

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

As a construction company, we have recognised our need to make changes in the bid to limit the impact our actions have on the environment. We are committed to **minimising our carbon footprint**, **protecting the environment** and **promoting sustainability** in our methods, on and off site. Through new measures, technology and an overall environmentally conscious decision-making process, **we strive to build a greener and healthier future.**

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“Atkinsons are dedicated to keeping our effect on the environment as minimal as possible. I have been in this business for over 30 years and we have always tried to help in any way we can. We understand that some of the works carried out during construction have the potential to cause or create a negative impact on biodiversity. However, there are areas in which we can contribute to enhance local biodiversity, leaving a positive legacy as a result of our operations. A specific aim of ours is to plant 10,000 native trees and plants over the next 10 years, creating ecosystems for a variety of species.”

Neil McKaskie, Operations Director.





OUR APPROACH

We intend to improve our current practice and ensure our continuous awareness and adherence to rules, regulations, and guidance. We aim to deliver this by:



1.

Strictly following all guidelines within the Habitat and Species Regulations to ensure habitat and protected species surveys are conducted efficiently and accurately where appropriate

2.

Managing biodiversity risk and opportunities through a variety of additional risk assessments.

3.

Following and adhering to all legal obligations while implementing careful site management.

4.

Maximising opportunities for biodiversity enhancement where appropriate.

5.

Appointing ecological and biodiversity specialists when undertaking project specific biodiversity initiatives.

6.

Ensuring all employees and subcontractors are equipped with the knowledge and training they need to ensure they comply with these policies.

Throughout the planning phase of every project, we evaluate and oversee potential environmental risks that could affect species and habitats. We then implement measures to mitigate these risks, aiming to uphold and conserve the natural environment while enhancing biodiversity whenever feasible.

Ways in which we do this include the creation of new habitats during early construction to minimise the impact of habitat destruction, as well as buffer areas and landscape features which will aid and enhance wildlife, including the planting of native trees. We not only aim to protect existing habitats, but focus on linking and connecting existing landscape features to ultimately help species grow and evolve.





Where possible, we ensure each development has a soft landscaping plan approved by the local planning department. Not only does this improve site appearance, it is also a great way to increase pollinator activity. This supports biodiversity and is also a great indicator in identifying the overall health of an ecosystem.

ADAPTING TO OUR CLIMATE

We are measuring our Carbon Footprint, striving to decrease it annually through the adoption of innovative products and technologies, stringent waste and recycling management, and monitoring electricity, fuel, and water consumption.



Waste Reduction Measures

Recognising the significant impact waste and pollution have on our climate, we remain dedicated to maintaining our proactive approach to recycling. These practices have been integral to Atkinsons' operations for over 25 years, and we are determined to continually increase our recycling and reuse rates each year. In addition to recycling recreational waste, we conscientiously repurpose materials like sand, clay, sub-soil, and topsoil onsite, further contributing to our sustainability efforts.

Operational Impact

We believe our employees play a significant role in the successful implementation of our eco strategy. It is our goal to ensure that every member of the Atkinsons team understands the environmental impact of the construction industry. This approach provides our staff with the necessary framework to adhere to company guidelines when working independently. These guidelines include practices such as managing time spent on plant/machinery, appropriate travel/speed to and from the office and site, and electricity reduction measures.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

We have identified the vital role we play in sustaining our community for future generations.

We value the communities in which we live and work, and recognise the importance of building homes that help our customers reduce their own carbon footprint. We also aim to understand and measure the social impact that new housing can have on a community, putting strategies in place to maximise positive outcomes and mitigate any potential negative impact.

We build homes for the future, maintaining the highest safety standards while creating a lasting legacy of economic, social and environmental value. Throughout the life of each development, we invest in the communities we support through financial contributions, improved facilities and sponsorship of local clubs and organisations.

Our commitment extends to local schools and education facilities. Alongside making financial contributions towards the construction of new schools within developing communities, our 40+ years in business have seen us support schools in a variety of ways. This has included helping to expand existing facilities, carrying out repairs following flood or fire damage, constructing bespoke new facilities, and donating topsoil and other useful materials.







DRIVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

We are continuing to transition from fuel-powered vehicles to electric vehicles across our fleet as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.

With an expanding electric vehicle fleet and EV charging points installed at our Head Office, we are actively reducing emissions and encouraging more sustainable methods of transport for our staff and customers.

As we continue to increase the number of electric vehicles within our fleet, we are taking practical steps towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

As part of our ongoing commitment to reducing energy consumption and our carbon footprint, we have invested in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure at our Head Office in Penrith.

Our installation includes 48 solar PV panels, three battery storage units and five additional 7kW EV charge points, bringing the total number of charge points at our Head Office to eight. The smart technology allows us to monitor the energy we generate, use and store, helping us to manage our energy consumption more efficiently.

In the first month following the installation, our solar panels generated almost 5,000kWh of renewable energy. This investment demonstrates the practical steps we are taking to operate more sustainably and reduce our environmental impact, while raising awareness of the importance of sustainable practices within our local community.

We also aim to use local labour and source materials locally wherever possible, helping to reduce unnecessary travel and associated emissions. By streamlining our supply chain and working with local businesses, we can operate more efficiently while supporting the communities in which we work.







We have enquired about adding a Tiny Forest to one of our future sites. A Tiny Forest consists of 600 native trees densely planted in a tennis court-sized plot of land. It provides a nature-rich land and accessible green space. This is also potential for outdoor learning as we plan alongside Earthwatch to recruit and induct local volunteers to help maintain the Tiny Forest. This initiative is not only important for biodiversity, but key in ensuring we have a generation full of knowledge to maintain these species moving forward-teaching others to care for our environment.

Affordable housing provides many benefits, some of which help towards environmental impact. Climate change can have a huge impact on housing security and over the last 12 years we have completed over 340 affordable housing units to help our local community.

We ensure our new developments maximise green space, creating wildlife corridors within sections of each site. Wildlife corridors are a great way to mitigate some of the negative impacts during construction. They enable an increase of movement between isolated populations, increase genetic variability within species, and can also decrease heating and cooling costs when used as windbreaks.

BUILDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We're committed to building homes that are more energy efficient, lower in carbon and designed for the future. By combining **high-quality construction** with innovative technologies, our homes are ultra-insulated, airtight and require less energy to heat.

Our recent developments have achieved SAP ratings significantly above the national average, with homes around 30% more energy efficient than average*. We are continuing to raise standards by incorporating **solar PV panels, air source heat pumps and EV charging provision**, while using design principles such as **passive solar gain** to further reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

**Correct at time of publishing.*

- Solar PV Panels
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Local Materials
- EV Car Chargers
- Enhanced Insulation
- Working Above the Future Homes Standard



