

Waste Management Policy

Policy Statement

Purpose

This policy outlines Orwell Housing Association's commitment to responsible waste management across all properties and operations. It supports our broader Environmental and Sustainability policy and strategy, including our goal to become carbon zero by 2050, by reducing waste, promoting recycling, and minimising emissions associated with waste disposal.

We will continue to review and update our Orwell strategic plan, our ESG report and our Asset Management strategic Plan 2023-27 to reflect all aspirations outlined in this policy.

This policy applies to:

- All Orwell Housing Association colleagues, contractors, and suppliers.
- All residential and communal properties managed by Orwell Housing Association.
- All waste generated through maintenance, repairs, refurbishment, and estate services.

Legal Obligations

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Environmental Act 2021
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Duty of Care Regulations
- Hazardous Waste Regulations
- The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2025

Orwell's Commitment

- Orwell is committed to reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill.
- To promote re-use and recycling wherever possible.
- To separate waste before its collected and always separate dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass, paper, and card), food waste and non-recyclable waste in accordance with the changes that came into force on the 31 March 2025.
- To ensure safe and legal disposal of all waste types.
- To educating tenants and colleagues on sustainable waste practices.
- To work with local authorities and waste contractors to improve waste outcomes.
- To support our target to be carbon zero by 2050, by reducing waste-related emissions and encouraging low-carbon waste solutions.

- Consideration will be given to the design and implementation of waste management systems and services, to ensure they are as inclusive and as accessible as possible
- We will provide clear guidance on bulk waste disposal and work with local councils to address fly-tipping, as well as discouraging residents from leaving large items in communal areas.
- To ensure colleagues and contractors segregate waste on-site where feasible, use licensed waste carriers, provide waste transfer notes and disposal records, reuse or recycle materials where possible and consider low-carbon disposal methods to support our net zero goal.
- To ensure that hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos, paint, clinical, chemicals, batteries) are handled by qualified professionals and disposed of in accordance with legal requirements.
- We will review waste management practices annually.
- We will conduct monthly progress meetings with Orwell's waste management contractor to ensure compliance.
- We will conduct spot checks and audits to ensure compliance.
- Progress towards our carbon zero by 2050 target will be monitored and reported.
- Colleagues and contractors will receive training on waste responsibilities and carbon reduction.
- Tenants will be provided with information on local waste services, recycling, and how they can contribute to our environmental goals, with feedback informing improvements
- We will seek opportunities to reduce waste generation, reduce recycling rates and waste going to landfill, partner with local initiatives and charities for re-use schemes and explore innovative, low-carbon waste solutions to support our carbon zero by 2050 ambition.

Roles and Responsibilities

Those responsible for the implementation of this Policy and Procedure:

- Head of Repairs and Estates: to oversee implementation and compliance with this policy.
- Estate Services Teams: monitor waste issues on estates and report concerns.
- Contractors: compliance with this policy and must provide evidence of responsible waste handling.
- Tenants: encouraged to follow local waste guidance and report any issues.