



# **Customer Complaints Policy**

V003/0824

#### Our commitment

We are committed to listening to our customers' comments and complaints regarding our services and facilities with the aim of resolving any issues as well as improving the quality of our service. We will show this commitment by ensuring our complaints process is:

- > Easy to access and understand, clear and simple to use
- > Responsive to the reasonable needs of complainants
- > Prompt, with established time limits for action, and keeping people informed of progress, especially when investigations take longer than expected
- > Fair, with an opportunity for a full and impartial investigation
- > Proportionate to the matters complained about Informative, by using lessons learnt from complaints to improve services and by reviewing the results of such changes.
- > Reviewed by the Customer Service Director and Managing Director on an annual basis

When we respond to complaints, customers can expect us to:

- > Take their concerns seriously
- > Provide the name of the member of staff responsible for dealing with the complaint at each stage of the procedure
- > Be factually correct
- Deal with their complaint promptly
- > Avoid jargon
- > Answer all their points of concern
- > Be flexible in the way that we communicate with our customers Provide reasons for the decision reached on a complaint
- > Explain the next steps available if the customer is still dissatisfied and provide contact details (address, telephone and email) including those of the relevant ombudsman service if required





# Our complaints process will be:

- > Frank, open and impartial, avoiding any bias in favour of any party
- > Thorough, finding out the relevant facts, taking views from people involved on both sides of the complaint and verifying explanations where possible
- > Equitable, treating people in similar circumstances in similar ways
- > Non-discriminatory, those who make a complaint can be assured that they will not be subjected to discrimination or retaliation as a result of complaining.

# Who does this policy apply to?

The policy applies to all those we serve or have dealings with, whether visiting, writing, emailing or telephoning. These include members of the public, commercial organisations and government bodies. It also applies to contractors, suppliers and any other individual or organisation that has business with our company.

## What is a complaint?

We define a complaint as an expression of dissatisfaction with our service, no matter how expressed and whether justified or not, that requires a response or further action on the part of our company.

### How can our customers comment or complain?

We welcome views on our service and will respond to comments and complaints, however presented, whether in person, in writing, by telephone or email.

**Tel:** 01372 738952

Email: feedback@agilityeco.co.uk

**Postal:** Customer Service Director, AgilityEco

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Walker House, George Street, Aylesbury HP 20 2HU

### Our complaint handling process

Our aim is to resolve complaints in a prompt and efficient manner.





A member of company staff will acknowledge receipt of a complaint within three working days (the day the complaint is received being Day 0). Our acknowledgement will generally be in writing, sometimes to confirm information given in a telephone call but also to let the customer know who will deal with the complaint.

In the event of a category 1 health and safety concern the complaint will be acknowledged within 1 working day.

All complaints will be logged under the appropriate scheme complaints register, which includes the nature and status of the complaint.

A full response for internal complaints (defined as complaints with AgilityEco personnel) will normally be sent to the complainant within ten working days.

If a complaint requires us to implement another policy (such as a disciplinary policy) as part of the investigation, we will write to let the complainant know that this is happening, and how long it is likely to take. In situations where the process is lengthy, we will keep them informed of progress at least once every four weeks.

For external complaints, (defined as complaints with assessors or installers working on the schemes) where the required standards are not achieved in works at a customer's home there is a need to reach a satisfactory resolution as soon as possible.

#### Step 1:

As the contract for services is held between the customer and the installer, customers should, in the first instance, contact the company who attended their home. This could be an assessor or an installer. With the customer's assistance, the company involved in the works must attempt to resolve the issues.





## Step 2:

Where a customer engages with the installation company and progress is not achieved within an agreed timescale, AgilityEco can investigate the matter and work with all parties to help resolve the complaint. Investigations can take up to 28 days.

## Step 3:

Where an agreed resolution is not met, customers can apply to the company's scheme provider (their trade association or accreditation body.) These include, but are not limited to the following details of which can be found via the Trustmark website:

www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowner/information-guidance/consumer-protection

HIES Consumer Code NetRet Group Ltd

Installation Assurance Association (IAA) Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC)

Napit Retrofit Works

Simply Certification

You can check which body the company is attached to via the Trustmark site.

Installers working across our funded schemes must be registered with a recognised scheme provider ensuring they meet the agreed quality standards of work.

If works have been completed at your property and you have a Trustmark certificate, you can follow the Trustmark resolving disputes process.

Useful information and guidance to handle complaints can be found at the Trustmark website: <a href="https://www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowner/support/complaints-process/complaints-support">https://www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowner/support/complaints-process/complaints-support</a>

All installers working under the Home Upgrades Grant or Local Authority Delivery funding are Trustmark Registered Installers. All installers working under the Connected for Warmth funding schemes are registered under the Installation Assurance Authority Scheme - <a href="https://www.theiaa.co.uk/trustmark/">https://www.theiaa.co.uk/trustmark/</a>

Trustmark is a member of the Dispute Resolution Ombudsman (DRO)





## **Our Internal Complaints escalation process:**



If the complainant is dissatisfied with our response, they can, within two calendar months from the date of our final response to their complaint, ask for an independent internal review, or refer the matter to the relevant ombudsman service.

If the works have not been completed under Trustmark regulations, and you feel your complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily, you may refer your complaint to the Ombudsman Services (www.ombudsman-services.org), or you may seek advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau (www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy).

We will always cooperate with any investigation carried out by an ombudsman and use reasonable endeavours to ensure that our subcontractors and agents do likewise.

We will at all times take account of the needs of vulnerable customers, those with additional needs or special access requirements when handling a complaint.

#### Feedback

We welcome any comments on the fairness and efficiency of the complaints procedures and the effectiveness of our replies to complaints. We will ask people who have made a complaint whether they are satisfied with the way their complaint was handled and the outcome. Sometimes we will use surveys to do this. We will take account of all feedback in annual reviews of our procedures.





## Confidentiality

We respect the need for confidentiality when a complaint is made, both for the complainant and for members of staff who have a complaint made against them. We aim to investigate complaints with sensitivity, preserve confidentiality, and to share information only when it is a necessary part of the investigation. When storing and sharing customer data, we will act at all times in accordance with our Data Protection policy.

## Staff training

Receiving and responding to comments and complaints about our service is an integral part of providing great service. We will train our staff in our complaints procedures and ensure they understand the value of comments and complaints, so that they can carry out their roles and responsibilities with confidence.

## Policy for dealing with unreasonably persistent enquiries

Our staff will treat people in a courteous, fair and proportionate manner and we expect similar courtesy and reasonable behaviour in return. Very occasionally, we will refuse to respond to a complaint. This will only happen if the person making the complaint is insulting or abusive towards our staff or if they refuse to accept that their complaint has been dealt with despite a thorough investigation on our part. We will only do this where it is absolutely necessary, and we will write to the person concerned to explain why we believe this to be the case and remind them of their right to refer the matter the relevant ombudsman service.

### Summary

To summarise the above, AgilityEco commits to:

- acknowledging the complaint within 3 working days
- > informing the complainant of our complaints handling procedure and the relevant ombudsman
- > summarising the complaint in writing, if the original complaint was made by telephone





> responding to the complainant in full and explaining
how they can take matters further directing the complainant, if dissatisfied with
our response, that they can ask for an independent internal review, or refer the
matter to the relevant ombudsman service (within two calendar months from
the date of our final response to their complaint).

**Policy statement updates:** we may revise these terms at any time by amending this page. We will detail the version of the policy in the footnote of the document.