



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

COVERAGE

This is a Group wide Policy

LINKS TO OTHER ACCORD GROUP POLICIES

This policy links to the Business Plan

CUSTOMER INFORMATION LEAFLETS

Please see the EMS Statement

FORMS AND OTHER LINKS

Environmental Procedures: 1-18

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POLICY STATEMENT

Accord is committed to continual improvement, always identifying ways to reduce pollution and striving to be the Greenest Housing Association in the UK. The scale of our activities means that our environmental impact is significant and we want to minimise it.

The policy is intended to provide a framework for the setting and reviewing of environmental objectives and targets which form part of the Accord Environmental Management System.

The policy will be communicated to all employees, contractors working for and on behalf of the Group, tenants and stakeholders and will be made available to the public.

POLICY OUTLINE

About Accord

The Accord Group is made up of seven organisations that provide over 13,000 affordable homes and services, including health and social care, to 80,000 people across the Midlands and beyond. We are not-for-profit and one of the largest housing groups in the Midlands, with 4,200 employees and an annual turnover, including new developments, of circa £100 million.

Our partners are **Ashram**moseley Housing Association, bchs, **Caldmore**accord Housing Association, Direct Health, Fry Housing Trust, Heantun Housing Association, and Redditch Co-operative Homes. We also have four partner brands: InDesign, Innovation Works @ Rubery Owen, Home and Garden Services and the Neighbourhood Resource Centre for Central England. The community-led planning model Planning for Real is also hosted by the Group.

The Policy

In particular, we are committed to saving energy, reducing waste, protecting wildlife/biodiversity, preventing pollution, and cutting the amount of carbon and other emissions generated by our operations, our staff and tenants, the homes that we let and our offices.

Responsibility

The Board of Management and Executive Team are committed to this Policy which was proposed by Accords Directors and Senior Managers and approved by Accords Board of Management.

MONITORING, REVIEW & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Accord has a continual improvement process to ensure compliance is maintained with ISO14001 and all applicable legislation and other requirements in line with the expectation of our regulators (which relate to our environmental aspects – see the Accord Group Environmental Management System, Risk Register).

Aspects and Impacts

The Accord group have identified the following impacts which result from its service and operations:

Aspect	Impact
Use of electricity	Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change
Use of natural gas	Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change
Use of vehicles	Air Pollution & Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to Climate Change
Hazardous waste generation	Pollution
Effect on wildlife/ biodiversity	Potential damage to habitats and loss of Biodiversity
Use of office consumables	Depletion of Natural Resources and contribution to climate change
Use of printed materials	Depletion of Natural Resources, Toxicity and contribution to climate change
Use of natural resources e.g. building materials	Depletion of Natural Resources, Toxicity and contribution to climate change
Emissions to air	contribution to climate change and Pollution
Generation of waste	Pollution and Depletion of Natural Resources
Water consumption	Depletion of Natural Resources
Waste water generation	Pollution

Objectives

The Accord Group have agreed the following objectives to which the basis of our targets will be set.

Objective1 - Reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we emit.

Objective 2 - Reducing the primary energy use kWh M² from existing housing stock.

Objective 3 - To conserve and enhance existing biodiversity where ever practicable.

Objective 4 - To reduce the amount of waste we produce.

Objective 5 - To reduce our reliance on energy consumption in business premises and properties from unsustainable sources.

Objective 6 - To encourage sustainable methods of transportation, work and training.

Objective 7 - To minimise the use of water across our organisation.

PROCEDURE

The Executive Team has responsibility for ensuring implementation of the Policy. The Group Management Team has responsibility for implementing the Policy through a co-ordinated environmental management system including setting objectives and targets and will ensure regular audit(s) are conducted.

The Environmental Improvement Team will support the Group Management Team to implement the policy. Accord will make known this Policy to all employees, tenants and stakeholders. Existing forums and regular meetings between Accords suppliers and contractors will be used to communicate the Policy to them.

This Policy has been written so that it is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of Accord's activities, products and services and is intended to provide a framework for the setting and reviewing of environmental objectives and targets.

Signed:

Chris Handy
Group Chief Executive