim to achieve through this Environmental Sustainability Policy is therefore based on:

NPH Vision to provide homes which enable people to live happy and healthy lives in enriched communities.

NPH Mission that will lead the way in implementation environmental sustainability policy by ensuring:

- ✓ we improve lives by sharing a common purpose,
- ✓ we improve and maintain the quality of our homes,
- ✓ We provide services which endeavour to meet the needs and aspirations of all tenants and residents,
- ✓ people can influence immediate and long term futures for themselves and their communities

NPH values that will guide us how to achieve these five principles by:

- ✓ **Open** to different ideas but also having **Strong** commitment to make a positive difference to tenant's lives.
- ✓ **Listen** and **Respond** respectfully to tenants and communities we come in contact with.
- ✓ **Achieve more with others** by collaborative work to get the best results.
- ✓ **Aim High and Deliver** this policy by implementing **Environmental Sustainability Action Plan**

Monitoring an review

Progress on implementing all areas of the policy will be reviewed regularly through **The Environmental Sustainability Working Group**. The policy itself will be subject to regular review in order to ensure best practice and continuous service improvement.

The Chief Executive of NPH will be responsible for ensuring that reviews of this policy are carried out.

Tenant representative groups will be involved and consulted in any review of this policy in-line with NPH's policy on tenant consultation and engagement.

KPIs

The Environmental Sustainability Coordinator will be responsible for looking at particular areas of what the Environmental Sustainability Policy have implemented, identifying in what areas we are meeting standards, what areas we need to be aware of and what areas are below standard and need improving.

The success of this policy will be achieved through the delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

"Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts."

Albert Einstein

Equality and Diversity

There are no adverse implications for equality and diversity. All aspects of the Environmental Sustainability Policy will comply with NPH's Equality and Diversity Strategy and policy development principles.