



Connect Housing Sustainability Strategy

Connect Housing has acknowledged the Climate Emergency and is committed to driving a just transition to a low-carbon economy in order to protect our tenants, colleagues and future generations. Aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we will improve the long-term environmental and social sustainability of our operations and of the communities that we are a part of. We will work with partners to deliver the shared goals of reduced emissions, climate adaptation and resilience, and a just transition that leaves no-one behind.

Our focus on People, Homes, Community, Planet and Purpose

This strategy sets out our ambitions up to 2025. 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.
- We will support tenants in adopting the behaviour changes required to support the future energy mix.
- We will offset remaining emissions from 2025 through renewable energy and climate adaptation projects in our local communities.



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- We will increase biodiversity in the green spaces we manage.
- We will encourage community-led projects which support learning on the climate and ecological crises.
- We will support local businesses in our supply chain, and our apprenticeships and graduate schemes will continue to support local people.
- We will support our communities in the transition towards green jobs and economy.
- We will support community resilience in the face of increasing physical and mental climate impacts.
- We will promote active travel provisions in new developments.
- Our apprenticeships and graduate schemes will continue to support local people.



Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns

- We will reduce in-house waste 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 support our supply chain and community partners in learning about the SDGs.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- We will support uptake of public and active transport to reduce car mileage.
- We will adopt a zero-carbon design standard for our new developments.
- We will establish a direction for whole house retrofits and develop the knowledge and skills of staff in line with this.
- We'll begin retrofit delivery, prioritising projects which will deliver the biggest carbon savings.
- We will achieve EPC standard of C or above on all properties by 2030.
- We will reduce carbon from energy use and fleet by 50% by 2025.

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions: Carbon Neutral by 2025, Net-Zero by 2030. Scope 3 Emissions: Net-Zero by 2050.

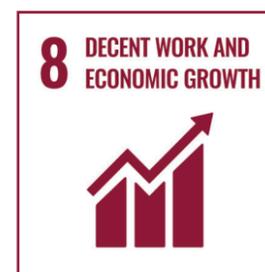
Supporting Other Goals



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. We provide financial support and act to reduce fuel poverty.



We will ensure that works to address the climate emergency do not put residents at increased risk of poverty. In addition to existing support encompassing disability, mental health, domestic violence, financial exclusion, homelessness and more, we will work to increase mental resilience of colleagues and service users in the face of the climate crisis. We promote healthy lifestyles and facilitate flexible working for 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 and benchmark roles. We will seek opportunities to support individuals and communities in the coming transition to green jobs and economy.



We build and buy properties to increase availability of affordable homes. Our developments will be future proof, utilising new technology and learning through collaboration across the sector. The safety and condition of our homes is a priority.



We acknowledge that the climate and ecological crises will impact those who have contributed least to the emergency and particularly those who are already vulnerable & facing inequalities. We envision and work towards a more sustainable society with justice at the core of the decisions we make.



Our focus on partnerships allows us to maximise positive outcomes for people & communities. For example, Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership and Engage Leeds support people in leading independent, fulfilling lives. We also lead on climate work with the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership. represent the region at the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, and work to make the voice of young and under-represented heard at the Chartered Institute of Housing.