

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

**Date**: 4 October 2017

**Review Date:**  4 October 2018

Omega Care Group has a commitment to ensuring best practice, to minimising its environmental impact and to embedding sustainable working practices within the organisational culture.

Omega further recognises that purchasing policies should reflect ethical, fair trade and environmental considerations as far as practicable.

The organisation will work in conjunction with staff to implement this policy throughout all aspects of service delivery, and to identify further opportunities to promote sustainability.

Omega is committed to ensuring a safe work place for staff which embraces and celebrates workforce diversity.

Energy Efficiency

* Individual radiator thermostats fitted
* Use of LED lighting where possible
* Use of low energy light bulbs
* Appliances not in use will be switched off, or put on standby (e.g. computer systems)
* Energy efficient white goods
* Hot water temperature set at a minimum
* Washing machine only used when full
* Use of single cup boil kettle.
* Batteries – if use is necessary, these will be rechargeable only
* Lights switched off when room not in use.
* External washing line replaces use of tumble dryer.

Recycling and waste minimisation

* Effective sorting of recyclable and reusable materials
* Scrap paper reused
* Printing ink cartridges recycled / refilled
* Work towards paperless office
* Avoidance of packaged goods where possible
* Aerosol cans not to be used
* No purchase of single use bags
* Unwanted equipment recycled via “Bulky Bob”.

Water

* Kettle fitted only for immediate use
* Dual setting toilet flush systems
* Tap leaks immediately repaired
* Taps not left running when washing up
* Washing machine filled prior to use.

Cleaning

* Biodegradable, plant based cleaning materials (eg ECOVER) in use for toilets, washing up, floors, surfaces and windows
* Bleach / chemicals no longer in use
* Biodegradable hand soaps
* Recycled paper toilet rolls / hand towels
* Use of washable cleaning cloths.

Purchasing

* Paper from recycled sources
* All wood / furniture products from certified sustainable sources
* Biodegradable, plant based cleaning materials
* Avoidance of unnecessary packaging
* Use of local suppliers where possible
* Fair trade options selected wherever possible.

Awareness Raising – Young People

Young people working with Omega will be encouraged and supported to develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainability, its processes and how they can minimise their personal impact.

This will be addressed with the Independent Living Plan.

Transport

Staff to be encouraged to use public transport and minimise one-car journeys.

Omega Care Group is committed to seeking ongoing improvements in the promotion of sustainability issues.

This policy will be monitored regularly and evolve in line with best practise and continued innovation.