

## **Environmental Policy**

### **Our vision and principles**

Venton Ltd is dedicated to creating a positive, environmental and social impact on its staff, clients and the local community, with the aim of becoming a sustainable and efficient workplace.

With that in mind, this Environmental Policy outlines the company's vision, values and goals regarding Venton Ltd and how its role fits into the greater global climate context, with the intention of lessening its impact on both the immediate and wider natural environment.

By following this policy and its future goals, Venton Ltd aims to ensure that environmental concerns become a vital element of business decisions and how it builds as a company moving forward.

By implementing this policy, we aim to:

- Minimise our impact on the local and greater environment through our personal practices within the office
- Ensure we are working with responsible suppliers
- Limit travel where unnecessary and minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of power
- Encourage sustainability within staff culture
- Embrace the environment as a core element of our business
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to our company
- Supporting local businesses when possible

Related regulations and standards:

- B Corps
- ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems

## Our commitment and scope

As a growing business within the heart of Cornwall, we are increasingly aware of how our beautiful countryside and coastlines are being affected by climate change.

We feel, as a company with a growing office and client-base, we must be mindful of how our growth impacts the immediate environment – from air pollution to fuel consumption and how we manage waste.

In order to achieve this, our scope covers the following:

- The entire staff of Venton Ltd, including employees, directors and contractors
- All company locations
- Others, like suppliers, which may be impacted by association and contractual terms

With the above in mind, we have outlined steps that are already being taken to minimise our overall environmental impact:

- Processes are established to minimise, as far as is practical and possible, our carbon footprint
- Recycled materials are used where practical and possible for all stationary regarding client communication or marketing
- Purchases for and made on behalf of the company are ethically and environmentally sound
- An Environmental Management System has been established and maintained in alignment with ISO14001:2015
- We are committed to certificating to the B Corps Standards and maintaining that compliance through regular reviews and audits
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- Where practical and possible, communication of information is made electronically via email and through our website to reduce our use of paper and non-recycled materials
- Employees are entitled and encouraged to take advantage of the Cycle To Work Scheme to reduce our impact on the road
- Clients are encouraged to car share where possible
- Our office has been built using air source heat pumps and utilises a sustainable heat recovery system, allowing for a maintained air temperature and better air quality
- The building has been fitted with upgraded levels of insulation to manage the escape of heat
- LED lighting has been implemented throughout the building
- Smart metering is used to continually monitor fuel usage

During Construction and Establishment of our base.

We engaged with the buildings designers setting a brief that ensured sustainability from inception. The focus was holistic and considered elements from the foundation level to minimise soil removed from site through to the paint specification.

Commercial construction generally utilises materials sourced nationally, with the contractors the main steel frame was manufactured between Truro and St Austell, the concrete was supplied from St Austell and local firms used for construction.

The buildings insulating elements were all upgraded from mandatory building regulations compliance to be in excess and therefore reduce the buildings energy consumption from an already low level.

The principle energy usage is heating, but with this facility cooling had to be included for client ambient temperatures. The elevations have windows to attract solar gain but not during peak temperatures to limit the requirement for cooling. Air source heat pumps have been included at 300% efficiency, this serves the building via blown air which reduces the working time of the pumps of continual with under floor heating to further reduce energy used. We have traditional

heavy curtains, made locally and this again reduces the buildings heat loss and heat gain in summer which manages the heat input the building needs.

The lighting is all low energy LED and we have the common parts controlled with PIR's to minimise lighting being left on and take the responsibility away from our guests and still give them comfort in use.

The contractors had a minimising waste policy during construction, no skips were left on site to reduce the inclination to 'throw away useable materials' offcuts and excess materials were retained, stored and then used for the further stages to ensure over ordering didn't occur.

Generally throughout the build, working with the designer and contractor the specification and sourcing of materials has been focused locally. The design has analysed the long term benefits of the integral elements to offer longevity combined with an ecologically sound philosophy.

## Future goals

While we are already striving to minimise our environmental impact, we are also aware that there is more to be done and this will be achieved by regularly reviewing this policy and researching where changes can be made.

Currently, future plans include:

- Fitting the building with solar panels to minimise traditional fuel usage
- Installing an electric car charging point for both staff and client use
- Utilising local supplies where applicable for any structural work to the premises
- Source re-cycled materials where possible for future fixtures and furnishings

## Reviewing this policy

As options become more viable to our business, we will maintain our commitment to becoming as sustainable as possible and review our policy on the minimum of an annual basis.

This will allow for future plans to be implemented and ensure we continue to meet and exceed the goals of this policy.

To further this commitment, the current controls and measures are now in place:

- Environmental Management Process
- Asset Management Process
- Board Terms of Reference
- Procurement Policy
  
- Green Travel Policy
- Travel Expenses Policy
- B Corps Assessment Process
- ISO 14001 Assessment Process

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