

Environmental Policy

March 2018

Policy Title:	PRS53 – Environmental Policy
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1. Our policy...

- 1.1 To **create and sustain truly vibrant communities** is our Vision. To support this Vision, we provide first class and accountable housing and services, whilst continuing to reduce our carbon footprint through the adoption of sustainable technology, resources and practices.
- 1.2 Accepting our environmental responsibilities, we are committed to protecting biodiversity, eco systems and promoting sustainable development as a corner stone of our business strategy and we will actively seek partnerships to participate in the implementation of local initiatives.
- 1.3 Ongo is committed to compliance with legislation, pollution prevention and to the continual improvement of environmental performance throughout our operations, services and activities.

2. It applies to...

- 2.1 The organisation, our activities, our procurement and management of contractors, goods and services, and our employees, committees, customers, visitors and to any external organisation supported or engaged by ongo.

3. Because we want to...

- 3.1 The aims of this policy are to ensure that we:
 - Recognise our contribution to meeting sustainability principles and the part we play in protecting the environmental inheritance of future generations.
 - Measure our Carbon Foot Print and seek ways to reduce it;
 - Promote sustainable principles in new development;
 - Minimise waste from our business operations;
 - Extend energy and water efficiency principles in our building design;
 - Seek new opportunities to improve the conditions of our housing stock and immediate surroundings;
 - Promote sustainable transport amongst our staff and customers;
 - Provide energy saving, waste minimisation and water conservation advice to our customers;
 - Encourage the environmental awareness of our staff and customers;
 - Reduce environmental risk arising from accidents and business activities;
 - Create, maintain and promote environmental purchasing principles in our business activities and for the benefit of our customers; and

- Promote improved environmental performance by contractors and suppliers

4. We will...

- 4.1 Continue to develop, implement, monitor and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to recognised standards and maintain our third party accreditation to ISO 14001.
- 4.2 Continue to develop and maintain a programme to identify, review and monitor our significant environmental aspects and reduce and manage our significant impacts.
- 4.3 Seek ways to reduce and manage our significant environmental impacts using;
 - best available techniques
 - best practicable environmental options
- 4.4 Look for opportunities to promote and foster continual improvement in the management of our environmental and sustainability impacts, and set targets.
- 4.5 Continue to seek third party assurance of our environmental management systems and processes.

5. Making sure we do what we say...

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of **all managers** to ensure that:
 - All staff are aware of this policy;
 - All staff are trained on the policies relevant to their role to enable them to be fulfilled;
 - Appropriate action is taken against staff whose actions are inconsistent with this policy.
 - Sufficient resources are provided to implement this policy.
 - Management System Audits, legal compliance audits and other monitoring is conducted where necessary to provide appropriate assurances.

6. Other things to bear in mind are...

- Health & Safety Policy
- Environmental Management System
- Health & Safety Management System
- Procurement Policy

7. We'll look at this again...

- 7.1 In a year's time and as part of the accreditation process for ISO 14001.

