



The importance of ESG in retirement communities: using design and technology to achieve sustainability and health and well-being goals

- 1. Importance of Inclusive Design:** Implementing inclusive design principles from the earliest stages of development is crucial. Involving an inclusive design consultant as part of the specialist team is essential to sustainable development.
- 2. Community Engagement:** Ensuring meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including those who will ultimately use the communities and the surrounding areas, is essential. Incorporating the voices of people with lived experiences into the design process significantly benefits planning and development outcomes.
- 3. Design Guardian Role:** Having a designated design guardian throughout the design and build process helps maintain inclusive design integrity. Small changes made during the process can significantly impact the inclusivity of the development, highlighting the importance of oversight.
- 4. Operational Awareness:** Recognizing that the accessibility and inclusivity of a building or space rely on the awareness and actions of the operations teams. It is crucial for operations teams to be well-informed about the inclusive design features incorporated into the development.
- 5. Utilizing Technology:** Leveraging technology can support health, sustainability, and operational goals in developments. It's essential to adapt technology to meet the needs of the target market, ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness. Additionally, focusing on behind-the-scenes infrastructure, such as proper purchasing for accessibility features, is just as critical as implementing visible technology solutions.

