

The Green Agenda

Leaseholder Forum
Friends Meeting House
Wednesday 27th January 2pm



Introduction

- Environmental issues are more topical today than ever before.
- As individuals, we are constantly being told to waste less, recycle more, consider our carbon footprints...and so on
- This is also true for housing associations where there is increasing pressure from the Government and regulators to improve environmental performance.
- But, with so many variables involved – how does a housing association like Arcon measure and improve environmental performance...



The Beginning

- Arcon's 'green journey' began a few years ago.
- An environmental policy was developed and implemented.
- The policy made broad references to the usual things you would expect such as recycling, energy efficiency and sustainable homes.
- And...?



Small Steps

- Recycling – as more and more local authorities began to offer recycling bins for the home, this became easier than ever. Facilities also became available for communal schemes – ideal for those living in flats or smaller houses.
- Energy Efficiency – funny shaped light bulbs were starting to appear.
- Sustainable Homes – As homes for life were introduced, more long term solutions were considered such as more energy efficient boilers.

Starting to walk

- Last year, Arcon signed up to an environmental business pledge with Manchester City Council.
- The first part of the pledge is concerned with the office premises and the city centre area directly surrounding it.
- The idea is that we complete a number of tasks to receive a bronze award. The tasks enable us to quantify some of the areas where we have already done work and help us to improve in others.
- This work is now 80% complete and we should be able to apply for an award over the next few months.



.. a bit quicker

- Towards the end of last year, as an Association we felt that we were well on our way with the whole 'green thing' but were still struggling to bring it altogether so it was meaningful and could be quantified.
- We have since appointed a company called SEQM to carry out a full environmental review of the association. This will summarise where we are at just now and provide direction for where we need to go, areas to focus on and so on.
- The results of the review are due in the next month or so. This will enable us to build up an action plan and make some definite changes and improvements.

Check progress..

- we have increased our recycling
- we have reduced our paper usage by printing double sided or considering do we really need to print
- emailing wherever possible
- we have become more proactive switching things off
- we have made more people aware of environmental issues – staff and residents
- environmental issues are considered as part of planning and building strategies
- energy efficiency is considered by maintenance when replacing boilers

..in the distance

- We want to continue to do as much as we are doing and more
- We also want to encourage our residents to do as much as they can for the environment.
- Eventually more information will be provided on the website regarding environmental issues.
- There will be more articles in newsletters.
- Let us know if you have any ideas or if there is anything you would like to see.



What can you do..?

- Recycle wherever possible – if your scheme has no recycling facilities and you would like them get in touch with the housing officer for your scheme or the local authority and something can be arranged.
- Re-use if you can or pass on to somebody who will
- Switch off lights etc wherever you can – you will also see the benefit on your next bill
- Use energy saving light bulbs
- Don't leave things on standby or switched on at the plug
- Use email and the internet

..and finally..

- So going back to the original question..

‘how does a housing association like Arcon measure and improve environmental performance...’

- Any questions...

