

As a national social care charity, CIC takes its social responsibilities seriously and this extends to our dedication to become a more environmentally conscious organisation.

We believe that businesses are responsible for achieving good environmental practices and operating in a sustainable manner.

We recognise that our activities have an environmental dimension and accept that we are responsible for conducting these activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

We are therefore committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees of CIC and all of our activities, both internally and externally. It is also our priority to encourage our service users and all stakeholders to recognise and, where possible, comply with the principles of our policy.

Our Policy

Our policy is to:-

- Wholly support and comply with or exceed the requirements of relevant UK environmental legislation and regulations.
- Reduce our waste, and promote reusing and recycling.
- Promote efficient use of energy, water, raw materials and other resources, along with reducing our emissions, in order to conserve supplies and minimise our consumption of natural resources, particularly those that are non-renewable.
- Apply the principles of continuous improvement in respect of air, water, noise and light pollutions from our premises and reduce any impact from our organisation on the environment and our local communities.

- Operate and maintain company vehicles with due regard to environmental issues as far as reasonably practical and encourage the use of alternative means of transport and car sharing as appropriate.
- As far as possible purchase products and services that do the least damage to the environment and encourage staff and service users to do the same.
- Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products and seek substitution when feasible. Take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of.
- Encourage our suppliers to adopt sound environmental practices and take steps towards more 'green' procurement.
- Assess the environmental impact of any new processes or services we intend to introduce, in advance.
- Promote environmental awareness amongst our employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Seek to understand and respond to the concern of our local communities and any other interested parties.

To ensure that these policy commitments are met, CIC will:

- Implement and maintain a formal environmental management system that meets the requirements of British Standard 8555:2003, up to and including Phase Three.
- Ensure that sufficient resources are made available at all times to comply with the requirements of BS 8555:2003 at all CIC premises.
- Set targets that aim to continually improve environmental performance.
- Ensure that our employees understand our Environmental Policy and are trained, educated and informed about environmental issues that may affect their work and how they can minimise any negative environmental impact.

- Develop local procedures to assist in the implementation and monitoring of this Environmental Policy.
- Endeavour to inform and educate the people who we support about the importance of reducing their environmental impact.
- Communicate our environmental commitment to all relevant stakeholders and encourage them to support it.
- Address complaints about any breach of our Environmental Policy promptly.

Strive to continually improve our environmental performance by periodically reviewing our Environmental Policy, in consultation with staff, service users and all relevant stakeholders and in light of current and planned future activities.