



GREEN POLICY

“MAKING IT EASY TO BE GREEN”

COMPANY MISSION

“TO MAKE IT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO BE GREEN”

Why?

- 1) Being green is seen as being difficult or you need to be an eco-warrior to do it. We believe that people can make easy changes that will make a big difference.
- 2) Insurance fixes problems after they happen, we want to help solve the climate change issue before it becomes too big an issue.
- 3) Government and business has a major role to play in making it easy for people to be green. We want to set an example to others.

How?

- 1) By offering innovative products that make it easy for customers to be green.
- 2) By educating and inspiring our people, customers and the public at large.
- 3) To be a role model for other businesses to do the same.

BACKGROUND

According to ‘The Stern Review’ commissioned by the UK Government and independently pulled together by Sir Nicholas Stern:

- If no action is taken on emissions, there is more than a 75% chance of global temperatures rising between two and three degrees Celsius over the next 50 years
- There is a 50% chance that average global temperatures could rise by five degrees Celsius

The effects of this could be catastrophic:

- Melting glaciers will increase flood risk
- Crop yields will decline, particularly in Africa
- Rising sea levels could leave 200 million people permanently displaced
- Up to 40% of species could face extinction
- There will be more examples of extreme weather patterns

Within our own industry, climate change presents a serious threat to the pricing and profitability of insurance particularly property and liability insurance. Increasing frequency of extreme weather events whether storms or flood are affecting the global insurance market and if as predicted these increase, the stability of the market will change and potentially certain areas could become uninsurable or premiums will significantly increase.

Climate change is a 21st Century problem and there is an opportunity for governments, organisations and individuals to address the problem now but decisive action will be required in order to stop a chain of events that could lead to the world’s climate being changed forever with unknown consequences to human, animal and plant life.

THE BASICS

The Green Insurance Company is committed to a policy of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This will be evident across all aspects of our business and rather than seeing it as commercial burden, we will ensure that we make it as easy as possible to do these things.

Where we are unable to reduce or switch to a carbon-free or low-carbon alternative, we will fully offset the carbon dioxide emissions of our business.

GREEN POLICY OVERVIEW

This green policy covers how The Green Insurance Company will conduct itself with our key stakeholder - customers, people, suppliers and community. It also covers our total commitment to tackling climate change and the practical steps that we have taken and are going to take to be one of the 'greenest' commercial organisations in the UK.

OUR CUSTOMERS

Carbon Offset

The carbon emissions of all cars covered by The Green Insurance Company will be fully offset. That is, the carbon dioxide of our customer's vehicles will be calculated based on their vehicle and annual mileage and we will invest in new tree planting schemes within the UK that will absorb (sequester) this carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

The forestry project will be subject to 'additionality' that is, the project would not be financially viable without monies from carbon offsetting. The project will also be subject to rigid audit to ensure that the project has delivered on its contractual commitments and that the new forest is being properly managed. The forest will have full access rights and our customers and anyone else are free to visit it, if they wish.

Financial Benefits

We do not charge extra for carbon offsetting.

Vehicle Repair and Disposal

We will dispose of any waste car parts in full accordance with government legislation. All cars are de-polluted where any 'hazardous' material is removed and safely disposed of.

Education

We believe that offsetting car emissions is just a beginning, and we will encourage our customers to do as much as they can to reduce their impact on the environment.

Through our ongoing communications with customers, we will encourage them to identify other ways that they can reduce their carbon footprint.

Our hierarchy is as follows:

- Reduce the number of miles that you travel in your car.
- Purchase a more fuel efficient car.
- Improve fuel consumption by 'greener driving'

This will be supported by our website, www.greeninsurancecompany.co.uk to provide information and ideas on how to live a greener life. The website will also host information about environmental issues, explaining the effects of environmental change and why we should be reducing our impact.

Giving Back

We are a company that gives something back. See www.greeninsurancecompany.co.uk/giving for full details of our charity projects

OUR PEOPLE

Overview

Our people have a huge impact on the environmental impact and success of our business. Our aim is to embed green working practices within all of our people and we would hope that this would then extend to their home life as well.

Training

The Green Insurance Company will be very active in educating our people about environmental issues and what they can do to reduce their impact, both corporately and personally.

We will have a formal programme of environmental education and awareness which all employees will take part in. This will consist of training in the classroom, as well as off-site visits to reinforce their learning such as wind farms, land fill sites, recycling plants etc. The final component of our training programme is educating our people on 'greener working' through being energy efficient in the workplace and reducing, re-using and recycling as much waste as possible.

Ongoing Education and Awareness

Being green will be an ongoing part of our work life much in the same way as achieving sales targets or answering calls. We will promote environmental awareness on an ongoing basis through posters, screensavers and the company intraserver.

On a quarterly basis, the company will run special days to focus on specific environmental issues such as paper reduction or transportation. All of our people will be encouraged to take part and we will mix the serious message with fun activities.

Company Policy

Although much of what we are doing is voluntary, there will be some green standards that we expect all our people to follow:

- Proper recycling of waste
- Switching electrical appliances off when not in use
- Best printing practices.

Involvement

A green committee will be set-up comprised of volunteers from within The Green Insurance Company to discuss and review our green policy and to ensure that it is meeting its objectives. The committee will also be responsible for coming up with new ideas on how the company can do more.

As with customers, we will encourage our people to get involved in charitable or environmental projects or events. To that end, the company will allow each individual up to 3 days in any working year to take part in these projects. The time off work will not be counted as a holiday and will be fully paid. The company will select a preferred project on a quarterly basis which we will actively promote and seek volunteers.

Transportation

Due to our business' location and the geographic area where our staff come from, we need to provide a number of transport options. Public transport in the area is poor and many of our people live too far away to walk or cycle to work. Other factors such as shift patterns and location also affect the benefits that could be gained from car sharing schemes.

To encourage our people to adopt greener behaviour inside and outside of work, we have made it easy by providing a low emission car scheme for all employees.

In addition, we will also encourage:

Car sharing

Cycling or walking to work

Public transport (if practical)

OUR BUSINESS

Carbon Footprint

We initially calculated the carbon footprint of our business using a reputable organisation Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management (ECCM). This was subsequently updated by our environmental manager.

Based on our carbon footprint, we have focused on how we can further reduce this, which is detailed in the sections below. Our annual carbon dioxide emissions have been fully offset by using trees through our offset project.

Energy and Water Reduction

Reducing Energy Consumption

The main areas within our building responsible for producing energy are:

- Lighting
- Heating/cooling system
- PC's and peripherals
- Restaurant
- Toilets

Lighting/Heating/cooling system

This is covered by the Kwik Fit environmental policy.

PC's and Peripherals

- All PC's and monitors will automatically go into reduced power mode after 10 minutes of inactivity.
- It is our people's responsibility to ensure that PC's and other electrical equipment that they use are fully shut down at the end of their working day.
- Where possible, all computer equipment will meet Energy Star efficiency standards.

Equipment and Supplies

The environmental impact of any new product or equipment will be fully considered.

- For electrical equipment, the energy rating and percentage of recyclable components will be taken into account.
- For office stationery, we will purchase recycled products when available provided that they are fit for the required use.
- Printers must be capable of printing duplex.
- All paper used will be 100% recycled post consumer waste and will also be Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).
- For furniture, fixtures and fittings, the source of the product will be considered, the material and how recyclable it is will be taken into account.
- For vehicles, the carbon footprint and fuel efficiency will be fully considered prior to purchase.

Waste and Recycling

Targets

- 1) 100% recycling of all recyclable waste produced within the business.

Reduction

We will actively seek to reduce the amount of waste that our business generates. Our main focus for reduction is as follows:

- Printing on both sides of paper as standard.
- Reducing the paper margins to allow more text to be printed on a sheet.
- Raising awareness of paper use by our people and challenging them on whether it needed to be printed in the first place.
- Using an alternative to disposable cups.
- Using e-mail or telephone as an alternative to paper for both customer and general business communications.

Recycling

- We will recycle 100% of all recyclable waste that is produced onsite. Full facilities will be available for confidential paper, ordinary paper, cardboard, plastics and glass. This will be collected by a licensed waste company and sent for recycling.
- All electrical equipment will be disposed of in line with the EC Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).
- We will provide facilities on-site to enable our people to recycle batteries, mobile phones, ink cartridges and clothes from home.
- All ink toners from company printers will be recycled.

Re-Use

- Toner cartridges will be sent away to be refilled and reused.
- Paper that is no longer required will be reused for scrap paper, provided it has useable space left on it.

Non-Recyclable Waste

Any waste that is unavoidable and un-recyclable will unfortunately need to be sent to landfill.

Transportation

Overview

The Green Insurance Company are aware of the impact transport has on the environment. The issue of transportation is dealt under two sections:

- Business travel
- Commuting

Business Travel

Travel Need - We will make our people aware of the need to reduce business travel. We will do this by asking our people to question the need to hold a face-to-face meeting. Where a meeting goes ahead, the individual may be asked to justify the validity of the meeting.

Travel Alternatives - If a meeting is required, could the same result be achieved by holding a telephone conference call or perhaps a video conference.

Method of Travel - a number of factors require to be looked at with regards to the method such as the environmental impact, journey time, location, cost etc.

Travel Offset - as well as reducing the amount of all business travel, all journeys will be fully offset.

Commuting

Please see *'Our People - Transportation'*.

Environmental Management

Due to our size, this is conducted by the management and with the help of external companies and advisers when required.

OUR COMMUNITY

Getting Involved

We will get involved in local community projects that have an environmental or charitable benefit. Please see '*Our People – Involvement*'.

OUR SUPPLIERS

Selection Process

The Green Insurance Company will give preference to green suppliers over non-environmentally minded companies.