

# SUSTAINABILITY

## WASTE LESS, GROW MORE

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN



**MONARCH PARTNERSHIP**

*Utilities simplified*







# CONTENTS

WHY IS SUSTAINABILITY IMPORTANT?	1
FINANCIAL SAVINGS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY	2
WHAT YOU GET	3
VULNERABLE RESIDENTS	5
THE BENEFITS OF EARLY ACTION	6
WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN?	7
THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE	7
DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES	9
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY COMMUNITY	10
LEGISLATION AND POLICY DRIVERS	11
OUR SPECIALIST 5-STAGE APPROACH	13
SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES	15



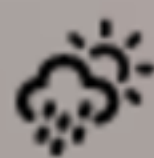
# WHY IS SUSTAINABILITY IMPORTANT?

Housing Associations and Local Authorities are under continual pressure to reduce their carbon footprint and improve the way they manage finite resources. Through our Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP), our team incorporates diverse industry expertise to address the relationship between environmental stewardship, social responsibility, industry expectations, housing services, and business operations.

## Did you know?



If everyone in the world consumed as much as a UK resident, we would need three planets to support us



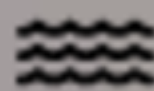
There is a projected increase in weather-related hazards in the UK, including heat waves and floods



March 2013 was the joint second coldest on record: 31,280 excess deaths caused by cold weather for winter 2012/13



2014 was the hottest year since records began in 1910



Since 1900, sea levels have risen by roughly 10cm around the UK and around 19cm globally



# FINANCIAL SAVINGS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Incorporating resource efficiency and compliancy measures with CO2 and environmental management translates into long-term financial savings for both social landlords and residents.

You can achieve direct savings through reduced:

1. **Utilities expenditure**, as a result of lower energy demand across commercial and residential buildings
2. **Financial penalties**, resulting from failures to comply with legislative responsibilities
3. **Overcharges**, via comprehensive benchmarking, trend analysis, and validation of electricity, gas, and water invoices
4. **Costs associated with waste management**, via increased rates of reduction, reuse, and recycling
5. **Travel costs**, due to an increased uptake in public and active travel options

## What is an SDMP in brief?

A board-approved SDMP acts as a central tool in clarifying long-term environmental objectives to all stakeholders. It is also a powerful aid in securing the financial, environmental and social benefits associated with integrated sustainable development across all service areas.



# WHAT YOU GET

1. Sustainable Development strategy
2. Sustainable Development Action Plan
3. Clear targets and monitoring tools
4. Reduced consumption and emissions
5. Financial savings
6. Resource efficiency
7. Social and health related benefits
8. Carbon footprinting certification
9. Preventative measures against climate change
10. Legislative compliance
11. Protection of vulnerable people
12. Consolidated environmental plans and policies







## **Fuel Poverty workshops – for your local community**

The half day, interactive workshops are for up to 20 residents per session. They focus on five key topics from the following list:

- Understanding energy use in the home: heating systems and appliances
- Understanding heat loss in the home
- How to use heating controls effectively
- Recognising and acting on fuel poverty
- Understanding fuel bills
- Saving £250-300 a year through habit changes
- Reading your gas meter
- Reading your electricity meter
- Understanding and reducing condensation
- Managing fuel bills
- Tariff switching and billing options
- Understanding climate change



# VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Housing Associations should identify and account for vulnerable people with regards to the anticipated impacts of climate change and severe weather, such as heat waves and flooding. Those affected include the following:

**Homeless People:** may face an increased risk from heat waves.

**Older people:** especially those over 75 years old, living on their own and socially isolated.

**Infants:** vulnerable to heat due to their immune thermoregulation, smaller body mass and blood volume.

**People with alcohol/drug dependence:** users can suffer from temporarily impaired thermoregulation, poorer overall health and increased social isolation.

**Those with chronic and severe illness:** including heart condition, diabetes, respiratory or renal insufficiency, Parkinson's disease or severe mental illness.



# THE BENEFITS OF **EARLY ACTION**

*SDMPs act as an important tool in enhancing broader sustainability agendas, including advocating the importance of tackling climate change at the earliest opportunity. If sufficient action isn't taken soon, severe pressures will be put on the housing, health and social care systems.*

## **Why act now - Service Delivery Benefits**

- There are severe, irreversible impacts from climate change and greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate change threatens the basic elements of life for people around the world
- We need to protect access to water, food production, health and use of land
- Adaption and response policies are crucial for dealing with unavoidable impacts
- The benefits of strong, early action on climate change clearly outweigh the costs
- The later we react, the more we spend
- Proactive measures will be more cost-effective and resource-efficient



# What is a **Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP)**?

We design Sustainable Development Management Plans to operate as a primary strategic document in addressing your organisation's approach towards sustainability. With a robust SDMP you establish a roadmap for reducing CO2 emissions, enhancing sustainable development and overall resource efficiency.

We work with Housing Associations and councils to streamline their environmental policies, procedures and targets into one consolidated plan. We facilitate the implementation and delivery of innovative environmental practices and develop the pathway to becoming a leading provider of low-carbon and sustainable housing services.

Our energy and sustainability consultants have extensive experience of working with organisations functioning in the built environment to identify, prioritise and monitor the required steps to strategically reduce the carbon footprint and environmental impacts related to commercial and residential properties and service operations.

## THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

Integrating the Triple Bottom Line approach to your plans and operations will:

- Clarify your sustainability and resource efficiency objectives to all stakeholders
- Help you avoid developing irrelevant actions and monitoring with wrong metrics, and thus prevent you from spending money on wrong focus areas
- Establish concrete CO2 reduction targets and specific approaches to achieve them
- Introduce tailored policies for all environmental impacts and responsibilities
- Streamline and update your environmental policies into one consolidated document
- Embed staff and resident awareness of sustainability, efficiency and climate change



## Tackling Environmental Pressures

**02**  
Particulate air pollution reduces life expectancy in the UK by six months, costing around £16 billion a year

**01**  
The total carbon footprint of the UK in 2014 was 831 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 42% (393 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) of this was attributable to the built environment

**03**  
67% of the total electricity supply in the UK in 2016 was consumed in buildings

**04**  
11% of households in England were living in fuel poverty in 2015

**05**  
2,000 deaths from overheating in the UK each year



## DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Housing Associations and local authorities remain under long-term pressure to issue secure, affordable, and healthy homes for residents. Due to the increasing pressures linked with rising energy costs, population growth, ageing residents, and climate change, it is a necessary requirement for housing providers to comprehensively analyse and monitor how they can reduce their environmental impacts throughout their portfolio and business activities. An SDMP subsequently addresses how Housing Associations and Local Authorities/councils can effectively ensure the provision of sustainable housing to local communities. At the same time, they will advance and streamline the ways in which they tackle fuel poverty, the consumption of natural resources, and the risks posed by a changing climate.





# HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

In addition to economic benefits of taking early measures to reduce the risks posed by climate change, Housing Associations and local authorities can unlock inter-related, environmental and social benefits.

1. Promote a healthy, resilient environment for people to live and work
2. Develop healthier lifestyle choices, such as walking and cycling
3. Continue to engage with other local and national agencies and departments on adaption to climate change
4. Build climate resilience into wider plans for housing, transport, infrastructure, community engagement, health and wellbeing
5. Familiarise with the vulnerabilities in local areas to reduce the burden on health and social care providers
6. Get to know both people and services that are liable to disruption from climate change and extreme weather
7. Improve business continuity and minimise the economic impacts of weather by implementing sustainable supply chains
8. Analyse risks associated with outbreaks and weather to improve emergency response, community resilience and preventative measures
9. Reduce air pollution and mitigate against climate change
10. Highlight a commitment to promoting sustainable development to stakeholders and residents



## LEGISLATION AND **POLICY DRIVERS**

Our SDMPs incorporate a tailored Environmental Legislation and Policy Register to ensure that organisations are fully aware of the responsibilities and opportunities posed by industry-specific legislation and policies on a European Union, national and local level.

Key environmental legislation and policy drivers for Housing Associations and sustainable development include the following.

### **Climate Change Act 2008**

Introduced to ensure that the UK cuts its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 (against a 1990 baseline). The Act enables the UK to become a low carbon economy and sets in place a legally-binding framework allowing the government to introduce measures, which will achieve CO<sub>2</sub> reductions and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

As 42% of the UK's total carbon footprint is attributable to the built environment, Housing Associations and local governments have a duty to respond to these targets, which are entrenched in law. The Act also stipulates a set of key milestones, including a 34% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020 and a 64% reduction by 2030.



## Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

Requires all public bodies to consider how the services they commission and provide might improve wider economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

## Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Establishes a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at a local level. Organisations must demonstrate that Carbon Reduction Delivery Plans are in place in accordance with emergency preparation and civil contingency requirements.

Planning and policy requirements in the built environment continue to evolve and stipulate a range of energy efficiency and sustainability targets for the construction of new homes. With the development of the London Plan's 'zero carbon' homes standard and Carbon Offset Fund policy, dwellings are required to utilise all available energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

Through the analysis and reporting of supply chains and procurement, an SDMP can play an integral role in addressing legislative responsibilities under the **Modern Slavery Act 2015**.



# OUR SPECIALIST 5-STAGE APPROACH



1

## ENGAGEMENT AND REVIEW

In the first stage we actively engage with your senior management and key personnel to review current policies and procedures in place and identify areas of improvement and progressive sustainability goals. Our team will liaise with individuals responsible for the management of key divisions to devise a tailored approach towards each environmental impact area.

2

## BENCHMARKING

We undertake a full carbon footprint audit across all areas of energy, travel, procurement, waste, and water to produce a benchmark for monitoring progress. We identify resource, cost, and carbon intensive hotspots. While this will help you realise immediate savings, we are also able to identify how to enhance internal data collection and recording procedures.

3

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

Following the detailed benchmarking process, our team of energy and sustainability consultants devise a series of policies and targets for each environmental impact area. Based on your key objectives and our findings, we produce relevant CO2 and sustainability targets with matching policies specific to your Housing Association.





4

#### **ACTION PLAN**

We produce a Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) for each environmental impact area to clearly define the procedures to be implemented throughout each division. This includes clarification of the specific actions, responsible divisions/ individuals and the timeframes for enacting each requirement.

5

#### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

To ensure the long-term success in achieving your carbon and sustainability targets, our team continually monitors the progress of initiatives and programmes against each target and benchmark. We liaise with your key personnel and produce quarterly Board Reports to detail development, identify barriers to progression, and explain further areas of improvement.





# SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES

*Our consultants use industry-leading insight across the sustainability sector to provide advice on key policies and actions. We can directly address the issues Housing Associations and Local Authorities face on a day-to-day and long-term basis. Our range of successful and proven sustainability actions we can carry out include:*

## **Energy and Carbon**

- Produce and benchmark your detailed annual carbon footprint
- Secure a higher proportion of energy from on-site low-carbon/renewable energy sources
- Improving the energy efficiency performance of residential and commercial properties

## **Water**

- Reduce the amount of consumed and wasted water throughout residential and commercial properties
- Benchmark water consumption rates to track progress of efficiency programmes
- Ensure the highest water efficiency standards for new-builds and refurbishments

## **Transport and Travel**

- Create an organisation-wide 'Sustainable Travel Plan'
- Promote the environmental health and financial benefits associated with active travel options
- Increase awareness of electric vehicle travel options and installed charging points

## **Waste**

- Implement a 'Sustainable Waste Management Plan' to reduce waste and increase recycling rates
- Carry out waste and recycling audits in order to identify opportunities for improvement
- Work with waste management suppliers to advance the circular economy

## **Built Environment**

- Create a 'Sustainable Building Design Specification'
- Assess the feasibility of securing innovative accreditations, e.g. The Home Quality Mark, Passivhaus, and The Planet Mark™
- Develop the uptake of Embodied Carbon Assessments, Lifecycle Assessments and carbon footprinting



### **Governance**

- Report CO2 and sustainability progress to internal and external stakeholders
- Integrate environmental awareness and training into all new job descriptions
- Introduce a staff and resident Green Champions Network to promote sustainability initiatives

### **Climate Change Adaption**

- Implement action plans and policies within a board-approved 'Climate Change Adaption Strategy'
- Develop an education programme to ensure that all members of staff and residents are aware of the environmental and health risks associated with climate change
- Monitor and report on public health risks associated with climate change

### **Procurement**

- Introduce an industry-specific 'Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy'
- Work in partnership with suppliers to include the whole carbon lifecycle of products and services
- Review your utility providers to identify opportunities for CO2 and financial savings







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