

POLICIES & PROCEDURES OF THE NORTHERN GEELONG RENTAL HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE LTD

POLICY NUMBER 28: POLICY NAME: ENVIRONMENTAL

Version No. 2

Established: 2008

Present Version Passed: 9/8/2022

Next Scheduled Review: 2024

PURPOSE

Northern Geelong Rental Housing Co-operative (NGRHC) recognises the need to responsibly co-exist within the wider natural environment. NGRHC aspires to minimise its impact on our environment and maximise the effective use of resources.

This Environmental Policy is intended to provide a framework in the development of a culture of environmental responsibility within the Co-operative. It aims to establish effective procedures for a number of sound environmental practices within the Co-operative's operations.

RELEVANT CO-OPERATIVE OBJECTIVES

Housing Registrar Performance Standards for Registered Housing Providers.

SCOPE

- All renter-members, staff, and contractors
- New building projects
- Existing managed properties

POLICY STATEMENT

Northern Geelong Rental Housing Co-operative commits itself to minimising its impact on our environment through the following mechanisms:

- Providing a safe and healthy workplace
- Creating an environmentally aware culture within the Co-operative
- Conserving natural resources by reusing and recycling
- Using in our own operations processes that do not adversely affect the environment
- Ensuring the responsible use of energy throughout the organisation
- Participating in efforts to improve environmental protection and understanding within the community
 - Conducting regular evaluations of the implementation of this policy
 - Working with suppliers and contractors who promote sound environmental practices

All energy reduction and environmental management practices undertaken by the Co-operative must not negatively impact occupational health and safety or result in discrimination of renter-members and staff.

Policy Guidelines

Northern Geelong Rental Housing Co-operative (NGRHC) will:

- act promptly and responsibly to correct incidents or conditions that endanger health, safety, or the environment. It will report any such incidents to the relevant authorities promptly and inform affected parties as appropriate.
- reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials, and use recyclable packaging and other materials - where feasible.
- minimise materials and energy use, prevent air, water, and other pollution, and dispose of waste safely and responsibly.
- conserve energy by improving energy efficiency and giving preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible.
- utilise its knowledge and experience to contribute to environmentally sustainable techniques, technology, knowledge and methods.
- conduct self-assessments of its compliance with this policy, measure its progress against its environmental goals, and report its success periodically to its members.
- include in its criteria for selection of suppliers and contractors their environmental performance.
- recognise renter-members and staff who act within an environmentally responsible manner.
- ensure new projects will adhere to the design standards (as a minimum) required by Homes Victoria which include: NatHERS 7 star, Greenstar 5 star and silver standard Livable Housing Australia design guidelines (these standards are subject to change without notice).
- demonstrate a commitment to Social Procurement Guidelines in accordance with Homes Victoria requirements.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Equipment Use and Purchasing
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

- Environmental Protection Act 2017
- Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations 1985
- <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/contact-worksafe>

Transparency and accessibility

This policy will be available on the NGRHC website www.ngrhc.org.au/policy