

Decarbonising the AHB Sector

Recommendations from the Housing Alliance Report

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An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency



Methodology

Fig 2: Five stage process adopted for this project.



- A materiality-based approach
- All research and stakeholder engagement was completed in 2022, and the report was presented to the Housing Alliance Board in March 2023 and launched in September 2023.
- Key authors, Sustainability Works and Susan Vickers of Cluid Housing

Background and key insights – challenges and opportunities

All sectors of the Irish economy will have to decarbonise to meet national climate targets, including the Approved Housing Body (AHB) sector.

Challenges

Access to Finance for retrofits

Divergence between government and AHB views on finance

Limited awareness of whole-life carbon emissions

Opportunities

AHB's as strategic partners for large-scale projects

Driving green procurement practices in the supply chain

Innovation to tackle multiple issues (labor shortages, cost efficiency)

Recommendations

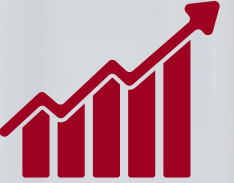
Set the agenda for the AHB sector by agreeing an ambitious common decarbonisation target, aligned with national targets.

Spearhead the development of a Decarbonisation Guide for AHBs to support the delivery of targets and commitments.

Establish a Housing Alliance climate action working group, a networking group where members can learn, collaborate and innovate together.

Engage immediately with public sector stakeholders to ensure that the challenges to raising private or public finance for retrofits are understood, and the full suite of potential solutions is identified and assessed.

Carry out an assessment of the cost to retrofit older stock across the AHB sector portfolio, with a view to using this to inform engagement with key stakeholders.



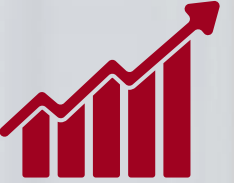
Recommendations

Engage with public sector and industry stakeholders to tackle practical technical, quality and cost issues.

Engage with the public sector to explore how AHBs could be used as innovation test beds.

Consider adopting standardised ESG reporting, potentially using the UK Sustainability Reporting Standards for Social Housing.

Commit to ensuring that climate related financial risk is a standing item on Board agendas and put in place appropriate governance, risk management and oversight arrangements, leveraging guidance in the TCFD Recommendations.



Call to Action

- Collaboration for a sustainable future
- Costings – conservative estimates **€1.2 billion**

With thanks to:

- Members of the Alliance
- Susan Vickers
- Sustainability Works