

Scottish Housing Day case study

West of Scotland Housing Association Green Strategy



The West of Scotland Housing Association's Green Strategy was established in October 2020, with the aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the Association, embed their approach to green and sustainability issues, as well as engage the community. The Strategy incorporates five strategic objectives:

- 1. Reduce waste, energy consumption and harmful emissions**
- 2. Improve and enhance the environment of our communities**
- 3. Reduce our carbon footprint and ensure that properties are resilient to the potential impact of climate change**
- 4. Improve the health and wellbeing of staff and communities**
- 5. Work with partners who are environmentally aligned with the Association and are committed to delivering 'green' benefits to the association's assets, customers and communities.**

Whilst the project is in its early stages, the Association has already begun to address a number of issues as part of this Strategy. In order to help minimise commutes to work and reduce transport emissions for example, the Association has committed to no longer opening their office on a Friday and hybrid working will be officially implemented from September 2021.

The Association has also signed up to a cycle to work scheme as well as investing in electric pool cars for staff, both supplemented with plans to install secure and weatherproof cycling storage and necessary infrastructure at the office. All existing lighting in the office has also been replaced with low energy LED lighting.

The Association have also established a Green Strategy Project Team Working Group involving both staff and tenants, to monitor progress and consult on new green initiatives. The Association has also engaged consultants who have provided a report on how their pre-1919 tenemental stock can be brought up to EESSH2 standards. As well as involving staff and tenants, the Association has committed to including two 'green advice' pages in every newsletter, to help raise awareness of climate change and provide advice on energy efficiency and waste.

The Green Strategy has also entailed moving to an energy supplier where 100% of the energy is from renewable sources, as well as two Passivhaus developments due to be completed by 2021. The Association has also approved their first Environmental, Social and Governance statement this year, and is implementing a plan to measure their carbon footprint and set KPI targets by October 2021 (including reporting on scope 1 and 2 emissions).

Find out more by downloading West of Scotland Housing Association's Green Strategy:

<https://www.westscot.co.uk/strategies/>