Suite F, Kings House, 68 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9LH

Environmental Policy

Revision 1: Issued 19th June 2024

Issue Numbers	Amendment Date	Amendment Details	Authorised By
0	07 October 2022	Initial Development of Policy	M. Munro
1	19 June 2024	Updated	M. Munro
2			
3			
4			
5			

Table of Contents

SECTION 1	STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY	4
SECTION 2	INTRODUCTION	5
SECTION 3	GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	6
SECTION 4	GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES	7
SECTION 5	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	8
5.1.	Noise	8
5.2.	Energy	8
5.3.	Waste	8
5.4.	The Protection of Water Supplies and Effluent Management	9
5.5.	Sustainable Use of Resources	9

SECTION 1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY

The Company recognises and accepts its moral and legal responsibilities to protect the environment when carrying out any work. It also has a responsibility to ensure that any sub-contractors carrying out work on its behalf are aware of the harm that could potentially arise from their undertakings and that they take appropriate measures to minimise damage to the environment while at work.

The Company expects its office and site-based Management actively to seek to improve its environmental performance through enthusiastic leadership and by encouraging the use of new techniques and technologies.

The Company will consult with employees and sub-contractors on a regular basis to maintain the highest level of environmental awareness at all times.

To enable the Company policy to be carried out, responsibility for environmental issues has been assigned to and accepted by members of staff at all levels within the organisation. The policy's objectives will be achieved by:

- Providing adequate resources, including appointing competent Health, Safety & Environmental Advisors.
- Assessing for environmental risks at every workplace before work commences.
- Controlling noise levels at every workplace to ensure staff, sub-contractors and third parties are not exposed to levels exceeding the safe action levels set out in the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.
- Ensuring the release of dust into the atmosphere is reduced to the lowest level practicable through the use of shadow vacuuming, good housekeeping and, where possible, low velocity exhaust systems.
- Replacing hazardous materials with non- or less hazardous alternatives.
- Ensuring that all waste is disposed of by licensed waste carriers and that hazardous waste is separated out before removal.
- Promoting recycling over and above disposal to landfill.
- Protecting against deliberate and accidental release of materials into water courses and supplies.
- Promoting the purchase of materials from sustainable sources where possible and registering on schemes such as ‘Forestry Forever’.
- Promoting and maintaining a commitment to continual improvement in the prevention of pollution.



Mr. Martin Munro
Managing Director
BAC Drywall Ltd

19th June 2024

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The Company recognises its obligation to preserve and protect the environment from the possible consequences of its business activities.

2.1.2 Beyond compliance with legislation, this will entail on-going research into new opportunities for improvement. The Company will ensure that environmental issues are made a high priority and that its knowledge and understanding of environmental issues is current and up to date.

2.1.3 It is Company policy to assess its potential environmental impact in advance of any significant new development and to adjust its plans as necessary in order to reduce that impact.

2.1.4 The Company has decided not to communicate externally about its significant environmental aspects. However, details are available on request.

SECTION 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

3.1.1 To ensure that a formal environmental protection policy is in place and supported at all levels of management

3.1.2 To continue working to reduce waste materials and power consumption during Company operations

3.1.3 To ensure that the effects of the Company's work activities are positive for people and the environment and that adverse effects are minimised

3.1.4 To encourage recycling and to ensure the correct disposal of all products used and/or distributed by the Company

3.1.5 To monitor, evaluate and quantify progress made in protecting people and the environment

3.1.6 To provide information to staff, sub-contractors and other relevant parties on matters affecting health, safety and the environment

3.1.7 To ensure that training is provided to all employees and persons affected by the Company's activities

3.1.8 To assess their commitment to the environment of all sub-contractors who are or may be employed by the Company

SECTION 4 GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

4.1.1 To view compliance with statutes, regulations, British standards, codes of practice and industry and other guidelines as the *minimum* standard only, and not an ideal maximum

4.1.2 To comply always with internal standards when these are set higher than statutes, regulations, etc.

4.1.3 To develop awareness and understanding among all involved parties of the potential impact on the environment of the Company's operations

4.1.4 To maintain a healthy working environment for all employees and members of the public

4.1.5 To consider the needs of the environment and to work to protect it in the course of carrying out Company activities

4.1.6 To provide the information necessary to enable Company owned products to be properly used, stored and disposed of in ways that will avoid unacceptable effects on people or the environment.

SECTION 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5.1. Noise

5.1.1 Noise is generated from machinery and plant used in manoeuvring and installing materials during construction and maintenance activities.

5.1.2 The duration of noise producing activities is generally short and will be kept to a minimum so far as is reasonably practicable.

5.1.3 It is the Company's policy to reduce noise at source by engineering control measures such as, for example, lagging, silencers and baffles.

5.1.4 Consideration will be given to noise emitting capacity when purchasing new plant and equipment for use by the Company.

5.2. Energy

5.2.1 Energy consumption is and will continue to be kept to a minimum.

5.2.2 Low energy light bulbs will be used wherever reasonably practicable; lighting will only be used when required and all lights will be switched off after use.

5.2.3 Heating will be provided by modern heating appliances fitted with timer switches to ensure that premises are not heated while empty.

5.2.4 Thermostats will used to ensure that heating is switched off once required temperatures have been reached.

5.2.5 Computer systems will be energy efficient, i.e., they will be energy star compliant with low power standby.

5.2.6 All electrical equipment will be switched off after use and most particularly outside normal office hours and at weekends.

5.3. Waste

5.3.1 Electronic messaging will be used wherever possible to reduce paper waste. Wherever possible, waste paper will be recycled. Wherever possible, the Company will buy products made from recycled paper for stationary supplies.

5.3.2 Staff at all Company locations will work to reduce waste generation through recycling, re-use of materials on site and the application of other waste minimization strategies.

5.3.3 All waste materials will be recycled wherever possible. Wooden pallets will be returned for re-use and steel banding will be stored and taken to local scrap metal dealers.

5.3.4 Wherever possible waste disposal company skips will be provided on construction sites for separating recyclable waste.

5.3.5 The Company will ensure that liquid waste is sent only to authorised, licensed disposal companies and not placed in skips and sent to landfill. Nicholls Countryside Construction will require local waste disposal companies to provide evidence that waste is sent only to appropriate sites and that consignment notes are fully and correctly completed.

5.3.6 Wherever possible copies of licenses for landfill site usage will be obtained to identify what can and cannot legally be disposed of at any given site.

5.4. The Protection of Water Supplies and Effluent Management

5.4.1 The Company recognises that local water companies must authorise discharges to public foul sewers.

5.4.2 There are two types of drain at most Company offices, workshops and sites, as explained below:

5.4.3 Surface Water Drains - These must carry only uncontaminated water from roofs and clean yard areas to a watercourse (often referred to in legislation as “a controlled water”) or to a soakaway.

5.4.4 Foul Drains - These are designed to carry away contaminated water, trade effluent and domestic sewage to a treatment works. A charge is levied by local water companies for use of this service. Every effort must be made by operatives at all Nicholls Countryside Construction locations to minimise the cost of foul drains use to the Company. Advice and support is available from the Company's External Consultant.

5.4.5 Drainage can and does cause pollution problems. It is essential that new and temporary facilities such as sinks, showers, canteens and wash-down areas are connected only to the foul drain rather than merely to the nearest drain. It is a criminal offence to discharge anything other than uncontaminated water to a surface drain.

5.4.6 Wherever possible loading and unloading areas will be designated, marked and isolated from all surface water drainage systems.

5.4.7 Movement routes for materials must be identified so that additional protection can be incorporated if necessary.

5.4.8 High-risk areas such as refuelling points and chemical storage areas will be isolated from the surface water drainage system by means of interceptors, ramps, and roll-over bunds or stepped access.

5.4.9 Deliveries of oil and other substances potentially hazardous to people and the environment will be supervised at all times. Details of how people and the environment are to be protected to an acceptable standard must be recorded and communicated to all involved parties.

5.4.10 All spills must be contained and reported to Management immediately.

5.4.11 All drainage systems will be inspected regularly and maintained.

5.4.12 Cleaning activities such as lorry washes and steam cleaning processes produce large volumes of polluted water. These operations must be carried out in designated areas which only drain to the foul sewer and which are isolated from the surface water system. Such areas must be clearly marked and kerb surrounds, roll-over bunds or interceptors must be deployed as necessary.

5.4.13 Refuse skips can leak polluting liquids. They will be sited on impermeable bases and isolated from surface water drains. Waste skips will be covered to avoid the accumulation of rainwater.

5.4.14 All contractors and staff employed at Nicholls Countryside Construction locations must be made fully aware of the local disposal facilities for wastewater.

5.5. Sustainable Use of Resources

5.5.1 The Company will take all possible steps to conserve resources, particularly those that are scarce or non-renewable. Such steps will include using only materials from sustainable sources.

5.5.2 Where the Company introduces environmentally responsible replacement products that fully meet the performance standards set by clients, Nicholls Countryside Construction employees, sub-contractors and the clients themselves will help users to understand any consequent changes in performance or application characteristics.

5.5.3 Wherever possible, the Company will assess its suppliers on their commitment to sourcing timber from sustainable forestry schemes.

5.5.4 The Company will advise and help clients identify ways to re-use materials such as, for example, metal partitioning systems and glazing.

5.5.5 Wherever possible timber hoardings will be placed into storage so they can be used again on future projects.

5.5.6 Systems will be set up to help prevent over-ordering of materials on projects.