

Sustainability Policy 2024

At Wilkins and Palmers, we are very conscious of our social responsibilities with regard to helping the environment through our working practices. Our objective is not only to sustain our environment for our descendants but also to rehabilitate the damage previously done. We believe that our corporate responsibility goes beyond our proprietary borders and therefore every effort will be made to conserve resources throughout our operations.

Wilkins will and continues to try to not only meet existing environmental laws and regulation but will endeavour to go beyond the status quo and seek techniques and approaches that position us ahead of our competition and social responsibilities.

The growth of our company depends on our abilities to minimise or eliminate our impact on our surroundings. Our ultimate success depends on the environment of the United Kingdom and the entire World, without a beautiful country, our customers will cease to come, work and live. Our company's future and the future of our environment are interconnected.

Awareness and Commitment

Our policy towards the environment will be readily available and promoted to our guests. We will ensure staff and guests are familiar with and implement our environmental commitment and objectives.

Practical Implementation:

- ✓ Wilkins environmental policy will be available to view on our website.
- ✓ Wilkins environmental policy will be present and ready to view in our offices.
- ✓ Wilkins environmental policy will be viewable by all staff in the offices and the warehouses.
- ✓ As part of our induction process for new employees, they will be introduced to and trained in our policy.
- ✓ Annual refresher / awareness talks with all employees in a fitting environment such as whilst conducting our litter picking activities in our area.

Transport

Wilkins will endeavour to reduce the impact on the environment wherever possible with respect to transport and as a company that operates vehicles and HGV's, we are acutely aware of the emissions that these vehicles emit. We committed to always choose the most fuel efficient vehicles for our small fleet (8 vehicles), not solely for reducing fuel costs but mainly for the emissions that non efficient fossil fuels produce which directly impacts our community and environment we live and work in.

Practical Implementation:

- ✓ Seek and employ local products and services to reduce transport costs.
- ✓ We utilise HGV service centres that are close to us, our current service provider is only 3 miles away.
- ✓ When selecting new vehicles for our fleet – we always choose the most fuel efficient/environmentally friendly vehicle – currently on the HGV front, all our HGVS and are Euro 6 emission rated – being the highest efficient fossil fuel category
- ✓ Wilkins will avoid unnecessary travel and will use energy efficient vehicles and driving styles.
- ✓ Encourage the use of public transport, cycle or foot.
- ✓ To eliminate unnecessary and inefficient use of Wilkins owned motor vehicles, and wherever possible, that of other vehicles associated with Wilkins. Wherever possible carpooling will be implemented.
- ✓ When purchasing new vehicles, we will always go for the most eco friendly.
- ✓ We recently (November 2022) purchased 2 new HGV's which have been designed to utilise a “swap body” solution – meaning that we are able to reduce our fleet size by utilizing one truck for larger moves that we do as we are able to swap the bodies without the need for 2 trucks with our previous fixed bodies. This will result in a major fuel consumption decrease.
- ✓ Also we are currently (July 2023) looking into Hydrogen fuel alternative to electric. Electric powered HGV's have an incredibly low range and also reduce the payload of HGV's thus reducing the potential earnings of HGV's, so Hydrogen is becoming an increasingly alternative solution. To add to the Hydrogen fuels capability in our industry, diesel HGV's can be converted to take both Hydrogen or Diesel which will only extend the lifetime of our trucks, resulting in less emissions from building new ones. Currently there are no hydrogen fuelled trucks on the open market and we are awaiting further developments. However, when these become available, we have within financial reason, budgeted for them.

Energy & Water Consumption

Wilkins accepts a share of the UK's commitment to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions both by attaining greater efficiency in total energy consumption and by continuing to examine the possibility of acquiring electricity from 'green' sources when finances permit, either through the purchase of 'green' electricity, or through an increased use of solar water heating, combined heat and power plants (CHP), or photo-voltaic.

Practical Implementation:

- ✓ Wilkins will make every effort to use water efficiently and avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.
- ✓ Wilkins will use energy efficient products wherever practical and monitor usage to achieve minimum energy consumption.
- ✓ We are currently in the final stages of implementing solar panels onto our warehouse roofs which will provide our site with c45% of the annual electricity we require, along with battery storage for the use in the evenings.
- ✓ We again, are in the final stages of gathering quotes and choosing a company to install large water harvesting tanks/associated equipment that will collect rain water for the re use of washing our fleet and watering our trees/plants and providing non-potable water for use within our office/warehouse toilets etc.

Waste Generation and Management

Wilkins will try to minimize the production of waste and pollution; including unnecessary packaging. Wilkins will implement measures to reduce the volume of waste generated and to increase the proportion of that waste which is recycled.

Practical Implementation:

- ✓ All recyclable products used by our company will be/can be recycled.
- ✓ We are already achieving a 95% recycling rate here at our company with barely anything, if at all, going to landfill
- ✓ Wilkins has implemented four separated recycle bins for glass, paper, plastic, and cans/tins in the offices/warehouse for general use
- ✓ Wilkins has 3 separate recycling storage areas for paper products, plastic and cardboard to be contained until our own vehicles and staff deliver/unload them to a recycling company 100metres from our facility – further reducing our carbon footprint by our chosen recycling company being only 100m from our facility. **See PDF attached file titled “map showing distance from our facility to our company’s recycling facility”.**

Materials and Resources

Wilkins will try to minimize environmental impact regarding sourcing materials and resources and to this effect, we only purchase boxes/packaging that can be reused or recycled.

The main material that we utilize is Cardboard and paper-based packaging – although these products can be 100% recycled, we adopt a high frequency re-use policy for our boxes/packaging which produces a reuse frequency of between 3-4 times. During our sales procedure we do make our clients aware of the need to re-use boxes and that they wouldn't be having 100% new boxes, we mix new ones with reused ones at a ration of 1 new to every 1 reused.

Practical Implementation:

- ✓ Wilkins will avoid using materials which have an undesirable effect on the environment, and wherever possible use locally made recycled goods.
- ✓ Wilkins will try to use contractors who also share a commitment to the environment and consider, lifetime costs of materials when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises.
- ✓ Wilkins will re-use all packing products (paper/boxes etc.) until they cannot be suitably used any longer
- ✓ **We are continuing to undertaking trials of a new plastic packing box, which has the ability to be re used by us and our clients up to 60 times. The traditional cardboard box can only be used 3-4 times, whereas the multiple re use of the plastic box dramatically reduces the carbon footprint of our boxes. We have purchased an all-electric van for the delivery and collection of these new plastic boxes again to reduce/eradicate our direct emissions.**

The plastic box is made from plastic, however when the boxes have reached their end, they are returned to the UK manufacturer for recycling back into new plastic boxes. Thus, making the plastics life span nearly never ending. This product will never go to landfill and will always be able to be recycled in many different variants/grades of plastic. To be noted as well, is that our manufacturer of this product is based only 40 miles away from us and are also implementing green energy into their electrical supply to produce the boxes.

We currently are in the R & D (Research and Development) stage of assessing the carbon footprint of each plastic box compared to the traditional cardboard box to ensure that the new product would be carbon neutral in comparison to the cardboard box - please bear in mind that the plastic box has a complete circle of re use and far superior lifespan to that of the cardboard box.

- ✓ Wilkins will maximize use of electronic communication and information storage as an alternative to paper. We have a zero print policy in our offices, unless the document has to be printed for legal reasons.
- ✓ Our team on the road have been issued with handheld devices linked via 4G to our cloud-based operating system from which all client information/instructions/documents are held and accessible anytime/anywhere by authorized users.
- ✓ We actively promote within our spheres of influence the environmental quality and impact of food products and where possible to purchase food which has been grown locally.

Natural Environment

Wilkins will help to protect and enhance natural habitats and wildlife, take appropriate opportunities to enhance them and be sensitive to landscape issues. Look to minimize impact on local wildlife, and to look for opportunities to work with the local community in caring for the local environment. Wilkins (Henley) Ltd will endeavour to be aware of local planning developments and take appropriate action where these are potentially damaging to the environment.

We actively tend to and plant various species of bee attracting flowers within our facility, which attracts a vast number of bees, which is unusual in our immediate proximity, it is an industrial area. However, being in an industrial zone, doesn't mean it has to be barren of green areas and wildlife. We actively tend and maintain numerous newly planted cherry trees/oak saplings in our facility to provide a beautiful, clean, and environmentally sound working space.

Thank you for helping us to help the environment.

Kind Regards

Oliver J Miles
Managing Director
Wilkins (Henley) Ltd
Next Review date – 02/02/2025