

Scottish Housing Day case study

Sanctuary Group

Environment & Climate Change Strategy



Sanctuary's Environment and Climate Change Strategy outlines its commitment to reducing its environmental impact and behaving sustainably for the benefit of customers, communities and the planet. The strategy outlines how Sanctuary is proactively rising to the climate challenge and working towards making a significant contribution to decarbonising the housing sector; aiming to become a net-zero carbon organisation by 2050.

Focusing on fuel poverty, Sanctuary has successfully launched a variety of energy efficiency programmes and delivered large pilots of renewable technology (with 5,412 renewable components installed across its portfolio of homes). Additionally, all new homes are built to high standards of energy efficiency. 59 per cent of Sanctuary's properties are now estimated at an EPC of C or above, and 92 per cent at EPC D or above. As part of the environment strategy, Sanctuary remains committed to ensuring that all homes reach an EPC of at least C by 2030 and will work towards achieving net zero homes by 2050.

Alongside reducing the carbon emissions from their homes, the strategy also outlines Sanctuary's commitment to reducing the environmental impact of its wider operations, such as offices, fleet of maintenance vehicles, and travel policies. Sanctuary also considers a range of environmental impacts, such as ecology, water usage and air quality, alongside carbon, highlighting their wider support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 13 (**Climate Action**). However, while there is particular contribution towards climate action, many of the case studies featured also impact other goals, such as **Life on Land** and **Affordable and Clean Energy**, as well as socially focused goals such as **Good Health and Wellbeing** and **No Poverty**.

A key component of the Strategy involves partnership working. Alongside the Greener Futures Partnership, Sanctuary is also collaborating on a range of other environmental initiatives. The strategy outlines Sanctuary's intention to seek a higher level of engagement with customers on environmental issues, as well as the establishment of an Environment Strategy Working Group – made up of 24 specialists from each area of the organisation - to drive environmental performance.

As well as launching collaborative projects, some of the other priorities in the strategy include:

- **piloting a new approach to Environmental Management Systems;**
- **setting specific carbon reduction targets across key emission areas;**
- **investing £12million during 2021/22 to upgrade the energy performance of over 2000 homes;**
- **using modern methods of construction that contribute to low-carbon and sustainable development;**
- **supporting biodiversity; and**
- **purchasing 100% of its energy from renewable sources.**

The strategy also entails a monitoring and measuring component including the development of a scorecard of environmental performance metrics.

Key case studies from Sanctuary Group:

1) Nitshill, Glasgow

- Two properties in the Nitshill area of Glasgow have achieved the top energy efficiency rating in Scotland
- The homes have been built to the Passivhaus standard; the highest level achievable under Scottish Building Standards
- The residents are expected to benefit significantly from reduced energy bills as well as improved internal air quality

2) Anderston, Glasgow

- A £60 million regeneration project in Anderston has provided for 540 new high-quality, sustainable homes
- The use of an 'iQ' panelised timber frame system and solar photovoltaic panels will also lead to long-term energy savings for residents

3) Heat pump installation

- Improving the energy efficiency of nearly 600 social homes (replacement of heating systems with low carbon alternatives, to bring up to an EPC rating of C or above)

Find out more by downloading Sanctuary Group's Environment and Climate Change Strategy:

https://www.sanctuary-group.co.uk/sites/default/files/quick_media/sanctuary-environment-strategy-june-2021.pdf