

Environmental Policy Statement

Policy / Associated arrangements:

1. As an employer, we recognise the importance of protecting the environment by our works and the advice we give to our clients in association with their operations.
2. Pollution of the environment can result in serious repercussions with both the company and individuals being open to prosecution
3. As a general statement, we do not carry out such works where the environment would be at risk of pollution but we are ever aware of the need to rec-cycle materials and ensure waste is collected and removed to a legal facility for this purpose.
4. It is therefore incumbent on all employees to adhere to the procedures and not do anything that could be considered “pollution” whereby we breach the relevant legislation
5. Protection of the environment goes hand in hand with the company’s accident and incident prevention policy
6. Management will constantly strive to meet the obligations placed upon it by environmental legislation and will comply accordingly
7. Employees will be given relevant instruction and training whereby they are made fully aware of the rules to follow.

Pollution comes in many forms e.g.

- rubbish strewn across the countryside
- effluent / discharge flowing into nearby streams
- diesel or oil seeping through soil into water tables
- excessive noise affecting local residents

The following is an outline of the advice we will give to our clients prior to them undertaking relevant projects where protection of the environment is part of their construction phase plan:

- The project will have a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
- This in the first instance will risk assess the location to identify specific sensitive items such as water courses and wildlife.
- The SWMP will identify significant waste streams for the project and will highlight the areas where close management must assist in eliminating or reducing the amount of waste to be removed from site and the most appropriate management controls relative to the site for the removal of segregates or active waste.
- Re-cycling will be from the start of the project with separate skips for different materials (timber/plasterboard/metals/etc)

Our waste management partners (waste carriers and subcontractors) will be responsible for complying with this SWMP and assist in the removal – they will also be contracted to ensure the appropriate duty of care paperwork is completed, plus ensure that waste carriers and waste management licences are obtained.

Any waste classified as “special waste” must be disposed of separately. A “consignment note” must be submitted to site management by our nominated registered waste carrier for each load before the waste is permitted to leave the site.

Waste materials shall be placed in skips as soon as practicable after generation of the waste; it must not be left outside the compound area. General site tidiness will be monitored through a pre-prepared Weekly Environmental Checklist.

The Site / Project Manager will ensure that suitable areas are set aside to store materials that are required to be brought onto site. Subcontractors will be instructed they must ensure that the materials are sufficiently stored, protected and handled to prevent pollution of any kind.

The SWMP will indicate that only a limited amounts of gas oil and chemicals will be permitted to be brought onto site and must be controlled e.g.

Hazardous Materials

- A material safety data sheet shall be maintained within our offices and the project site for all hazardous materials inventoried
- All hazardous material containers must be labeled properly (as provided by suppliers)
- All hazardous materials must be stored in such a way that it prevents unauthorised access
- All hazardous material containers must be closed when not in use
- Hazardous substances should be stored in original containers in which they were packaged
- Incompatible materials must not be stored such that they could come in contact with each other
- Rubbish and waste must be contained within proper bins and not allowed to blow out over the countryside
- Food scraps must not be thrown on the ground as this only attracts vermin
- Every attempt must be made to prevent liquids entering watercourses. Therefore, under no circumstances whatsoever are employees permitted to pour anything other than uncontaminated water into the ground or down a drain
- All plant vehicles must have a spill kit
- All maintenance operations must have arrangements to contain spillage
- The maintenance of private vehicles on site or in locations controlled by the contractor will not be permitted.
- Where projects impact on nearby roadways, the Site Manager will arrange for these to be cleaned on at least a daily basis to ensure debris e.g. mud does not create a problem for road users.
- Proposed works will be risk assessed prior to start on site to review the potential for site noise to become a pollution hazard for local residents or others. Works will be planned accordingly.

As part of the construction phase plan, each project will have a Weekly Environmental Checklist which will be used to monitor and record compliance to the defined procedures. This will be completed by the Site Manager or other nominated persons.

Subcontractor pre-start meetings will address environmental issues to all sub-contractors. Tool Box talks will be carried out as necessary on environmental issues not covered during pre-start meetings and the site induction procedure.

Each site will undertake a specific risk assessment where the location of the site could create a hazard for local wildlife e.g. birds of prey, bats. Advice may be obtained if necessary from an ecologist and a project specific plan will be implemented if relevant.