

Raising Standards

Greening

Southern Housing Group has a strong commitment to the environmental aspects of sustainable development. Our aim is to reuse, reduce and recycle natural resources and to limit the environmental impact of the homes and offices we build and manage. Practically, we are meeting the challenge of global warming by designing-in energy efficiency in every one of our homes, providing recycling opportunities and encouraging the reduction of car usage. We are proud to champion environmentally sensitive developments.

Downsview, Isle of Wight

In a first for the Island, four houses on this development have been awarded an EcoHomes 'excellent' rating. The homes were built using an innovative method called Jabhouse, which mixes traditional and modern materials to provide high-efficiency thermal insulation and sound reduction. Solar heating panels provide hot water even on cloudy days. In addition, the homes include dual/low flush WCs, timber windows with low-e glass, low-energy light fittings and water butts. All these measures will benefit our residents by reducing their fuel bills substantially.



Wellend Villas, Brighton

This scheme of 50 homes offers residents a green alternative to owning their own car: a car sharing club. To promote the environment and an active lifestyle, every home has a cycle space in a covered cycle store. This is seen as good practice in addressing the sustainable transport agenda. All residents are also given a 'Green Pack' when they move in with details of recycling and water reduction methods.

Adur 'Green Scheme' West Sussex

The Group has developed 11 family homes in Sompting, West Sussex using modern modular construction methods, which involve lowering factory-made units onto pre-prepared foundations. Three of these have used the Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) method, which was very popular with the building team as it is quick and does not require new skills. The houses offer high levels of insulation and feature solar panels on the roofs to supply around 60 per cent of the hot water in each home. Another benefit of high levels of insulation is noise reduction. A family of seven who moved into the development said: "They are really beautiful houses and they're really quiet - you can't hear the neighbours and you don't have to keep telling the kids not to make a noise."



Wansey Street, Elephant & Castle

When the Group was chosen as a partner in this development, it committed to attaining EcoHomes 'excellent' standard, which it has done. This was achieved by high standards of thermal and sound insulation, providing recycling facilities, a design that maximises daylight, particularly during the winter months and provision for bicycles over cars. The project also pilots a number of green measures, including communal heating and hot water systems, mechanical heat recovery and ventilation systems. Our achievements in this development were recognised in November 2006 with our partner architect dRMM being awarded the Best Public Housing Scheme at the Building Design Architect of the Year Awards.

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