

Scottish Housing Day case study

Kingdom Housing Association

Ongoing Green Strategy & Sustainability Policy



Kingdom Housing Association have adopted a number of measures to help tackle the climate emergency and deliver their vision to be net zero carbon. This ongoing commitment to sustainability and carbon reduction is underpinned by the Association's Sustainability Policy which is integrated into all aspects of the Association's business, placing this at the heart of policy making, strategic planning and operational activities.

The Policy outlines the Association's commitment to promoting a culture that focuses on educating, training and motivating all staff to conduct their activities in a sustainable manner and also includes a variety of general principles including the use of environmentally friendly and energy efficient materials and processes and minimising waste through evaluating operations to ensure that they are as efficient as possible.

Kingdom has committed to mitigating the carbon footprint of their fleet via a local tree planting project, to offset the 279 tonnes of CO₂e produced from their vans and cars. Kingdom is also looking to add electric and hybrid vans to the fleet, as well as install charging points for electric vehicles to help further a £50,000 commitment to invest in the reduction of their carbon footprint.

The Association's commitment to sustainability highlights the vital role that social housing can play in addressing climate change, representing the **first housing association in the UK to achieve Passivhaus Accreditation for a highly sustainable, net-zero social rent property in 2010**. Since then and following this success, the Association has continued to develop homes to this and other energy efficiency standards and has future plans to develop a further 30 new passivhaus homes for social rent as part of this year's development programme.

Kingdom also previously commissioned a particularly noteworthy project, known as the **Housing Innovation Showcase (HIS)** in Dunfermline, which sought to showcase innovation, modern methods of construction and energy efficiency in affordable housing. This entailed the development of 27 new homes that were built using 10 different house systems, including both off-site modular and panelised. Outcomes from this 4-year project have been subsequently utilised to assess the capabilities of mainstreaming sustainable construction and renewable technologies across Kingdom's affordable housing programme.

Kingdom have voiced their commitment towards embedding a mainstream programme that is centred on sustainability and net carbon, demonstrated through a number of initiatives and ambitions, including current projects; namely, **Queensgate Glenrothes** and **Pilmuir Street Dunfermline**. Both projects will involve the adoption of low carbon heating solutions, tapping into local district heating networks to ensure carbon reductions and a reduced dependence upon fossil fuels. The benefits and lessons learned from the district heating provision will help inform the Scottish Government's future work in their development of a New Build Heat Standard, which will be implemented from 2024.

Find out more by downloading Kingdom Housing Association's Sustainability Policy:

<https://www.kingdomhousing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Sustainability-Policy.docx.pdf>

You can also read Bill Bank's (Kingdom Group Chief Executive) article on Housing & The Climate Emergency here:

<https://www.kingdomhousing.org.uk/blog/housing-the-climate-emergency-an-article-by-bill-banks-kingdom-group-chief-executive/>