

Environmental Policy Statement

Care Support is an environmentally conscious care business and we take potential environmental impacts very seriously and as such monitor how our care business works and the effects it has on the environment.

The Managing Director and other Senior Managers of Care Support have ensured that this policy is implemented throughout the company and that the Registered Managers/Extra Care Scheme Managers and Line Managers ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and that they understand what that means for their roles.

Care Support is ISO14001 accredited and is involved in preventing pollution and trying to improve the performance of the environment by minimising our operational impact. Any changes are discussed with our staff and Service Users as required.

Care Support is committed to doing the following:

- Maintain our ISO14001 accreditation
- Follow all environmental legislation by using the codes of practice and the guidance that associated regulatory bodies hold
- Ensure that all our staff have the necessary resources, equipment, instructions, information and training to be able to follow this policy and implement all aspects of it into their roles
- Develop an informal environmental management system based on the legal requirements in accordance with our health and safety procedures
- Aim to integrate environmental best practice into Care Support's operations
- Aim to prevent pollution to the environment by reducing where possible business mileage to maximise fuel efficiency
- Minimise all waste through segregating recycling waste where possible
- Dispose of all waste materials that cannot be recycled in an approved manner and responsibly (e.g. PPE)
- Consider the environment through the procurement of goods and services
- Consider our services users in relation to the environment.
- Work with Positive Planet to achieve our yearly carbon reduction plans and work towards achieve our Positive Planet accreditation.

Care Support will ensure all staff and anyone connected to Care Support is aware of this policy and their roles to take part in it. All staff are expected to assist with the implementation of this policy.

Environmental Management within Care Support's Business

Care Support believes that environmental issues such as pollution, waste management, energy and water conservation, transport issues and the recycling of resources, should be important items on the agenda of the modern employer. Care Support believes that it has a duty to act in a responsible, sustainable and ethical way and to work towards contributing to nationally agreed environmental objectives. Care Support understands that the aim of such sustainable development is to maintain the quality of the environment, both now and for generations to come. This includes:

- the conservation of energy, wood, paper, horticulture and water
- the reduction of pollution, especially pollution by ozone depleting substances, vehicle emissions, asbestos, hazardous substances, batteries, solvents and paints, biodegradables and litter
- the procurement of supplies and resources from renewable or environmentally friendly sources
- responsible waste management.

Measures

In order to improve its environmental management and to ensure that all of its activities and developments are as sustainable as possible Care Support will:

1. adopt and implement an environmental and sustainable development policy which will be agreed with all members of staff
2. ensure that all organisations with whom Care Support contracts with and purchases from will be asked if they too have similar policies and Care Support will gradually move its systems of procurement to more environmentally friendly sources
3. conduct a regular audit of its processes and wastes to identify areas where it can commit to long term waste reduction targets
4. reduce waste levels by reusing whatever can be reused
5. develop a recycling system in collaboration with local authorities, other local businesses and waste disposal organisations, particularly in regard to materials such as paper, tins, glass, plastic, cardboard and other packaging
6. recycle printer ink cartridges and consumables wherever possible
7. dispose of all electrical equipment according to the Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (the WEEE Directive), including such things as computer equipment, fridges and freezers
8. use energy efficient and low power equipment wherever possible
9. ensure that all buildings, pipes and lofts are properly insulated and maintained in such a way as to be as energy efficient as possible
10. conserve power and water by encouraging staff to:

- a. turn off non-essential lights and power sources when not in use
 - b. keep windows and doors closed when using heating
11. report and repair malfunctioning thermostats on radiators and dripping taps immediately
 12. only use as much water as is necessary
 13. reduce the harmful effects of car exhausts and congestion by maintaining vehicles in good condition and by cutting back on unnecessary journeys wherever possible
 14. ensure that potentially dangerous substances are used as little as possible and are disposed of properly
 15. ensure that staff are trained to comply with these policies.

Transport

Where possible considering alternative modes of transport will benefit both the company and employees. Less congestion, relieving local parking problems will be a benefit as well as our employees spending less time stuck in traffic.

Car sharing as an alternative to single occupancy car use could be of real benefit and environmentally friendly. (see below: During a Pandemic/epidemic)

Where possible, staff should consider:

- Use of public transport
- Car Sharing where possible
- Walking
- Cycling

All new staff should be encouraged to read this policy as part of their induction process.

During a Pandemic/Epidemic

During any Pandemic or outbreak of infection that requires employees to follow PHE or Statutory guidance, Line Managers are responsible for disseminating up to date information and staff must also consult the Workplace Risk Assessment regularly, following instruction on minimising their personal health risk/s which will take precedence over environmental considerations. All PPE must be disposed of carefully and under direction at the local Extra Care Scheme.