

# Environmental Commitment

## 1. Policy Statement

This policy expresses the commitment of Alliance (“the Company”) to environmental sustainability and outlines the approach taken to addressing environmental issues across the business. As a responsible national distributor, we recognise the impact of our operations, both direct and indirect, on the local and global environment. Alliance takes a proactive approach towards sustainable operations and we are fully committed to continually improving our environmental performance throughout our business in accordance with both environmental legislation and our own objectives.

## 2. Objectives of this Policy

- 2.1 To ensure that the Company complies with all current legislation, regulations and other relevant requirements.
- 2.2 To outline the ways in which the Company strives to exceed legislated environmental targets by minimising the amount of waste and emissions caused by all business operations.
- 2.3 These objectives will be achieved through the application of reduction, re-use and recycling principles throughout business operations, and the disposal of all waste through safe and responsible methods.

## 3. Defining Sustainability

- 3.1 The most widely accepted definition of sustainability which comes from the “Brundtland Report” suggest that “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Such a definition encourages the use of renewable resources wherever possibility as well as the consideration of the wider short-term and long-term environmental impacts of all business operations at both office and site levels.
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## **4. Our Environment**

- 4.1** Alliance strives to generate minimal waste. All waste that is generated is disposed of promptly and safely through onsite skips or removed by outside services where appropriate.
- 4.2** Office and warehouse waste including packaging, paper and printer consumables are collected from each of our sites in order to be channelled to specialist recycling companies through our central warehouse at Crewe. We are proactive in our waste management as part of warehouse delivery practices. At Crewe, cardboard is shredded onsite and reused to assist with secure packaging of deliveries.
- 4.3** We reduce our energy consumption by using energy efficient lighting, fully insulated buildings and no Air Conditioning Systems.
- 4.4** We have 50Kw Solar Energy systems in place at our Crewe, Glasgow and London sites and a 35Kw system at Plymouth in order to generate our own source of renewable energy. In the summer months the Crewe system generates more than 6MWh of energy, well in excess of the average consumption of 2.040kWh per month at the same site. This solar resource provides enough renewable energy to fuel Company operations as well as to provide a surplus of renewable energy for use throughout the year.
- 4.5** Throughout our business we use electronic methods of communication and invoicing where possible to reduce paper consumption.

## **5. Our Distribution**

- 5.1** Our fleet of delivery vehicles is equipped with computerised routing systems to optimise delivery routes and reduce fuel consumption.
  - 5.2** We invest in improving the energy efficiency of our distribution operations on an ongoing basis. Up to date engine management systems, and vehicle regulators optimise fuel consumption and minimise emissions.
  - 5.3** All of our vans and company-owned vehicles are serviced regularly, and are depreciated in line with their environmental life-span.
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- 5.4** The Company recognises the role of the driver in sustainable distribution. Our drivers are trained to consider the environmental impact of their driving, particularly to be aware of the miles per gallon achieved in their activities, and to be considerate of local communities by following safe driving practices at all times.
- 5.5** Deliveries are consolidated to our branches and customers in order to optimise our fuel consumption and avoid unnecessary emissions. Our delivery schedule is planned in order to utilise the most efficient routes and operate to maximum capacity.
- 5.6** Accurate data is kept on vehicle loadings and mileage travelled in order to monitor progress on reducing the mileage of half-laden vehicles. This data also helps us to review progress with customers to work together to find more efficient order sizes.
- 5.7** The supply chain has been rationalised to reduce the number of inbound vehicle movements and improve the warehouse loading efficiency. Suppliers are selected on environmental criteria and up to date records of their environmental reports and accreditations are held on our system for customer reference.
- 5.8** The placement of stock in our warehouses is computer controlled to minimise work and energy consumption. The system ensures that the most frequently ordered products are held in bays closest to the inbound and despatch points. The placement is not static and adjusts to customer demand patterns to optimise the stock placement.
- 5.9** The Company frequently conducts correlation analysis to assess how organisations' product consumption compares with the mean. For example Primary Schools of the same size are compared and any excess consumption is brought to the attention of the council contract manager to encourage sustainable consumption.

## **6. Our Products**

- 6.1** We source products from UK manufacturers where possible to ensure that the products we supply are produced to recognised ecological standards and have a low carbon footprint.
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- 6.3** The Company continues to choose suppliers who share its values and commitments. In order to ensure the success of this principle we perform audits of all new suppliers to verify that their products comply with all relevant environmental legislation. Environmental sustainability remains a key component in the selection of both new products and partners.
- 6.4** We actively work with our supplier partners to identify ways to minimise packaging, consolidate collection and delivery of stock orders and to promote sustainable products.
- 6.5** We offer products which are biodegradable and strive to use raw materials from renewable resources wherever possible. Our 'Aware' range assists customers in making informed choices in order to select products with the lowest environmental impact. In the field of catering consumables Alliance actively promotes PLA products. These products, which are made out of a biodegradable starch based plastic, occupy a large section of our catalogue.

## **7. Our People**

- 7.1** We expect and actively promote a culture of environmental responsibility throughout our business. A dedicated Environmental Champion is in place at our Head Office to educate, monitor and promote our environmental initiatives to all employees.
- 7.2** Our environmental policies, targets and achievements are accessible to all employees via our Company Intranet in order to reinforce the role of each individual in achieving our sustainability targets.

## **8. Our Wider Contributions to a Sustainable Future**

- 8.1** The Company recognises the importance of its support for wider programs and initiatives which aim to enhance the quality of life in the communities in which we work and live. We are consistently searching for new opportunities to engage positively with local and global communities throughout our business practice.
- 8.2** We are proud supporters of WaterAid (registered charity number 288701 in England and Wales and SCO39479 in Scotland), the UK's only major charity dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.
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**8.2** Alliance is a keen advocate of sustainable travel in the local community. Since January 2015 Alliance has run a bike scheme, 'Alliance Bikes', for employees as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Programme in Crewe. The Company currently owns twenty bikes together with all of the necessary safety equipment and a bike shelter which are accessible to employees through a simple application process. As well as helping employees travel to work, having more employees opting to commute on bikes helps to minimise emissions and ease traffic congestion and the associated noise pollution in the local area.

**9. Responsibility for the Implementation of this Policy**

**9.1** The Company takes responsibility for achieving the objectives of this Policy, and endeavours to ensure compliance with all relevant Legislation and Codes of Practice.

**9.2** The co-operation of all employees is essential for the success of this Policy. Senior employees are expected to follow this Policy and to try to ensure that all employees, subcontractors and agents do the same.

**10. The Extent of the Policy**

**10.1** This Environmental Commitment aims to ensure that the Company and its agents strive towards environmental sustainability in all areas of business practice. The Company offers goods and services in a fashion that complies with the spirit of this Policy.

**10.2** The Company reserves the right to amend and update this Policy at any time.

**This policy has been approved & authorised by:**



Name: Paul Bonson

Position: Director

Date: 1.10.17