

Group Environmental Policy



L&Q Foundation

1. **Headline messages**

- **We are a regulated charitable housing association and one of the UK's most successful independent social businesses.**
- **We are committed to putting sustainability at the heart of what we do, making sure that we generate value for society, safeguard the environment and operate our business in a transparent and ethical manner.**
- **We recognise that our activities have an impact on the environment, and that we have a responsibility to consider and minimise these impacts where possible.**

2. **Aims of the policy**

Our Environmental Policy outlines L&Q's core aims and principles in relation to the environmental impact of our operations. It sets the direction for a coordinated and ambitious programme of work across the organisation.

We structure our environmental sustainability efforts into three areas:

1. **Climate Action** – decarbonising our homes and activities, while futureproofing our business, residents and communities against the impacts of climate change.
2. **Resource Efficiency** – using resources more efficiently and minimising the amount of waste produced during the construction, refurbishment and day-to-day management of operational assets.
3. **Healthy Places** – maximising shared value by creating places that are healthy for both people and planet.

Commitments within each of our focus areas have been developed in alignment with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and reflect the ambitions we have set out in our five-year Corporate Plan. The policy also gives us the opportunity to state our commitment to complying with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements. We will require that our suppliers and contractors are also compliant with these obligations.

3. **Scope**

Our commitments include all of L&Q and our subsidiary bodies, including L&Q Estates and Trafford Housing Trust.

The Group Head of Environmental Sustainability has overall management responsibility for this policy which is adopted by all departments. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and we will continue to identify ways that we can improve our environmental performance.

The policy will be communicated to all staff and a copy of this policy is available on our website and on our staff intranet.

4. Policy approach

We recognise that our varied stakeholders benefit from an understanding of our commitments, as well as having visibility of our approach to performance monitoring and reporting. This Policy sets these out, with further detail also available via our [Sustainability Report](#)

4.1 Our Commitments

- We will mitigate climate change by reducing our carbon emissions intensity, procuring purchased electricity from renewable sources, increasing the operational efficiency rate of communal heating systems, developing a long-term decarbonisation plan for our existing portfolio and establishing a roadmap for improving new build efficiency to near net zero
- We will move towards setting science-based carbon reduction targets to support our commitment to being a net-zero carbon business by 2050
- We will ensure climate resilience by conducting a climate risk review of L&Q Group
- We will better manage construction impacts by ensuring that energy, water and waste data is being captured for all construction sites
- We will support sustainable placemaking by establishing environmental design guidelines to be applied to all new developments

4.2 Performance Monitoring & Reporting

- We'll establish an environmental, social and governance framework to enable us to meaningfully measure, monitor and improve our sustainability performance and position ourselves to take up relevant sustainability related financing opportunities
- We will collaborate with others to achieve significant improvement in social impact and social value
- We will report annually on progress in our Sustainability Report, in line with the [Sustainability Reporting Standard for Social Housing](#)

Appendices

1. Assurance

Our full suite of commitments , programmes and responsibility are included in our Sustainability Masterplan, governed via L&Q's Governance & Assurance Group. Risk will be managed via L&Q's Risk Management procedures, with delivery programmes set out via Annual Planning.

Progress will be published annually in our Sustainability Report.

2. Legislation and Regulation

We will comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements. We will ensure our suppliers and contractors are compliant with these obligations.

This includes continuing to comply with the Streamlined Energy & Carbon Reporting (SECR), Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) and the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) where relevant. We will ensure all eligible buildings have Energy Performance Certificates, maintaining our waste in adherence with Controlled Waste Regulations and seeking to reduce significant environmental impacts such as pollution arising from our processes, operations and work activities.

Policy controls sheet

Date of approval: 15th March 2022

Approved by: Governance & Assurance Group

Effective date: March 2022

Next Review date: June 2023

Author: Liz Blackwell, Group Head of Environmental Sustainability

Policy owned by: Fiona Fletcher-Smith, Group Chief Executive

Associated documents: [L&Q Sustainability Report 2021](#), [L&Q Sustainability Finance Framework](#)