

Environmental & Sustainability Policy Specialised Canvas Services

Summary

The Specialised Canvas Group has agreed these key principles that underpin our approach to sustainability:-

- Sustainability is part of the core function of all activities within the business, including Purchasing, Manufacturing, Office management & administration, Travel.
- We aim to practice what we preach by taking sustainability into account in all our actions and decision-making.
- Where possible, we will use our position/purchasing power to influence others.
- All employees are responsible for their actions in terms of their sustainability

The company will draw up a 2 year action plan to achieve set targets to improve our performance in sustainability.

Guiding principles

When considering our approach to sustainability, we will use a four step thinking process – the four “Rs” – Remove, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle:-

- Remove. Examine and review processes and procedures and identify resource consuming areas which can be ceased altogether.
- Reduce. For those processes and procedures that remain, identify areas where resource consumption can be reduced, with the aim of minimizing consumption. For those resources that must be consumed, seek out sources which are themselves sustainable.
- Re-Use. Examine and identify where resources can be re-used or reworked instead of being thrown away.
- Recycle. Where disposal is the only option, use disposal channels which maximize the level of recycling.

Consumption of Resources

In our manufacturing processes, we will seek to use materials efficiently, for example, we will purchase fabrics in roll sizes and widths that are appropriate to the job to minimise off cuts and process waste. We will, where possible, use materials that are recycled or recyclable and from sources that have an accredited sustainability policy

We will minimise our use of paper and other office consumables, for example by reusing paper, and identify opportunities to reduce waste. We shall use office paper produced from sustainable sources. Our preference is to issue documents electronically wherever possible and encourage others not to print documents such as emails where possible.

We will as far as possible arrange for the reuse or recycling of office waste, including paper, computer supplies and redundant equipment.

We will seek to reduce the energy consumption of office equipment and manufacturing equipment by purchasing energy efficient equipment and good housekeeping. We will operate a ‘turn it off’ policy to ensure that lights and equipment are fully turned off (not left on standby) when not in use. We shall investigate the purchase electricity from a supplier committed to renewable energy and, seek to maximise the proportion from renewable energy sources.

All equipment is regularly maintained to ensure it is working efficiently. Equipment is only switched on when it is in use and we have installed a large number of skylights on the roofs of our factory premises this means we only have to use electric lighting 50% of the time.

Ensure that timber products used in manufacturing or packaging are recycled and/or are from well-managed, sustainable sources and are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified.

Checking Suppliers

We also need to check our suppliers to establish their sustainability practices. Wherever possible we should use suppliers that have or are working towards achieving recognized standards of environmental management and sustainability, such as ISO14001, BS8901, ETI base code etc.

Where suppliers cannot or are not willing to provide information on their sustainability practices, we should endeavour to find alternative suppliers for equivalent materials and products.

Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Aluminium

We supply many of our flagpole and banner support systems in aluminium, 100% of scrap material is recycled. Customers can also return their unwanted used goods to us for recycling. Recycled aluminium uses only around 5% of the energy (and therefore CO₂ emissions) used to make new metal, and can be recycled time and again without loss of quality. Recycling aluminium reduces the waste going to landfill.

Steel

Our waste and scrap steel is sorted and separated for recycling, it is returned for the manufacture of new metal. Steel scrap is essential in the process of making new steel and can be recycled indefinitely without losing its quality. Recycled steel uses only 25% of the energy required for new metal and there are substantial reductions in the use of raw materials, water and air-borne pollution, and waste to landfill.

Packaging, Storage, Paper & Cardboard

We aim to limit the amount of packaging we use for our goods. All packaging and storage materials are chosen with function and environmental impact in mind. We choose products that are re-usable or recyclable whenever possible and are themselves made from recycled material. The use of biodegradable or compostable products is not deemed to be sustainable. We re-use packaging and storage materials where appropriate. Cardboard and paper waste could be separated and returned for recycling. We aim to recycle 200m³ of paper and cardboard every year that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Fabrics and Inks

On the 1st January, 2007 new legislation 2004/42/CE entered into force in all the European Union countries. It concerns emissions limits in the atmosphere of solvents used in products such as printing inks. Our Textile and Dye Sublimation printing equipment use water based dye disperse inks. By moving to these inks we are committed to reducing our emissions of solvents from printing inks. We also use 100% polyester fabrics for all our direct to textile and dye sublimation printing. Polyester fibres can be recycled and used to create new material or combined with other polymers to create a wide variety of plastics products. As part of our environmental policy, we are committed to reducing our use of solvent inks and non-recyclable materials.

Office and other waste

We will return fax and toner cartridges for re-use, redundant computer and electronic equipment will be disposed of through appropriate recycling organisations to ensure

Travel

We will undertake to; walk, cycle and/or use public transport to attend meetings, site visits etc, apart from in circumstances where the alternatives are impractical and/or cost prohibitive and will share transport if possible. Where the only practical option is to fly, we will ensure visits are coordinated to minimise multiple trips. We will avoid or reduce physically travelling to meetings etc where alternatives are available and practical, such as using teleconferencing or video conferencing, and efficient timing of meetings to avoid multiple trips. We aim to reduce annual car mileage and plan journeys efficiently to ensure that we organise visits. Company vehicles will be replaced with more efficient models as they become due for replacement.

Communicating our policy

Copies of our sustainability policy will be made available to all our employees, staff will receive appropriate training to enable them to fulfill our sustainability objectives. We will publish our sustainability policy online and encourage suppliers and clients to adopt the principals of sustainability within their organisations.



Chris Deegan
Company Secretary



Paul Noble
Director

5 July 2016