



NextGeneration Sustainability Benchmark 2011 Criteria

Strategy Governance and Risk Management

Strategy

- Board-approved policy in place outlining the company's approach to sustainability, related objectives and targets, a commitment to measuring performance and evidence of engaging with external stakeholders.

Governance

- Clear governance structures in place at a management level showing Board-driven implementation of the company sustainability strategy, including business objectives and remuneration.
- Identification of responsibilities for implementing the sustainability strategy at an operational level (both product and offices), supported by a structured training programme.

Risk management

- Core business risk analysis and reporting accounts for sustainability issues and company identifies the commercial implications of these.
- Sustainability risks are discussed in the risk section of financial reporting alongside other corporate risks.

Disclosure

- Disclosure covers environmental, social and economic issues, includes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), management and performance targets
- Information is assured internally or using external processes and standards and the assurance approach is disclosed.

Research and Development

- Company has undertaken good practice research in the last 12 months in one or more of the following areas: the Code for Sustainable Homes, carbon and climate change, strategies for effective stakeholder engagement at development sites, achieving long term economic sustainability for its developments and social sustainability



Impact on the Environment

Environmental Management

- An externally certified Environmental Management System is in place covering all sustainability impacts related to the business.
- Internal, Director led and external site visits take place on a six-monthly basis.
- Commitment to Sustainable Building Standards:
- Company has completed and reported on the number of public and private dwellings built to the Code for Sustainable Homes and EcoHomes standards.

Ecology

- The protection and enhancement of the ecological value of sites is addressed through a policy
- Company provides case studies of best practice ecological enhancements on site
- The number of sites which can demonstrate that ecology is actively managed throughout planning, design and construction are measured.

Climate Change

- Board-approved policy in place outlining the company's approach to climate change, related objectives and targets, a commitment to measuring performance and evidence of engaging with external stakeholders on this issue.

Energy

- Operational energy consumption or CO2 production is measured, annual targets are set to improve performance and the company commits the business to aspirational long-term objectives.
- Energy efficiency of the company's product is addressed.

Water

- Operational water consumption is measured, annual targets are set to improve performance and the company commits the business to aspirational long-term objectives.
- Water efficiency of the company's product is addressed.

Domestic Waste

- Commitment and contribution to reducing waste and increasing recycling through communication with customers and the provision of facilities to recycle more effectively.

Transport

- Commitment to reducing car dependency on developments through the use of innovative transport initiatives and the integration of cycle storage on developments.
- The proximity of developments to public transport is measured across all sites.

Procurement & Supply Chain Management

- An externally audited sustainable procurement policy and procedures are in place ensuring the company addresses its supply chain management and material specification processes in relation to environmental and socio-economic issues.
- There is evidence of having applied the policies and procedures in practice.

Construction Waste

- Construction waste is measured and reported, annual targets are set to improve performance and the company commits the business to long-term objectives.

Construction Site Management

- Company measures carbon emissions and water consumption arising from site activities, and details the air and water pollution controls in place.

Impact on the Society and the Economy

Health and Safety

- A comprehensive health and safety policy and management system is in place
- Internal, Director led and external site visits take place on a regular basis.
- Average accident and incident rates are measured and performance improvement targets are set.
- All construction site operatives (and sub-contractors) are Construction Skills Certificate Scheme trained.

Considerate Construction

- All sites are signed up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.
- The average score exceeds 32 points.

Employment

- Company has a commitment to and can provide evidence of contributing to developing skills within the industry during the construction process
- Company has a commitment to and can provide evidence of leaving an economic legacy through long-term employment creation.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Identification and engagement with key stakeholders on both a strategic and project level.
- Use of best practice approaches to stakeholder engagement across all development sites.

Customer Engagement:

- Potential customers are provided with information on the sustainability credentials of the dwelling/development.
- Buyers/tenants are provided with comprehensive information regarding the home/development's sustainability features and how to live a sustainable lifestyle
- Company measures and reports its customer satisfaction data

Sustainable Communities:

- All sites are designed and built to the principles of Lifetime Homes and Secure By Design.
- Design protocols are based on Building for Life and other best practice guidance.
- Public realm in developments promotes outdoor recreation by different groups, health, heritage and community interaction.
- Environmental infrastructure (energy/water/waste) is used on all projects.
- Post occupancy evaluation to determine the success of sustainable design is undertaken on projects.