

Accord welcomes new green standard



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Midlands based housing association, Accord Housing, has welcomed the new green standard for new build homes that Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP announced last week.

Dr Chris Handy, Chief Executive of Accord, has said that Accord fully supports this latest proposal and is already leading the way in the environmental revolution in the social housing sector.

Dr Handy explained: "We take our commitment to the environment very seriously at Accord. We manufacture low carbon housing in our offsite manufacturing facility in Walsall. Using timber frames, specialist rockwool insulation and a range of innovative techniques, this modern method of construction provides a sustainable, environmentally conscious, low carbon alternative to more traditional brick-built structures.

"We are passionate about building better, affordable, homes, and by better we mean, better for the environment, better for our tenants and better for the local community."

Accord's award winning developments are proof that offsite manufacturing can deliver beautifully designed homes; homes that are environmentally friendly and which tenants are proud to live in.

Dr Handy went on to explain that as well as using more sustainable building materials, Accord has also moved away from gas as the main energy source: "Accord is already using electric rather than gas to heat our new builds, and wherever possible we incorporate solar panels. Our new development in Wolverhampton includes 10 bungalows, which all have solar panels, and we are delighted that this development, which was completed this summer, has already been shortlisted as a finalist for an affordable housing scheme of the year award.

"Renewable energy and being able to drive down costs for our tenants is a high priority for Accord and we are already seeing the benefits of this. Our tenants are reporting significant reductions in energy bills, and in turn this

has led to a reduction in rent arrears.â€”

Accordâ€™s commitment to the environmental revolution does not end there. It is working with housing associations, registered providers and local authorities across the country to help them build low carbon, sustainable, beautiful houses that tenants are proud to call home.

In August Accord announced plans to be the first housing association to try to build 12 new houses without using any plastic in the construction process. This latest project is part of the CHARM partnership (Circular Housing Asset Renovation & Management) funded by Interreg European Funding.

â€”We have successfully developed the technology to build low carbon timber framed houses â€” now it is about taking that technology a step forward to reduce the use of materials that are not good for the environment, both during manufacture and construction, for years to come. We anticipate that this latest project will change how we manufacture our homes forever.â€”
