

# FORTRESS

a Carbon Neutral Co<sub>2</sub>mpany 

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## Sustainable Development Policy

### Policy Statement

Fortress recognises that environmental concerns are becoming increasingly important in society and that businesses have both a legal and ethical duty to ensure that they behave in an environmentally sensitive way.

Fortress is committed to improving upon its environmental performance by complying with relevant guidance and regulation and by embracing modern methods of environmental management and sustainable development wherever practicable.

### Aim of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to enable Fortress to:

- reduce its impact on the environment
- ensure compliance with environmental legislation and regulations
- ensure the effectiveness of its environmental management systems (EMS)
- reduce its use of energy and resources
- minimise its waste
- reduce unforeseen environmental risks.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the organisation's policies and procedures on waste management.

### Definition of Sustainable Development

Fortress understands "sustainable development" to refer to an approach to development where the needs of present businesses and societies are met without compromising the

ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Most importantly, this includes the effective protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources.

## Carbon Footprint

Fortress continues to strive to reduce our carbon footprint and the operation of our fleet of refuse vehicles is the major source of carbon emissions. However the technology is not yet reliable enough for us to switch to low carbon alternatives. Therefore, our carbon emissions are independently assessed each year and the company offsets the carbon generated by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere.

Over the last 5 years we have supported a number of renewable energy projects around the world, all meeting the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Certified Emission Reductions (CER). 'Fortress For-Trees' is a campaign we launched in 2016 sponsoring organisations on the front-line in the fight to preserve the Amazon Rainforest.

It is well known that driving performance has a major impact on fuel consumption. Therefore, all company service vehicles are fitted with vehicle tracking systems which monitor harsh braking, harsh acceleration, over-revving and excessive idling. This information is used to reward drivers who drive economically and save fuel.

Fortress uses a route planning software which assists the company to create route itineraries for collections which are calculated to be achieved in the most fuel efficient way.

## Energy Efficiency

Energy for lighting, heating and ventilation is expensive and conserving or making best use of energy is not only good for the environment but also saves money as well.

To conserve power, staff should:

- turn off non-essential lights and power sources when not in use
- keep windows and doors closed when using heating
- report malfunctioning thermostats on radiators immediately.

In addition, the organisation will invest in energy-efficient buildings by:

- ensuring that boilers and heating systems are regularly serviced and properly maintained
- ensuring that energy-efficient light bulbs and low-power or energy-efficient equipment are used wherever possible
- ensuring that all buildings, pipes and lofts are properly insulated and maintained
- monitoring bills and tariffs.

## Water Wastage

Water is also an expensive resource that should not be wasted. Staff should ensure that they only use as much water as necessary. They should report any dripping taps or leaking pipes immediately.

## Waste Management and Recycling

In this organisation:

- all waste will be segregated into appropriate waste streams prior to disposal
- all waste appropriate for recycling (ie plastics, paper, metal, glass and food waste) will be placed in the appropriate receptacle ready for processing
- all electrical waste will be disposed of according to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE)
- discarded furniture and office equipment will be offered to charity for recycling/reuse.

The organisation intends to comply with all current national and local waste management laws, policies and procedures.

## Sustainable Procurement

Fortress ensures that all resources, goods and services are only bought or contracted from organisations and companies who have sustainable-use policies in place. Our staff responsible for purchasing ensures that suppliers use environmentally acceptable packaging where possible.

## Pollution

Pollution will be minimised by:

- investing in cleaner equipment and processes wherever practicable
- ensuring that existing equipment is maintained and serviced
- ensuring that any dangerous substances are used and disposed of properly.

## Environmental Management Systems

Fortress will co-ordinate its sustainable development processes through the implementation of our environmental management system (EMS).

As part of the EMS we will:

- identify and monitor any environmental impacts of its activities and wastes through the use of environmental audit
- set measurable targets to continually improve environmental performance

- review this policy and environmental performance regularly
- keep relevant environmental records and reports
- provide environmental awareness information for staff.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed annually

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