



Environmental Sustainability

1. Background

This policy sets out Abbeyfield The Dales (ATD) position in relation to achieving high performance in the area of environmental sustainability.

2. Objectives

ATD is committed to providing services that enhance the quality of life for older people and developing services that will meet the needs of future generations. This commitment is based on the Mission and Values of ATD. ATD will also comply with all relevant and current legislation.

3. Scope

All established staff, agency staff and volunteers working in the residential care homes, housing & care developments / sheltered housing and staff based at head office.

4. Policy

ATD is committed to reducing the environmental impact of all areas of its activities and maximising the sustainability of the measures that cascade from this core business policy area. It is also our practice to encourage our suppliers and any business associates to adopt a parallel approach and this is reflected in our procurement processes.

It is our policy to:

- Identify, track and comply with or exceed the requirements of prevailing environmental legislation and recognised positive practice applicable to our housing, care and service delivery operations.
- Ensure that our employees at all levels are aware, kept aware and, where necessary, trained in terms of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring that our environmental policy is effective and sustainable.
- Maximise the use of electronic written communications / documentation at all business levels and, where hard copy material is essential, use recycled paper products.
- Ensure all relevant policies and procedures are accessible via Staff Resources at: <http://www.abbeyfieldthedales.co.uk/staff-resources/> to avoid printing.
- Minimise waste at all levels of the organisation and reuse / recycle as far as is practicable.
- Apply appropriate measures to minimise energy and water consumption in our buildings and housing stock and specify construction methods that maximise thermal performance and meet recognised renewable energy targets for our sector.
- Achieve continuous improvement in terms of pollution emissions from our premises and housing stock and minimise the impact from our operations on the environment and local community.
- Promote the development of initiatives involving, for example, the use of fair-trade, renewable and locally sourced products and services.
- Use and maintain company vehicles in ways that minimise their impact on the environment and also encourage the use of public transport and car sharing where appropriate.

- Identify and use products and services that have the least impact on the environment and encourage suppliers / contractors to do the same.
- Undertake thorough assessments of the environmental impact of any projected new methods or products for use in our organisation.
- Using Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), all new developments are to achieve a minimum of “Very Good”, although we encourage contractors to target “Excellent”. New methods of construction are encouraged where possible to speed construction and minimise waste. Renewable energy sources are included wherever possible and other low carbon measures and water saving techniques employed. All developments are to be assessed and reviewed on an individual basis by specialist consultants to ensure that all areas of sustainability are explored.

5. Finance, Value for Money & Social Value

N/A

6. Supported Appendices

N/A

7. Linked Policies

N/A

8. Legislation/Regulation

The Climate Change Act 2008

Energy Act 2011

Environmental Protection Act 1990

Environmental Act 1990

9. Review

Every 2 years or subject to any regulatory or legislative updates.

10. Procedure/Guidance

N/A