



**Yorkshire
Housing**

Sustainability strategy

2026-2036



Sustainability the YH Way!

At Yorkshire Housing, we're all about making sure you have a healthy, safe place you're proud to call home. Looking after our environment, our communities, and our future while we do this is the focus of this strategy.

We want to keep sustainability at the heart of all we do at Yorkshire Housing. This strategy aims to support and strengthen the sustainability commitments already embedded across our Business and Active Asset Management Strategies.

We're at the start of our journey so we'll review this strategy and our sustainability roadmap every two years and update our ambitions as we learn more about our current position and the ever-changing landscape.

We've shaped our Sustainability Strategy to line up with [Sustainability Reporting Standard for Social Housing](#) (SRS) which we adopted back in 2022 and the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) shown in [appendix 1](#).

Both standards set goals that are all about building a healthier, fairer, and greener world for everyone. The SDGs tackle the big stuff – like poverty, inequality, climate change, and making sure we all live in a world that's peaceful and just. The SRS give us clear criteria and metrics to track and report on our progress.

We are committed to monitoring and reporting against all the criteria in the SRS and we've also chosen to focus on key SDGs that really speak to what we do here at Yorkshire Housing.

By focusing on these, we can show how we're doing our bit – cutting down on the negatives and boosting the positives for people and the planet.

Sustainability the YH Way!

We know that we can't do it all at once, so we'll use the simple sustainability principle of taking a balanced approach to our environmental, social and economic impact.

We also know that sustainability in social housing is an ever-evolving landscape in terms of best practice and regulation, so we'll remain steadfast in our commitment but ensure flexibility is built into our approach to respond to future challenges and opportunities.

This ten-year strategy will be the foundation of our ambition to be a net zero carbon housing provider by 2050 and we'll focus on our core material impacts under three key themes:



Our environment

From the homes we build and maintain right down to the tea we buy that fuels our fantastic teams across Yorkshire, we recognise and want to address the impact this has on the environment.



Our communities

Our communities play a crucial role in enhancing sustainability at Yorkshire Housing; And by communities we're not just talking about the places where our homes are, we're talking about our colleagues, customers, stakeholders and other housing providers across Yorkshire and beyond.



Our future

We want Yorkshire Housing, our people, places and homes to be fit for the future. We're here to do the right thing not the easy thing and that's why we've always got our eye on what's next.

Key theme:

Our environment



Our environment

From the homes we build and maintain right down to the tea we buy that fuels our **fantastic teams** across Yorkshire, we recognise and want to address the impact this has on the environment.

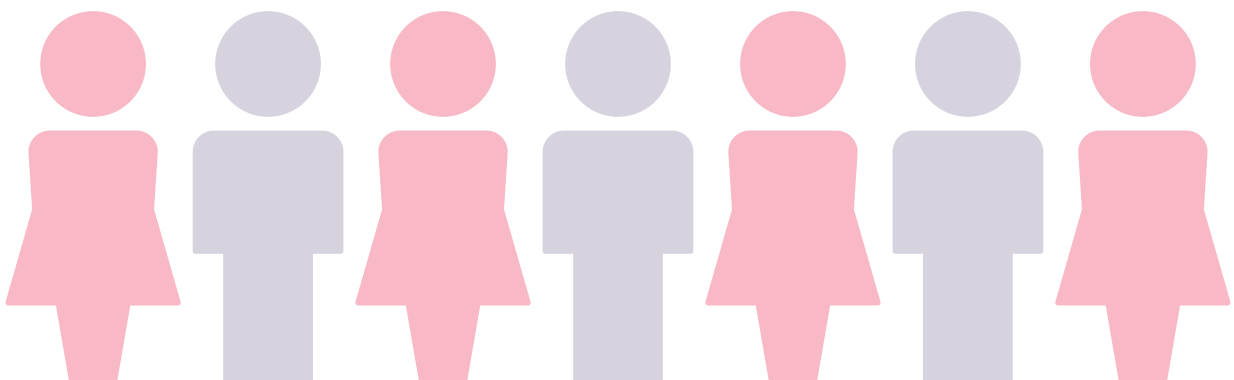
We are **committed** to making year on year improvements in our environmental impact.



Improvements

Tea!

Our fantastic teams



Our environment

How we'll make it happen:

Decarbonisation of our homes and business operations by 2050

We want to be a net zero carbon housing provider by 2050 and we're not just saying that we're doing it starting with our head office, The Place, a net zero carbon building in the heart of The Climate Innovation district in Leeds. Through our Active Asset Management Strategy and our Yorkshire Homes 2.0 standard we're already rolling out low carbon heating, renewable energy and smart tech across our homes.

Through the life of this strategy, we'll build on this foundation by:

-  Scoping our full carbon impact, developing a data improvement plan and mapping an achievable pathway to net zero carbon emissions by 2026.
-  Ensuring all our existing homes meet EPC C by 2030 at the latest. We'll also maintain our healthy homes commitment and plan our net zero homes pathway out to 2050.
-  Planning our transition away from gas heating for our all our homes post 2030.
-  And ensuring all empty homes are re-let at EPC C with net zero ready measures where possible for post 2030 transition.
-  Developing new homes that are 100% low carbon heat, net zero ready and meet the Future Homes Standard. We're aiming to achieve net zero carbon on all our new developments by 2035.
-  Ensuring continual improvement of our Yorkshire Homes 2.0 standard. Building more energy efficiency and net zero readiness into our business-as-usual asset investments.
-  Developing a decarbonisation plan for our hub, home, roam approach to working by 2028.
-  Developing a fleet decarbonisation and sustainable travel plan to year on year reduce our travel impact.

Our environment: What this might look like...



Retrofit

We'll deliver place based retrofit projects for our customers.



Greener vehicles

We'll support our colleagues with electric car transitions.



Solar

We'll aim to install solar PV and battery storage at some of our colleague hubs.



Our environment

How we'll make it happen:

Enhancing biodiversity, preventing pollution & supporting nature recovery

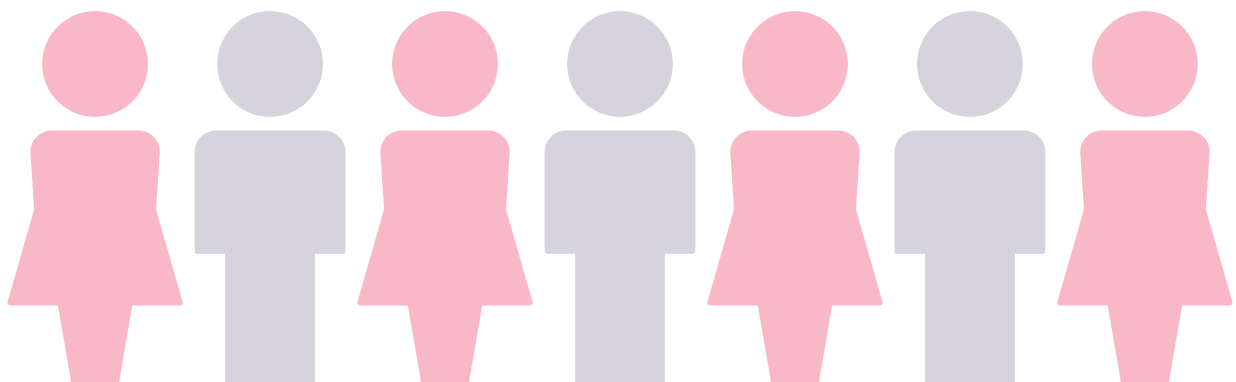
Biodiversity and nature recovery are essential enablers to decarbonisation, climate resilience and the health and wellbeing of our customers.

That's why we will be:

-  Developing an action plan to enhance our existing green spaces and land management practices in line with the UK Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to 2030.
-  Ensuring we meet or, where we can, exceed biodiversity net gain targets for our new homes Including development and delivery of our own landscape code for new homes.
-  Working with key stakeholders on community and place led approaches to enhancing the natural environment and access to these spaces for all.
-  Developing a plan to monitor, manage and reduce the pollution generated by our operations with a keen focus on energy, waste, water and air quality.

Nature

Climate resilience



Our environment: What this might look like...



Home for nature

We'll rollout bee, swift and bat bricks across all our homes.



Water capture

We'll look at water capture as part of our development and retrofit programs.



Flower power

We'll support the development of community orchards.



Our environment

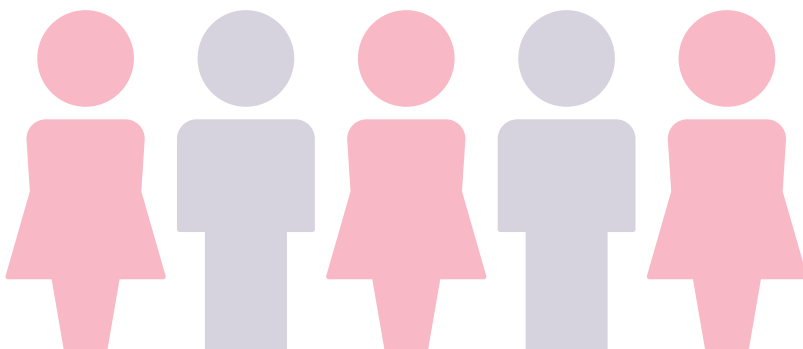
How we'll make it happen:

Resource management

Managing our resources and working in the right way with the right people will help us to be a more sustainable, affordable and resilient housing provider.

To achieve this, we will:

-  Continue to embed sustainability and social value into all our procurement activity, making year on year improvements for our business operations, new and existing homes. We will focus on decarbonisation and circular economy principles to do this using the ISO 20400 framework as our guide.
-  Look after the Yorkshire pound by supporting Yorkshire based contractors, suppliers and businesses; both in terms of direct support through our procurement and upskilling support.
-  Map our supply chain and assess our carbon and ESG risks to develop a sustainable supply chain plan by 2030. We'll hold a supply chain summit to take direct action with our suppliers.
-  Continue to implement and develop our smart operational delivery plans through work scheduling and just in time supply systems.
-  We will develop a waste and recycling plan and set clear targets to become a zero waste to landfill organisation by 2035.



More sustainable...

Brilliant!

Our environment:

What this might look like...



Social value

We'll increase social value and sustainability weighting across all procurement activity.



Reuse

We'll open repair, reuse and up-cycling hubs for our communities.



Green skills

We'll support Yorkshire businesses to further their green skills.



Key theme:

Our communities



Our communities

How we'll make it happen:

Our communities play a crucial role in enhancing sustainability at Yorkshire Housing; And by communities we're not just talking about the places where our homes are, we're talking about our colleagues, customers, stakeholders and other housing providers across Yorkshire and beyond. We recognise the need for collaborative place-based approach to sustainability that's why we will:

-  Focus on place making for our customers and their local communities. We'll ensure sustainability and fairness are key components of our plans. We'll listen to our communities and act on feedback.
-  Ensure our customer and colleague experience teams continue to embed sustainability, equality, diversity, wellbeing and fairness into the support we offer. We will also ensure customers and colleagues have the have their say and hold us accountable.
-  Create a sustainability learning and development plan for our colleagues and work with our customers, local schools, colleges and contractors to foster and strengthen green skills and knowledge both within YH and throughout Yorkshire.
-  Strengthen the affordable warmth support already offered by our customer experience team by developing a fair and affordable warmth plan, rolling out energy advice training to all customer facing colleagues and increasing use of smart energy management tools and tenant engagement platforms to monitor and reduce energy use.
-  Actively engage with key stakeholders and partnerships throughout Yorkshire to broaden and enhance our capabilities and capacity to build sustainable communities.
-  Collaborate with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to build their capacity to tackle environmental and social challenges.
-  Assess, monitor and report on our social value impact including setting targets for the future.

Our communities:

What this might look like...



Customer voice

We'll develop place-based customer voice sustainability forums.



New skills

We'll up-skill our homes operatives for a low carbon future.



Smart tariffs

We'll roll out smart energy tariffs and community energy trials.



Key theme:

Our future



Our future

How we'll make it happen:

We want Yorkshire Housing, our people, places and homes to be fit for the future. We're here to do the right thing not the easy thing and that's why we've always got our eye on what's next. We'll work across Yorkshire to:

-  Ensure our homes are climate resilient. We'll identify flood and overheating risks and develop a long term action plans with key stakeholders to mitigate risks and protect our customers, homes and business operations from the impact of extreme weather.
-  Develop new homes that meet needs now but are ready for what the future holds. We'll use sustainable materials and where possible modern methods of construction (MMC) to reduce embodied carbon and align all new developments with the UK's net zero by 2050 target.
-  Continue researching and developing the smart capabilities of our homes and services to get the best out of all technology for our customers and colleagues
-  Seek funding and innovation opportunities to support the sustainable development of Yorkshire Housing so we can continue to offer our services long into the future.

Fit...

For the future



Our future: What this might look like...



Low-risk overheating

We'll ensure 100% of our homes are at low-risk of overheating.



Smarter homes

We'll roll out smart home technology to all our homes.



Net Zero

We'll build Net Zero homes by 2035.



Roadmap and implementation

Based on what we know now, we've developed a **sustainability roadmap** with key millstones we want to achieve over the next 10 years.

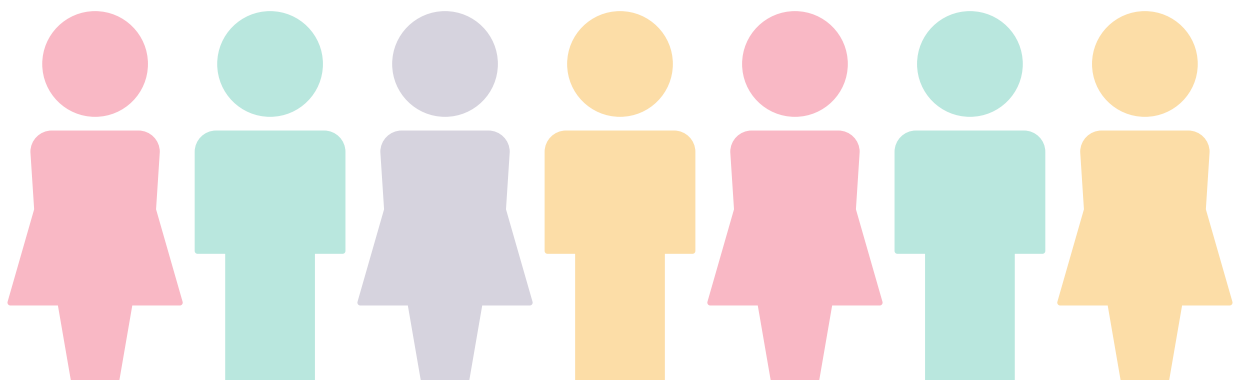
Over the life of this strategy, we expect to learn, grow and respond to customer and colleague feedback and changes in the sector. With this in mind, our roadmap will grow and change in line with our commitment to a two yearly review cycle.

Over the first two years of our roadmap, we'll leave no stone unturned as we get to grips with our current performance and unearth the great things we can develop up to 2035 and beyond.

Learn

Grow

Respond



Our roadmap...

2026

- Development of Net Zero Pathway
- Roll out of carbon data improvement plan
- Roll out of colleague engagement and training plan
- Development of service level sustainability action plans
- Fleet decarbonisation review
- Affordable warmth plan development.

2027

- Flood and overheating risk assessment
- Social value impact assessment
- Biodiversity action plan development.

2028

- 100% solid and oil fuel heat removed
- Fleet decarbonisation plan developed.

2029

- 100% colleagues are carbon literate
- YH Hub decarbonisation plan.

2030

- Develop gas heat transition plan
- Sustainable procurement framework embedded.

2031

- 100% homes EPC C or higher
- Hold first supply chain summi.

2032

- 100% communal heat networks are low carbon
- Strategy review year.

2033

- 50% electric fleet.

2034

- Strategy review year
- All YH hubs net zero carbon.

2035

- 100% new homes Net Zero carbon
- Net Zero waste organisation.

Framework, governance and accountability

This strategy will be a lens that we look at all our activities through on our way to fully embedding sustainability into Yorkshire Housings DNA.

We're already signed up to the Sustainability Reporting Standard for Social Housing, which means we're getting better at tracking how we're improving sustainability at YH.

We'll use the SRS ESG, national carbon reporting standards and business strategy reporting to measure our performance and keep you in the loop on our journey to becoming a net zero carbon, customer obsessed, pre-emptive housing provider.

We want to ensure sustainability is something everyone at YH does and hold the right people accountable to make sure this happens.

We'll embed sustainability across YH business operations and deliver this strategy by:

- Having a sustainability champion at Board and SLT level to keep us on track
- Building sustainability into our colleague behaviour and values expectations
- Ensure sustainability is a main agenda item in all our core committees
- Bringing everyone together to make sure we're all on the same page and taking responsibility for sustainability and environmental impact in each of our directorates
- Committing to continual improvement and align with all relevant government policy and regulation.

Thanks for being part of our journey to a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future. Together, we can make a big difference!



Appendix 1:

Sustainable Development Goals



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

