dma signs

NET Positives Action Plan

Supply Chain Charter

UPDATED: 1ST JANUARY 2024

Revision 0.1

This policy document is reviewed as a minimum at least every 12 months

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

We want to have a positive impact on the world and lead the sustainable transition of the signage industry.

We see efficiency, quality, and transparency as the main drivers of our business.

Our Code of Conduct is based on the principle of treating others as we would like to be treated.

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NET Positives Action Plan -Energy and Carbon Management Policy
This Policy supports the DMA Signs Limited 'Environment and Sustainability' Policy. The Company is committed to measuring and reducing carbon emissions associated with its activities.

The Company aims to achieve energy use and carbon emissions according to the Carbon Management Plan, which is be updated annually.

DMA Signs Limited is committed to:
Comply with legal and other reporting requirements relating to energy
Maintain and Energy Management System.
Include reviews of performance in energy conservation at Senior Management Meeting / Board meetings and ISO reviews / audits held annually.
Report carbon progress annually to employees, the public and customers.
Target measures with a short financial payback period as a priority for energy efficiency and prioritise other measures based on cost and carbon impact.
Fund onsite renewable energy projects where the simple payback of the turn key solution.
Encourage all staff members to consider and reduce their personal energy consumption through staff reviews, training and education programmes to increase awareness.
Continue working with Health & Safety consultants and Supply Chain partners to meet common energy savings objectives.
Manage the efficient use of space by monitoring statistical and operational ratios and the subsequent development of space management procedures. In particular our factory and storage facility.
Works with construction partners / project on BREEAM "Excellent" rated design projects and offer signage solutions that promote this rating.

All policy commitments will be reviewed on an annual basis, via the Directors of DMA Signs Limited.
In order to implement this policy the Company will allocate responsibilities and resources as it deems appropriate through Senior Management team. All employess have a responsibility in delivering this policy.

This policy is approved by:

Name: Mr Paul Lovelock
Position: Managing Director (Commercial)
Date: 1st January 2024
Signature: 

Name: Mrs Nicola Langston
Position: Managing Director (Operational)
Date: 1st January 2024
Signature: 

DMA Signs Limited recognises the impact business activities have on the environment and strives to minimise and eliminate the environmental impact through continuous improvement. We are therefore accredited to ISO 14001.

DMA Signs Limited environmental training policy principles include:
To observe and adhere to environmental laws and regulations
To conduct operations in a manner that demonstrates respect for the environment
To monitor environmental practices regarding DMA Signs Limited supply chain
Implement remedial controls and procedures where required
Set specific and achievable goals in order to reduce our impact on the environment

Environmental initiatives include:
Using renewable resources where possible.
Enhancing company image and profile in the marketplace by addressing issues relating to corporate and social responsibility.
Using the latest technology to reduce DMA Signs Limited impact by adopting good working practices.
Using suppliers from the local community in which we work.

DMA Signs Limited follow this initiative especially in relation to:
Energy
Water
Natural resources
Manufactured materials
Waste
Pollution to air, land and water
Paper
Commits to continually improving its environmental performance and supports a culture of environmental awareness

Continuous Improvement and Review
We carry out environmental management reviews and auditing programmes designed to measure our progress. This is in relation to our policy statements, objectives or targets that we may have set. Our environmental management system will enable us to manage our environmental aspects on an on-going basis, thereby complementing our commitment to continual improvement.

Net Zero Emissions
We are committed to a reach Net Zero emissions by 2030. This will be achieved by employing best practice in energy and carbon management, developing and delivering against our Carbon Reduction Strategy as well as by reducing our energy consumption and improving our energy efficiency wherever possible.

Waste and Recycling
We strive to minimise our waste disposal through an economic use, re-use and recycling of materials and products wherever possible.

Employee Awareness
We provide appropriate training, instruction, and supervision to all our employees. This ensures they are able to perform their duties in a way that supports our environmental policy and objectives.
Protection of the Environment

We are committed to protecting the environment and to preventing the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant.

Legal and Other Compliance Obligations
We commit to meet and, where possible, exceed all relevant legal requirements and any other compliance obligations to which we may subscribe, relating to our environmental aspects.

Communication
·This policy will be made available to interested parties and communicated to all employees at DMA Signs Limited.

Environmental Controls
When undertaking Signage works, consideration is to be given to the environmental impact of the operations, processes or products.

Serious damage can be caused to the local eco-system due to airborne asbestos fibres, the run-off of chemicals getting into watercourses, poor storage of products or the lack of equipment for dealing with emergency spillage etc.

The control of pollution Act imposes restrictions on work activities, which may create an adverse effect to the condition of the ground, air or water.

During the planning stage of work, the environmental impact is to be assessed and suitable controls developed and implemented.

DMA Signs Limited as employers of the persons undertaking work activities with hazardous products or chemicals, will provide:

Suitable systems and controls for minimising the migration of dust
Suitable and sufficient bunded storage areas.
Suitable and sufficient spillage control kits for the materials in use.
Suitable protective clothing and equipment.
Suitable washing and welfare facilities.
Suitable procedures for the removal and disposal of waste materials and packaging
Training in the reasons why, and the procedures to be adopted in emergency situations.

Such pollution may also create a nuisance to other persons in residence or using the area. Again these issues are to be considered during planning e.g. noise emissions, dust or chemical pollution, especially if food is prepared in the area, and suitable controls put in place.

We host an extensive range of eco-friendly materials; we use less carbon-intensive production methods and even carbon-offset. The opportunities brought on by the rising demand for sustainability create the challenge of finding more eco-friendly solutions without extra cost. Our customers want more sustainability without having to pay more.

We've really noticed a big uptake in recycled, recyclable and reusable substrates for signage, so we've been putting a lot of our efforts into researching and developing new techniques to print on eco substrates and with eco inks.

We're doing a lot of this research in-house and it's been great, if sometimes challenging, to be able to work with new and non-conventional materials to meet our customers' demands for more environmentally friendly signage.

Our in-house R&D department is a big part of what we do and has proved to be a strong selling point during the pandemic, by enabling us to constantly evolve and move with the industry.

Use of recycled materials. We'll always endeavour to specify a recycled material where we feel it's appropriate, but this is often a trade off with other factors such as material efficiency (as the mechanical properties of some recycled materials, especially plastics, can be lower by comparison). In addition, recycled materials may not provide the same longevity or generate the same desirability as a 'virgin' material and the product may have a shorter lifespan as a consequence (not so green). Our experience has taught us that finding a supply of recycled material of consistent quality is, at present, not always that easy. It's because of factors such as these, we also think that rating the 'sustainability' of products based on statistics such as "recycled content" alone can be, in some instances, quite misleading.

Use of recyclable materials. For most materials, the initial processing from raw ingredients requires much more energy than recycling, so there's no doubt that the use of recyclable materials is important. Having said this, much of the 'recycling' that occurs today generates lower value materials as a result; simply taking them "one step closer to the landfill" so this is another topic we feel needs a bit more investigation and why we are embracing the Cradle-to-Cradle approach to design. This asks us to look much more closely at both the core ingredients of the materials themselves and the systems of use within which they are used.

Identification of materials. It's a pretty obvious thing to do (so we do it) but marking our parts where possible with a material identifier helps them get recycled properly once you've finished with them. Without them, identifying one plastic from another can be done but it's easier if you can read it off the part.

As a company we have established a process of continual improvement in our overall footprint and operational performance, as summarised in our Environmental Statement which is kept under regular review.

We believe that it is possible to do well by doing good. We have a collective responsibility to the health of the planet and the wellbeing of society, now and into the future.

Our two production facilities are based in the North and South of the UK. We use local suppliers wherever possible, and minimise energy use and unnecessary waste by:

•Making 100% to order = no obsolete stock
•Maintaining minimal levels of reject / rework in order to make the most effective use of resources.
•Employing digital cutting to get the most from our sheet materials.
•Operating in a clean, stable and reliable environment with the help of good housekeeping and planned maintenance
•Using low energy lighting

DMA Signs records and monitors all utilities consumed at our manufacturing sites, and we employ our years of legacy data in the tracking of trends and identification of areas for improvement. An Environmental Impacts & Aspects analysis highlights the aspects of our business most likely to be impacted by changes in the waste we generate, production processes, utilities consumption, transport, and supply chain. We also have independent audits of our manufacturing sites as part of our H&S assessments.

We have worked hard to establish a responsible supply chain, bringing benefits including streamlined processes, reduced transport miles and reusable packaging while supporting local businesses and social enterprises.

We task our suppliers with advising DMA Signs on environmentally responsible materials and on how to get the most out of them, and they proactively support our social and environment targets and aspirations through their own research and innovation. We monitor the environmental performance of all our suppliers each quarter.

Smart Manufacturing
Changing the way, we manufacture not only creates opportunities for growth and revitalisation but enables us to respond with greater speed and agility to the Universities individual requirements.

•We are driving down emissions with our voltage optimisation device that lowers energy output and CO2 emissions by 2700kg per year.
•We're always trying to improve our green credentials with tech. Our HP Latex allows us to produce quality prints whilst reducing our carbon footprint. It addresses a broad spectrum of environmental concerns, from ink chemistry to indoor air quality. In addition, our printers reduce reprint waste through its colour accuracy and repeatability.
•We've partnered with like-minded companies that are helping us reach our sustainable goals when it comes to print. Our waste is managed and has a zero-landfill policy. All of our dibond, acrylic, card and PVC roll waste go away for recycling. We work with media suppliers to help us source the most sustainable products on the market suitable for many print applications.

•For the manufacture of our signage, we use a vast number of materials such as aluminium, stainless steel and acrylic. One key decision we have made is that all our acrylic sheet is now made from 100% recycled materials, and we are working further still with our supply chain to help make additional improvements.
•DMA Signs continuously develops processes to further minimise negative environmental impacts and conserve energy and natural resources where possible.
•Process optimisation is embraced within every department from production to manufacturing through to point of sale and thereafter.
•DMA Signs has embraced 'just in time' production methodology to all of its operations where products are made to order ensuring there is no absolute stock.
•Quality Assurance developments: Continuous developments with regards to the close monitoring of our Quality Assurance systems to ensure fewer mistakes and full compliance with ISO 9001.
•Great housekeeping maintenance has been adopted across all departments.
•Hybrid and electric vehicles will soon be part of the fleet with charging ports being installed at our factory.
•Purpose built installation vehicles / trailers to minimise transit damage with minimal packaging.
•CNC cutters: to maximise yields.
•All Goods supplied will carry (as a minimum) the following warranty periods in conjunction with BS559, with prices fixed for a minimum of 10 years, and our own no-quibble guarantees include:
•All Permanent signage come with a 10-year minimum lifespan guarantee as standard, in accordance with BS559.
•All signs are manufactured to withstand graffiti, and exposure to the elements (including but not limited to bright sunlight and moisture) as standard.
•Our products are ISO 9001:2000 registration recognising our unflagging standards.
•All Goods meet the requirements of the Specification and Tender and conform to the standards and specification laid down by the British Standards Institute and relevant International Standards, or equivalent.
•All signs come compete with full instructions, and O&M Manuals.
•All Signage will also be CE marked where applicable.
•Goods do not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party and comply with any design guidelines stipulated by the end user.
•Our manufacture systems comply with any design guidelines stipulated by the end user, and substances used in the manufacture of signs comply with the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction) Regulation for controlling chemicals in the EU and COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health).

We have a dedicated 'Purchasing Department' where our 'buyers' are continually monitoring the marketplace for new suppliers, carrying out price comparisons, extended term agreements, research new materials, sustainable products and innovation, and will update our internal CDM procurement system with the latest information to ensure any cost saving are passed onto our clients on a continual basis. Our Estimating Department then uses this live information to quote works to DMA Signs is the most competitive within the marketplace.

Where a product or material has been specified by a 'client', but a more suitable and cost-effective option is available, we will advise the 'client' of the value engineered option (VE option), and provide a date sheet to support the products sustainability, compliance, test certificate, material compound, and operational benefits. In many cases we will also prepare a product sample of each material option ('VE' against 'specified') so the client can make an informed decision.

End of Life

We aim to be a very different kind of company by 2030, as we scale up investment in low-carbon and make headway on reducing emissions throughout our business operations. To deliver this ambition, we have already launched our new strategy and are now taking a more pro-active approach to ensuring that the resources going into our products were not being lost to landfill after one cycle of use.

We have set up a recycling department at our factory site in Surrey and all our staff involved in this operation have Waste Management Industry Training.

As part of our innovative approach to the management of this contract we are also able to offer an affordable product 'take back' service which deals with returned / redundant signage in one of two ways:

If the signage is still in reasonably good condition, then the most energy efficient next step I s re-use rather than recycling.

If re-use isn't possible then the product is disassembled. The materials are then separated (metals, plastics, foam, fabric) and recycled via the appropriate channel. We can then offer a 'scrape metal rebate', which we discount against the final invoice on completion of works.

Disposal process for all removed signs and how we assure our customers of environmentally friendly disposal.

1. We continually review and improve the environmental impact of materials used in our products and processes both in our supply chain and as part of signage works.
2. We aim to minimise pollution produced in all parts of our business, and aim for pollution-free processes and technology and innovation is developed.
3. We minimise waste by following the priority order of reduce, re-use, recycle, Energy Recovery (e.g. incinerate) and Dispose (e.g. landfill).
4. We ensure all timber and wood-derived products are sourced from only independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources.
5. We actively pursue continuous improvement so as to enhance quality, lower costs, reduce materials, packaging and waste.
6. We take all reasonable measures to minimise the use of harmful / hazardous chemicals, inks, dyes, paints and other materials used in the manufacturing process, and have recently invested in 'solvent free inks' on all our digital print technology.
7. We actively work to find and develop more sustainable solutions for the production of our signage and the processes involved.
8.We encourage the re-use of packing materials and ensure that customers and supply chain are advised of these alternative solutions.
9. Insist on complete visibility over our supply chain and operate an 'open book policy'.
10. On an annual basis, we ensure our supply chain partners are operating in-line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards as a minimum.
11. Ensure Substances used in our manufacturing process and supply chain comply with the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction) Regulation for controlling chemicals in the EU and COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health).
12. We ensure signs which we removed and dispose of are done in-line with our waste hierarchy, minimising the disposal to landfill wherever possible.
13. We ensure compliance with all relevant waste legislation including any updates, amendments or changes to this throughout the life of the contract and any new legislation that may come into force.
14. We ensure any waste generate by our activities are taken to an authorised site for treatment or disposal.
15. We maximise the use of recycled materials where appropriate.
16. We encourage and promote the phasing out non-renewable materials, where appropriate but in full consultation with the customer.
17. We always consider the product's life cycle and investigate areas where waste can be viably reduced.
18. Where possible, we consolidate orders and batch produce and deliveries to our customers.
19. We sort and recycle redundant packaging arising from supplying and installing goods.
20. We always away the packaging and not dispose of it at the customer's site.
21. We minimise our carbon footprint by planning staff travel and deliveries.