

# Environmental Policy



Blackwood Plant Hire Ltd is an environmentally aware Company and we expect our employees and clients to contribute where possible to protect the environment.

This can be achieved by following the simple rules shown below:

- Return any unused items from sites to the stores.
- Redundant fluorescent tubes and toner cartridges are to be returned to store for disposal.
- Turn lights, heaters and monitors off at night. Reduce usage of lights and heaters, particularly during summer months.
- Ensure waste is separated and disposed of in designated receptacles/skips.
- When printing, only print documents that are absolutely necessary – email where possible. Do not waste paper, use both sides of paper when taking notes etc. use electronic devices whenever possible.
- Preserve water by turning off taps when not needed or in use. Report leaking taps to line management, harvest rainwater for use at wash downs etc.
- Never leave vehicles idling for any extended time. When vehicle/plant are not in use then switch off the ignition. Drive vehicles in such a way as to preserve fuel and therefore reduce carbon emissions. Report engine/exhaust defects immediately to your line manager in order to get repairs carried out at an early stage.
- Hire desk should take into consideration the movement of plant from a to b and reduce transportation distances wherever possible.
- For long term projects where we supply plant, arrange for plant storage in local areas, where possible, to reduce transportation distances.
- When purchasing, leasing, hiring vehicles always consider the use of hybrid, or better still – fully electric cars, to reduce fossil fuel usage.
- Ensure that we use green/renewable energy providers for our offices and workshops

Blackwood Plant Hire Ltd acknowledges the Environmental Act 1991 and its associated legislation. We will carry out our activities paying particular attention to the effect on the surrounding environment so as not to cause any contamination or danger to others. As a minimum, our Environmental Management System will meet the requirements of EN ISO 14001:2015.

All hazardous substances will be disposed of in the correct manner according to the manufacturer's details, (COSHH/MSDS documentation).

All site waste shall be disposed of in bins provided by the client or returned to the workshop/retailer for disposal.

In accordance with current guidance from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Blackwood Plant Hire Ltd will set its Environmental objectives and targets by the adoption of the following principles:

## **1. Delivering plant and equipment to sites**

We will supervise deliveries of plant and equipment to our client sites and check the delivery note to ensure that the goods ordered are those received. We will keep delivery distances to as short as possible.

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## **2. Driving and operation of vehicles and plant**

Drivers and operators are instructed to drive their vehicles and operate plant in the most efficient way. Heavy braking, aggressive driving, excessive speeds, idling etc. are all monitored by the service manager and operations director. Action is taken on offenders where identified.

## **3. Noise and odour**

We will be aware of any incident reported to the local authority Environmental Health Department and will act on any complaints of “statutory nuisance” such as:-

- Poor state of premises
- Noise and vibration
- Smoke, fumes, gases dust or steam
- Smells/odours
- Effluents
- Accumulation of refuse or other material.

The Local Authority Environment Health department has the power to impose restrictions or to close down business if they find just cause, we expect our customers, clients and those we work with, to take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimise a nuisance or potential nuisance, in the same manner and professionalism as we do. For example, establish whether you might be causing nuisance to neighbours by regularly checking noise, odours and emissions near the boundary of our premises.

## **4. Discharge of water**

We will ensure that any wastewater, oils, and concentrated chemicals that require special attention or treatment are disposed of in the correct manner after taking advice and guidance from suppliers, the local authority, or the SEPA. We will do this as our “Duty of Care” and dispose of the material at the correct and authorised sites.

## **5. Storage and disposal of waste**

Whatever the method of disposal of waste and type of waste we at Blackwood Plant Hire Ltd have a “Duty of Care” to ensure the safe and correct disposal or recovery of the waste produced by ourselves or our clients. Our clients have the same duty of care and we expect them to adhere to our policy. We will endeavour to record all waste received or transferred through a system of signed waste transfer notes. Everyone is responsible for this waste whether it is passed onto another party such as:

- Specialist contractor
- Scrap metal contractor
- Recycling contractor
- Local Authority
- Skip hire Company

The “Duty of Care” has no time limit and extends until the waste has either been fairly and properly disposed of or fully recovered.

## **6. Packaging**

We will endeavour as far as possible to use reusable packaging wherever possible. We will work with our suppliers to reduce the quantity of packaging waste that needs to be disposed of and use our buying power to discriminate against over-packaged items.

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## 7. Land contamination

We will work together with any local authority to check any contracted land for contamination. If remedial work is required we will liaise with the relevant authorities to do this in the best way possible to the benefit of the public, our client and the environment. We will do this within an agreed time limit mutually agreed with the relevant authorities.

## 8. Energy efficiency

We encourage all our staff to be energy/environmentally aware. We expect them to save energy by being proactive in turning lights off, monitoring utility consumption and wherever possible switch off all non-essential appliances, especially overnight. This will include personal computers, heating systems, charging items, printers etc. We will always use green/renewable energy providers for our electricity usage at our offices and workshop. We will continually monitor electricity usage by regular meter readings and studying our electricity bills.

## 9. Water efficiency

Water efficiency is constantly monitored by use of meters, bills and a proactive approach to general use.

## 10. Legislation

We will endeavour to keep abreast of new legislation, regulators guidance and local authority communications to achieve all of the above goals to preserve the environment.

## 11. Continuous Improvement

**Appointment of a specialist environmental specialist:** Our appointed HSQE is our dedicated carbon management specialist. He will audit, inspect, record and report on all matters regarding our environmental performance at management reviews.

**Management:** Regular monitoring of progress against baseline and associated KPI's will be undertaken to ensure that all of our stakeholders are aware of and collaborating with us to mitigate Carbon impacts during delivery and operation.

**Best Practice:** We will develop, disseminate, and integrate best practices from all of our interested parties to ensure we are operating at the forefront of carbon management.

**Reporting:** Regular communication of our progress, and areas of concern, with regards to our carbon impacts will be made internally and externally with clients and suppliers to ensure we are on track to meet our objectives

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCormack'.

Paul McCormack  
Managing Director

Dated: 01 March 2022