Environmental Strategy 2021-2026

Plymouth
Community Homes

Albany
Street

Nos 8 - 18

Plymouth
Community Homes

8-18
EVENS

Albany
Street

Introduction

Never has it been so important to protect the environment and make our contribution towards avoiding catastrophic climate change, which could have a serious impact on future generations.

We all must find different ways to do the things we do now; we adjusted our lives as we lived through the global pandemic, and we now need to go a step further and change how we do everyday tasks such as heating our homes or travelling so that we reduce the amount of carbon emissions emitted into the atmosphere because of human activity.

This strategy sets out a series of objectives for Plymouth Community Homes to begin its journey to achieving net-carbon zero across all areas of our business by 2050 at the latest. We are a large organisation in Plymouth, and as an Ocean City, it is essential that we play our part in improving the lives of future generations.

Unlike many businesses, we also have responsibility for over 14,000 homes and more than 200 commercial units which also require significant measures to decarbonise the use of these assets.

Many of the residents living in our homes have a low-income and therefore it is essential that we develop balanced decarbonisation programmes that not only reduce emissions but also reduce or at the very least maintain running costs.

Objectives and Deliverables

We commit to:

1. Determine and deliver our approach to decarbonising our homes and other rented assets.

- Develop and implement a robust asset management strategy that includes achieving a minimum C energy rating by 2030 for the homes and net carbon zero by 2050.

- Develop and implement a robust asset management strategy for our commercial portfolio that aims to decarbonise these units by 2050.

- Maximise opportunities to influence and support joint-working with partner organisations to deliver decarbonisation initiatives.

2. Develop new homes fit for future carbon-free standards.

- Deliver all new homes within the requirements of the Future Homes Standard from 2025.

- Consider alternative, more carbon friendly and energy efficient construction types that meet our design quality specification.

3. Determine how we will use our corporate buildings and identify requirements for decarbonisation.

- Review our accommodation strategy to make best use of the space in our corporate buildings.

- Develop a robust asset management strategy for our corporate buildings that aims to achieve net carbon zero by 2050.

4. Review our fleet of vehicles and transportation

- Develop a fleet strategy which sets out our approach to decarbonising our fleet of vehicles.

- Review our approach to business travel and patch-working, including the use of personal vehicles for work purposes.

5. Deliver a range of projects that reduces the carbon emissions from running the business.

- Identify and bid for a wide range of grant funding schemes, including the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

-Continue to embrace the use of technology to carry out services remotely where appropriate.

- Look for ways of managing our neighbourhoods that increase the ecological value of the land we own.

- Continue to refine how we manage our waste and deliver social, financial and environmental benefit through our Reuse Centre.

6. Work with staff and residents to support behaviour change as people transform to a carbon-free lifestyle.

- Support residents to lead more environmentally friendly lives by providing education on getting the best use out of new technologies, how to reduce water consumption and encouraging increased recycling.

- Encourage staff to deliver services in a less carbon-intensive way by, for example, optimising travel routes and providing infrastructure for charging electric vehicles.

Monitoring and Review

All of these objectives and deliverables will be broken down into smaller packages of work and will be incorporated into departmental plans from April 2022.

The strategy will be formally monitored annually, and a report will be presented to Board demonstrating progress and detailing any additional deliverables required to meet the strategy.

Plymouth Community Homes
Plumer House
Tailyour Road
PL6 5DH

T 0808 230 6500

E info@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk

W plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk

Y twitter.com/PlymCommHomes

f facebook.com/PlymouthCommunityHomes