



1. Purpose

- 1.1 To outline the principles by which Harvest will demonstrate, monitor and evaluate action to achieve environmental sustainability.

2. Scope

- 2.1 Implementation and review of the policy shall be the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

It shall apply to all staff, Board and Committee Members within the Group and cover all operations, activities and services.

3. References

- 3.1 Reference should be made to the following policies:
- The policy on Continuous Improvement in terms of the delivery of actions identified by the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.
 - The policy on Customer Involvement in terms of the need to involve customers in all aspects of the Group's activity.
- 3.2 For more information on SHIFT (Sustainable Homes Index For Tomorrow) please see the SHIFT website

4. Definitions

- 4.1 SHIFT (Sustainable Homes Index For Tomorrow) is a best practice group run by Sustainable Homes in partnership with the Tenant Services Authority, WWF, Bank of Scotland Corporate and the UK Green Building Council. SHIFT provides an assessment of an organisation's sustainability performance and offers recommendations on how performance can be improved.

5. Policy

5.1 Policy Statement

- 5.1.1 The Group is committed to the development of sustainable practices in order to minimise the negative environmental impacts of its activities.
- 5.1.2 The Group also recognises that it needs to promote environmental good practice to residents, partners, agencies, contractors and staff and ensure that activities undertaken on its behalf are carried out in accordance with good practice guidance.
- 5.1.3. As a business with social objectives the Group has a wider responsibility to promote practices that deliver environmental benefits to its residents and the communities in which it operates, to ensure that activity that it undertakes is sustainable and contributes to improving people's quality of life.



5.1.4 Environmental good practice shall be integrated into all aspects of the Group's work including its administration and support services as well as in the development, maintenance and management of housing. Consideration of potential environmental impacts shall be incorporated as appropriate, into all policies, plans and guidance.

5.2 Implementation

5.2.1 The Environmental Policy will be implemented through an Action Plan which will cover the following areas:

- Adaptation to climate change
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable materials
- Water efficiency
- Hazardous materials
- Municipal waste management
- Construction waste management
- Environmental consideration in neighbourhoods e.g. flytipping
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Green transport
- Resident engagement
- Staff engagement

5.3 Assessment and Performance Monitoring

5.3.1 The Group shall carry out a biannual review to assess progress in addressing environmental issues.

5.3.2 The review will be undertaken using SHIFT who will provide the Group with a report of how they are positioned on the roadmap to meet or exceed all minimum standards set by regulations, recognised standards and best practice.

6. Policy Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years.