

TOWER HAMLETS COMMUNITY HOUSING

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Policy

1. Statement of Intent

- 1.1 Tower Hamlets Community Housing recognizes the importance of addressing issues raised by the Kyoto summit on climate change in 1997, and in UK Government Energy White Paper in 2003 as amended by the Bali conference and summit of 2007. The white Paper sets out how the UK government intends to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2050; it also sets a target of producing 20% of UK electricity from renewables by 2020, as agreed at the Davos (Switzerland) conference in 2008.
- 1.2 Tower Hamlets Community Housing recognises the role that Housing Providers, Developers and individuals can play in supporting the environmental and sustainability agendas.

2. Policies

- 2.1 Tower Hamlets Community Housing commits to the use of Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy initiatives, on all Development and Regeneration Projects, wherever practical and economically justifiable.
- 2.2 Tower Hamlets Community Housing will consider the environmental impact of its Development programme, and seek to minimize this impact whenever possible.
- 2.3 Tower Hamlets Community Housing will assess Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Initiatives (in particular their cost effectiveness and benefit to residents), using London Renewables Toolkit or similar assessment tools, or by seeking advice from specialist consultants.
- 2.4 Tower Hamlets Community Housing will seek new funding opportunities in support of its Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy initiatives.
- 2.5 Tower Hamlets Community Housing will engage with residents and other stakeholders as part of the development process to review Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development initiatives, and to raise understanding of the “green agenda”.

- 2.6 When selecting contractors Tower Hamlets Community Housing will consider their policies on Renewable Energy Sustainable Development if all else is equal the contractor with the most environmentally friendly policies will be selected.
- 2.7 Tower Hamlets Community Housing commits to seeking ongoing improvement in its use of Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy initiatives and to maintain a list of initiatives employed in the future development programme.
- 2.8 Modern methods of construction will be considered for all new Tower Hamlets Community Housing developments to minimize environmental impact.
- 2.9 The environmental impact of materials and fixtures and fittings used in Tower Hamlets Community Housing developments will be considered including whether they are from sustainable sources and length of journey from origin.
- 2.10 On all new schemes, Tower Hamlets Community Housing will seek to meet the current Housing Corporation Code for Sustainable Homes requirement, and better this standard where practicable and the scheme remains financially viable.
- 2.11 Tower Hamlets Community Housing recognises that running costs related to heating, hot water and electricity use are important to many residents and is committed to combating “fuel poverty”, wherever possible Tower Hamlets Community Housing will provide more than the required level standard of insulation.
- 2.12 New estate planting schemes will consider the introduction of plants that have resistance to drought, such as that contained in the RHS guidance.
- 2.13 Tower Hamlets Community Housing will consider strategies to proactively encourage biodiversity, for example, bat & bird boxes, green walls, green roofs, and planting species which produce food sources like berries and nuts.
- 2.14 Tower Hamlets Community Housing recognises that a Sustainable Community requires other considerations such as the proximity of schools, transport and community facilities and is affected by disruption to social cohesion and demolition / renewal as well as the provision of flexible housing choices to remove overcrowding and underoccupancy.