

# Scottish Housing Day case study

## Langstane Group Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025



Following the UK Parliament's declaration in May 2019 of a Climate Emergency, the Langstane Group developed their Sustainability Strategy to highlight their commitment to placing sustainability at the heart of their decision-making. The Strategy recognises the importance of giving environmental factors equal importance as economic and social factors in decision-making, through making sustainability a holistic part of its day-to-day business. The key objectives of the Strategy are to:

1. **Improve the energy efficiency of homes**
2. **Reduce fuel poverty amongst tenant population**
3. **Reduce carbon emissions arising from the Group's activities**
4. **Improve business efficiency and reduce waste**
5. **Purchase responsibly**

The Sustainability Strategy has two core priorities: **sustainable homes and sustainable business**. The overarching aims of the Strategy are to 'minimise the impact of our homes on the environment and reduce fuel poverty amongst our tenant population' and 'to ensure the business is as efficient as possible, waste is minimised and that environmental impact is at the heart of our decision making'. Each priority is underpinned by various actions to achieve these aims:

### Priority 1 – Sustainable homes

- **Carbon footprint of homes** - identify carbon footprint of homes and set a target for reduction of carbon emissions to be achieved by the end of the Strategy.
- **Fuel poverty** - assess fuel poverty levels through tenant profiling survey.
- **Energy efficiency** - create a detailed plan in year one for achieving EESSH2 with a focus on improving the worst properties first.
- **Purchasing** - review the specifications used in repairs and maintenance to minimise their impact on the environment and ensure that sustainable procurement duties are complied with.
- **Construction waste** - encourage reuse and reduction of waste on construction projects.
- **Community projects** - utilise community benefit funds to implement projects that benefit local communities, with a focus on projects that benefit the environment.
- **Reduce staff and contractor travel** - review processes to ensure that scheduling of repairs visits is as efficient as possible, repairs are carried out right first time to prevent repeat visits and IT is utilised to prevent unnecessary travel.

### Priority 2 – Sustainable business

- **Green champion** - identify a Green Champion to drive the delivery of the Strategy)
- **Environmental audit/carbon footprint** - carry out an environmental audit of the business and identify ways of reducing the footprint of the business.
- **Utilities and water use** - reduce energy use by developing clear overnight, weekend and holiday 'shut-down' procedures for the offices.

- **Office EPC rating** - identify options for improving the EPC rating of offices.
- **Single use plastic** - reduce the use of single use items in the office with a view to eliminating, as far as possible, all single use plastic by the end of this Strategy period.
- **Paper** - reduce printing and paper use and move towards a paper-free office by the end of the Strategy period.
- **Waste and recycling** - improve recycling rates for paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminium within the offices and identify potential recycling routes for other office waste items.
- **Purchasing** - review the purchasing approach to office equipment/stationery etc to ensure sustainability is being considered.
- **Transport** - carry out a review of vehicle usage to determine the viability of moving to electric/hybrid vehicles for pool cars and trades vans and encourage the use of cycling, walking and public transport amongst staff where appropriate.

The Strategy is underpinned by an Action Plan which sets out key actions to be completed each year (Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually).

**Find out more by downloading Langstane Group's Sustainability Strategy:**

[https://www.langstane-ha.co.uk/downloads/Sustainability\\_Strategy\\_2020.pdf](https://www.langstane-ha.co.uk/downloads/Sustainability_Strategy_2020.pdf)