

Carbon Reduction Plan

Expanding on the Environmental Commitment and Sustainability Efforts of Premium Wipes and Textiles Limited

The NHS is embarking on a pioneering journey to achieve a 'Net Zero' target under the 'For a Greener NHS' initiative. This ambitious goal aims to make the NHS the world's first net-zero national health service, setting a global example in healthcare-led environmental sustainability. As a key supplier to both the NHS and private healthcare providers, Premium Wipes and Textiles Limited is committed to playing an integral role in this initiative. We are not only aligning ourselves with the NHS's environmental objectives but also establishing our own internal targets to reduce our carbon footprint and educate our staff on the importance and benefits of these efforts.

Company Overview and Environmental Commitment

Established in 2019, Premium Wipes and Textiles Limited has rapidly expanded its footprint within the healthcare industry. We recognise the responsibility that comes with our growth and are dedicated to minimising our environmental impact. Our commitment begins within our organisation, where we work closely with our staff and extend to our partnerships with local companies and international suppliers, particularly those in the Far East.

We have developed a plan which will be updated annually on our website with key information with respect to progress

Energy Conservation Initiatives

Energy conservation is a cornerstone of our sustainability strategy. We have implemented several practical measures to reduce energy consumption within our operations:

- **Dishwasher Usage:** We have limited the use of dishwashers in our facilities, encouraging both staff and our cleaning service to hand wash, thereby reducing energy and water consumption.
- **Thermal Efficiency:** During winter, we ensure windows and doors are kept closed to retain heat within the building, minimising the need for excessive heating. Thermostats are set to maintain ambient temperatures, optimising energy usage.
- **Energy Monitoring:** We actively monitor our energy consumption by reviewing gas and electricity bills, allowing us to track our progress and identify further opportunities for savings.
- **Digital Transformation:** Our transition towards a paper-lite system is a significant step in reducing energy consumption related to printing and paper use. We are moving towards digital records and electronic communications while still accommodating patients who may be affected by digital poverty by maintaining the ability to print and post essential documents such as appointment invites and prescriptions.

- **Efficient Use of Electronics:** We save on energy bills by ensuring that electronic equipment is turned off or placed in standby mode when not in use. Additionally, we have switched to energy-efficient lighting, further reducing our electricity consumption.
- **Sustainable Commuting:** We have registered for the Cycle to Work Scheme and actively encourage our staff to use public transport, car share, walk, or cycle to work. This not only reduces our carbon footprint but also promotes healthier lifestyles among our employees.
- **Remote Working and Virtual Meetings:** By supporting remote working and holding meetings via Microsoft Teams, we have significantly reduced the need for travel, further contributing to our energy-saving goals.
- **Property Surveys:** We have initiated property surveys to identify opportunities for reducing energy consumption across our facilities, ensuring that we continuously improve our energy efficiency.

Recycling and Reuse Programmes

Reusing items is one of the most effective ways to reduce waste and extend the life of products. At Premium Wipes and Textiles Limited, we are committed to a robust recycling and reuse programme:

- **Staff Education:** We educate our staff on the importance of reducing and reusing plastic and actively monitor our progress by tracking the reduction in black bin refuse.
- **Local Recycling Partnerships:** We collaborate with local recycling shops, such as Recyclemart, to ensure that reusable items are given a second life instead of being discarded.
- **Recycling of Electrical Items and Furniture:** Electrical items in working order and upholstered furniture with fire safety labels are recycled, along with any other items that can be repurposed.
- **Home Recycling:** We also encourage our staff to extend their recycling efforts to their homes, raising awareness regularly to reinforce this practice.

Environmentally Friendly Purchasing

We understand the significant impact that purchasing decisions can have on energy consumption and the environment. To mitigate this, we prioritise the procurement of environmentally friendly products:

- **Energy-Efficient Appliances:** We are mindful that certain electrical appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves, coffee makers, and onsite servers, can consume considerable amounts of energy. Therefore, we make it a priority to purchase energy-efficient alternatives.
- **Local Sourcing:** Wherever possible, we source goods locally, reducing the carbon footprint associated with transportation and supporting local businesses with green credentials.

Monitoring, Measuring, and Reporting

To ensure transparency and accountability in our efforts to combat climate change, we have established workstreams dedicated to monitoring, measuring, and reporting our progress:

- **NHS Net Zero Plans:** We actively disseminate the NHS's Net Zero emissions plans to our staff, ensuring that everyone is informed and engaged in our collective goal.
- **Staff Involvement:** We encourage staff to contribute ideas and work towards specific internal targets, fostering a culture of innovation and environmental responsibility within our organisation.
- **Influencing Suppliers and Patients:** We also aim to influence our suppliers and patients by promoting sustainable practices and helping to shift mindsets towards a more environmentally conscious approach.

Ongoing Monitoring and Reporting

We believe that continuous monitoring and reporting are essential to achieving our sustainability goals. Therefore, we will:

- **Utility Monitoring:** Monitor electricity, gas, and water usage through quarterly bills from our utility suppliers, allowing us to track consumption trends and make data-driven decisions.
- **Resource Usage:** Compile information from invoices to monitor ink and paper usage, tracking both quantity and cost.
- **Commuting Habits:** Survey staff on their commuting habits, including the use of public transport, car sharing, walking, and cycling, and monitor changes in activity over time.

Commitment to Responsible Business Practices

At Premium Wipes and Textiles Limited, we are deeply committed to behaving responsibly and minimising our impact on the environment. We educate our staff on reducing their carbon footprint through sustainable commuting options and aim to create a safe and comfortable working environment with excellent lighting and regular environmental spot-check audits. By using local suppliers and partnering with companies that share our green values, we are dedicated to ensuring that our business practices contribute positively to the environment and the communities we serve.

This holistic approach reflects our belief that environmental sustainability is not just an obligation but an integral part of our growth strategy and corporate responsibility. We are proud to contribute to a greener future, in alignment with the NHS's Net Zero ambitions, and will continue to innovate and improve our practices to achieve our environmental goals.