



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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1. Introduction & Aims

- 1.1 The Association is committed to the principles and practices of sustainable development.
- 1.2 The Sustainability Policy reflects the overall aims of the Association which include:-
 - Create and sustain communities where people want to live and make a contribution
 - Reduce the energy requirements of our activities and those of our residents
 - Create and sustain a workplace where people want to work and give their best
- 1.3 Sustainability will apply to all aspects of Association operations and development and the policies and action plans that guide these.

2. Definition of Sustainability & Sustainable Development

- 2.1 Sustainability is defined as the capacity to endure. In terms of human sustainability on planet Earth, it recognises that there are natural limits to the interferences that any ecological system can withstand before degradation results. It is this aspect of sustainability that is the focus of this policy.
- 2.2 “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (*Brundtland Definition*)

3. Aspects of Sustainability

- 3.1 There are three main aspects to sustainability:-
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Economic

Their interdependence can be illustrated as shown.



3.2 For the Association:-

- **environment** is our homes and the land around them, and on a wider level Orkney as a whole;
- **society** is our residents and the communities they live in, and the Orkney community as a whole;
- **economy** is the financial aspect of our operations, and how this fits into the Orkney economy.

3.3 Only when all three aspects are dealt with satisfactorily is true sustainability achieved; as shown in the centre of the diagram.

4. Drivers

4.1 The main drivers for ensuring sustainability throughout OHAL's operations are national and international, and include:-

- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Recast) 2010 (EPCs)
- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy

4.2 Other reasons for promoting sustainability include:-

- Enhanced reputation for the Association;
- More sustainable living conditions for our residents and the communities in which they live;
- Financial savings from energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewables
- Benefiting future generations

5. Embedding Sustainability

5.1 Sustainability will be embedded into the operations of the Association and this policy will be referred to in future policy updates, at the appraisal stage of any new projects, in the development of any other relevant work streams and as part of the annual Business Planning process.

5.2 This will ensure that at our activities are assessed for their impact on the sustainability of our business, our people and our environment and our decision-making informed accordingly.

6. Measure of Sustainability

6.1 Along with qualitative objectives, we will aim, where possible, to quantify improvements in order to see how far the objectives have been met, although it is worth bearing in mind the quote attributed to Einstein, that *'not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.'*

- 6.2 The Association initially used the targets in its Carbon Management Plan as a way of quantifying improvements, but the Association will also investigate the adoption of an environmental management system such as the recently revised International Standard ISO 14001:2015.

7. Implementation & Review

- 7.1 The Director of Finance & Asset Management is responsible for ensuring that this Policy is implemented throughout the organisation.
- 7.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every five years.