



Connect Housing Sustainability Strategy

Connect Housing has acknowledged the Climate Emergency and is committed to reducing our environmental impacts in order to protect our tenants, colleagues and future generations. Aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we will endeavour to improve the long-term environmental and social sustainability of our operations and of the communities that we are a part of. Housing is responsible for a large proportion of UK greenhouse gas emissions and therefore we are in the privileged position of being able to make a significant difference.

Our focus on valued planet, valued home, valued places, valued people

By 2022 our business plan will account for all our carbon emissions and will set out our strategy to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

- We will continue to procure green electricity tariffs in all our operational premises.
- We will not install gas central heating in new developments after 2022.
- We will invest in renewable energy generation on both new and existing developments, as part of our carbon offsetting strategy.
- We will communicate with tenants about sustainability and the journey to net-zero.
- We will use ethical carbon offsetting for any remaining net emissions by 2025.



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- We aim to increase biodiversity in green spaces we manage.
- We will encourage community-led projects and support where appropriate.
- We will use local businesses and employ locally where possible.
- We will support community recovery following flooding, and build resilience.
- We will promote walkways and cycle routes in our new developments.
- Our apprenticeships and graduate schemes will continue to support local people.



Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns

- We will reduce non-recyclable waste from operations and offices through intelligent purchasing and promotion of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle hierarchy.
- We will ensure that recycling contamination at offices is reduced.
- We will avoid where we can the purchase of single use / disposable items.
- We will introduce composting at all our staff bases.
- We will consider the sustainability and ethics of suppliers during procurement.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- We will support colleagues in using public and active transport to reduce car mileage.
- We will adopt a zero-carbon design standard for our new developments.
- We will plan and begin delivery of carbon reduction retrofits to existing properties, taking a proactive approach to installation during maintenance and void periods.
- We will achieve EPC standard of C or above on all properties by 2025.
- We will reduce carbon energy use and fleet emissions by at least 50% by 2025.

We will achieve net-zero scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2025

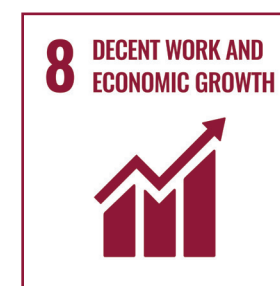
Supporting Other Goals



We are dedicated to helping people with more than just housing needs. We offer properties at low rents, including specialist housing for older people and people with support needs. Our Money Matters financial inclusion services help maximise our tenants' income.



Our support offer for service users encompasses disability, mental health, domestic violence, financial exclusion, homelessness and more. We promote healthy lifestyles amongst colleagues. We are improving our flexible working policy to ensure the best work/life balance for our colleagues.



We employ local people and pride ourselves on being a happy, vibrant workplace where personal and professional development is a priority. We are a Real Living Wage organisation.



We build and buy properties aiming to grow our offer of affordable homes each year. Our developments utilise new technology (including low-carbon) to meet future needs. The safety and condition of our homes is a priority.



We envision and work towards a more sustainable and just society where good homes, neighbourhoods and opportunities help people enjoy happy, healthy lives.



We focus on partnerships with local organisations to maximise positive outcomes for people & communities. For example, Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership and Engage Leeds support people in leading independent, fulfilling lives. Our partnerships ensure we achieve a greater impact than we could deliver on our own.