



Environmental Policy

Regulation & Legislation	This policy has key links with, but is not limited to, the Climate Change Act (2008), the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and the Environment Act. The full Orbit Environmental Register of Legislation can be found in related items
Approved by	Corporate Services SMT – July 2021
Supporting documents	Sustainability Strategy; Environmental Delivery Plan 2021-25; Net Zero Carbon Roadmap; Biodiversity Approach; EMS 01 Environment Manual
Scope	The policy outlines Orbit's approach to managing environmental impact.
Reference to "Orbit" means Orbit Group which consists of Orbit Group Limited, Orbit Housing Association Limited, Orbit Homes (2020) Limited, Orbit Treasury Limited and Orbit Capital Limited.	

1. Introduction

Over 100,000 people live in Orbit's more than 46,000 properties. Our aim is to ensure the homes we provide and the places we create are high quality, safe and sustainable.

Orbit recognise and understand the importance of protecting the environment and the urgency with which businesses must act in response to the current climate and ecological emergency. We acknowledge that we have an impact on the environment both directly, through our business operations, and indirectly, through our supply chain and customers. This policy seeks to address this collective impact, it applies to all our employees, business operations and those working with us or on our behalf.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Our Aims

Orbit has developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) to identify and reduce our environmental impacts and to become a more sustainable organisation. Our **Orbit Earth** environmental programme has been developed to drive sustainable change across three main themes:

- **Climate action to become net zero carbon**
We aim to reduce our direct emissions by 50% by 2030, offsetting residual emissions where difficult to eliminate entirely. We will reduce our indirect emissions through an ambitious investment programme in our existing dwellings, bringing all our homes to EPC C or higher by 2030. We will enhance our new build standards and conduct significant engagement with our customers and our supply chain.
- **Enhancement of outdoor spaces to improve the quality of natural resources including biodiversity, land, water, and air**

We aim to improve our outdoor spaces to support the health and wellbeing of our customers and surrounding communities. These improvements will seek to protect and enhance the natural environment and increase their resilience to a changing climate by ensuring 30% of our outdoor green spaces support nature's recovery by 2030.

- **Sustainable consumption to manage resources, materials, and products responsibly**

We aim to transition to a circular economy where resources are sourced, produced, used, and disposed of sustainably. We will adopt a life cycle approach where efficiency is optimised, and waste avoided, reducing avoidable waste generated by 15% per direct build plot and sending zero non-hazardous waste to landfill or incineration by 2030.

2.2. Our Approach

- **Responsible stewardship to control risk, manage performance and ensure resilience**

We will operate an EMS, certified to ISO14001, to guarantee compliance with legislation, approved codes of practice and reporting commitments. By regularly reviewing non-compliances and our aspects and impacts and setting environmental targets we commit to delivering continual improvement whilst continuing to grow.

- **Customer Engagement and involvement**

We will build and maintain high quality homes, build thriving communities and work to improve the quality of the environment for current and future generations. We will collaborate and co-create with customers to shape our services and deliver our Orbit Earth programme. We will engage with customers through individual engagement, local engagement and strategic engagement via existing communication channels, consultation meetings and surveys.

- **Strong partnerships to develop a sustainable supply chain**

We will embed sustainable design and decision-making into our supply chain. By analysing our expenditure and indirect environmental impacts, we will target key suppliers to engage with to reduce environmental impacts and transition to net zero carbon. We will also work to develop the innovations, capacity building and green skills required to deliver our Orbit Earth programme.

- **Shape culture to drive environmental awareness and have a positive impact on society**

We will provide training and education to our employees on environmental impacts and their role in helping to embed change. By listening to and seeking others' views we can support our supply chain and customers to better understand environmental issues, provide suitable resources and encourage them to take positive actions.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 All Orbit employees and subcontractors have a responsibility to be aware and adhere to this policy and the environmental procedures that sit beneath it.
- 3.2 The Head of Sustainability shall manage implementation of the policy and monitor and report on performance.

- 3.3 The Orbit Earth Steering Group shall provide strategic oversight of this policy.
- 3.4 The Sustainability Steering Group shall oversee our sustainability targets, monitor performance and approve the annual sustainability report.
- 3.5 Senior leaders shall ensure that suitable resources are provided to support compliance with this policy and the wider environmental management system.

4. Performance Controls and Business Risk

- 4.1 Compliance with this policy will be monitored by the Environmental Sustainability team.
- 4.2 Performance in the delivery of the service will be assessed by the Head of Sustainability and reported to the Business Services Director monthly.
- 4.3 Performance will be shared monthly via the Corporate Services Senior Management Team (SMT) and quarterly to all SMTs, the Sustainability Steering Group and Executive Team. An annual report will also be prepared that will summarise environmental performance. This will go through a series of management review stages consisting of Senior Management Team, Operating Association Boards, Group Executive Team, and ultimately to the Group Board.
- 4.4 Orbit will carry out a fundamental review of this policy every year or sooner subject to legal, regulatory changes or if internal changes require it.

5. Essential information

- 5.1 All Orbit policies and procedures are developed in line with our approach to the following, Data Protection statement, Equality Diversity and Inclusion approach, Complaints Policy and our regulatory and legal obligations to ensure we deliver services in a lawful manner and treat people equally and fairly. Details of these are found on the declaration document for Strategy Policy and Procedure summary and have been an integral part of the formulation of this document. Orbits privacy policy can be accessed on our website. www.orbit.org.uk/privacy-policy/.

EA	Equality Analysis was completed in March 2020 and is available to view.
DPIA	A DPIA was approved in July 2020 and is available to view.
Consultation	Internal: ET
	External: n/a
Applies to	Business wide

Document control

Status	Date Issued	Version	Revision
Published	31/8/2023	V2.3	

Uncontrolled if Printed

Title	Environmental Policy	ID	190
Doc Type	Policy	Review Cycle	Annual
Circulation	All Departments	Classification	Public

Doc Level 2

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Directorate

		Date
Approved by	David March	August 2023
Last review		August 2022
	Next Review (or sooner if changed)	August 2024

Revision History

Version Number	Date	Comments / Reason for revision
V1.0	June 2019	Create new Environmental Policy reflecting Orbit Earth
V2.0	June 2020	Change template and revision to policy to reflect new priorities
V2.1	June 2021	Revision to incorporate EMS and Orbit 2025
V2.2	August 2022	Minor amendments at planned annual review
V2.3	August 2023	Revision to include key targets and customer engagement