



Waterfront Edinburgh and the Environment

Waterfront Edinburgh Ltd (WEL) is one of the 3 companies leading the regeneration of the North Edinburgh shore front and owns 120 acres of prime waterfront land in Granton. Owned by the City of Edinburgh Council & Scottish Enterprise, Waterfront Edinburgh Ltd strives to promote economic and social regeneration, as well as the physical redevelopment of North Edinburgh.

The Directors and team at WEL recognise the environmental issues associated with waste, water and energy management. WEL will stringently comply with all current environmental regulations, legislation and appropriate codes of practice and aim to implement, over and above legislation, all reasonably practicable measures to prevent pollution to the surrounding environment.

Due to the unique position as landowner and developer, WEL recognises that it has an opportunity to influence external stakeholders involved in the development of the Edinburgh Waterfront. We also recognise that there are elements of the development where we are able to exert direct control. Through the combination of this direct control and the influence we are able to exert on other stakeholders, WEL have identified 5 key areas we will focus upon in 2008:

- Energy generation
- Waste generation & disposal
- Decontamination
- Environmental Management Systems
- Carbon Footprinting

Energy Generation:

WEL is currently working with the Energy Savings Trust and the Edinburgh Community Energy Cooperative in assessing the energy demands of North Edinburgh, and specifically of Granton Waterfront. Through a leading consultancy in environmental sciences, we are investigating the most efficient systems of energy production and distribution currently in the market and to test their suitability for the Waterfront development.

As part of our regeneration strategy we have a focus of linking new business developments with the local community. We are therefore conducting a feasibility study linking the supply of future energy needs with the needs of the local community, and to explore how the community might be involved or have a stake in this area. This long-term strategy will provide a vital link between a sustainable building development and community engagement.

Waste Generation and Disposal:

As part of the redevelopment an underground bin system is being installed. This allows for the efficient disposal of domestic refuse, while at the same time increasing the efficiency of collections. We will continue to search for and implement best practise in waste disposal, covering:

- Developers waste
- Ongoing residential waste
- Waterfront Edinburgh waste from our own activities.



Decontamination

A principle objective of WEL is the decontamination of former brown field sites for future developments. Making sites suitable for use requires extensive geo-environmental investigation to establish the nature and extent of contaminants. Our preference is for the land to be treated on site, eliminating the need to dispose of large quantities of contaminated material to land fill. We are therefore working with specialist consultants to identify the most effective, environmentally sustainable method(s) of realising this objective.

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

EMS are a powerful tool for organisations to both improve their environmental performance while enhancing their business efficiency. EMS provides a structured approach to planning and implementing environmental protection measures. We believe that by having an EMS, and by encouraging EMS accreditation, we will be able to influence specific stakeholders to:

- gain a better understanding of the environmental impacts of business activities
- maximize the efficient use of resources
- reduce waste
- demonstrate a good corporate image
- build awareness of sound environmental management among employees and;
- by improving their environmental performance, through more efficient operations, minimise costs.

Suppliers and service providers are expected to be ISO 14001 compliant and this forms part of our procurement requirements.

Carbon Footprinting:

WEL is a member of Scottish Business in the Community and the May Day Network. The May Day Network is a group of companies committed to taking action on climate change. It provides a hub for businesses to share their experience in tackling the issue and to engage suppliers, customers and sector peers to do the same.

As part of our commitment to the May Day Network, we have pledged the following:

- Calculating our carbon footprint
- Reporting our carbon footprint to Scottish Business in the Community
- Reducing our footprint by a minimum of the 5% target set by the Network
- Encouraging our employees to reduce their carbon footprint at home and at work
- Working in partnership with suppliers to reduce emissions in the supply chain

The Way Forward

We are currently working on a set of commitments that will form the basis for achieving our aims as stated above. We will be working with our own team, our partner organisations and other stakeholders to set targets and a process of evaluation to ensure that we continually learn from and improve upon our actions. We are committed to improving our environmental performance, and being a positive influence on our stakeholders, to ensure the development of a sustainable community in North Edinburgh.