

H21. Environment Policy

1. Introduction

WCS Care Group recognises the importance of good environmental practice. We recognise that our activities have an environmental impact. WCS Care Group is committed to improving its environmental performance and to this end has achieved accreditation with an environmental **Environment Management System ISO 14001** which incorporates a continual improvement programme. The Company's accreditation is reviewed externally by an independent assessment body every six months which is in itself accredited to the International Accreditation Board.

It is WCS Care Group's objective to operate with, and to maintain good relations with all regulatory bodies. It is WCS Care Group's declared policy to carry out all measures reasonably practicable to ensure we continually improve environmental performance.

2. Policy

It is the policy of WCS Care Group to:-

- a. Regularly review our policies to ensure they remain properly aligned to the need to reduce waste and to encourage the most effective utilization of scarce resources.
- b. Maintain a continual improvement programme and **ISO 14001** accreditation which provides a framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets.
- c. A nominated Board Member will hold the Chief Executive to account for overseeing and implementing the **ISO 14001 Environment Management System**.
- d. The Chief Executive will be responsible and have the authority for overseeing and implementing the **ISO 14001 Environmental Management System** and will ensure there is a responsible person with the competence to perform and conduct internal audits.
- e. Develop a wider understanding of our supplier's environmental issues in the supply chain, to ensure that it is diverse, sustainable and meets the requirements of our **Environment Procurement Policy**.
- f. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into our business decisions.
- g. Minimise the production of waste, recycle and reuse waste
- h. Minimise energy wastage.
- i. Control noise emissions.
- j. Assess and regularly re-assess the environmental effects of WCS Care Group impact on the environment by the organisation's equipment, plant and operations.
- k. Adhere to all relevant regulations concerning waste and environmental well-being.
- l. Train all company employees in the responsible management of the environment whilst conducting company business.
- m. Ensure that all sub-contractors employed by the Company are aware of their responsibilities to the environment, adhere to environmental regulations and conduct themselves in the correct manner in environmental issues.

- n. Minimise risk to the general public, service users and employees from WCS Care Group operations and activities.

3. Rules

- All employees and sub-contractors are responsible for handling waste materials in a correct and safe manner
- All suppliers and sub-contractors must comply with WCS Care Group **Environment, Environmental Procurement, Fair Trade and Equality and Diversity Policies**
- Waste disposal must be by safe handling methods and correct procedures. Waste must be disposed of according to the relevant local authority's rules and guidance
- Consider any hazardous risk in handling and disposal procedures
- Minimise waste. Recycle waste. Reuse waste, wherever possible. WCS Care Group are committed to promoting and upholding 'Warwickshire County Councils A-Z of Recycling Directory' (See www.warwickshire.gov.uk A – Z of Recycling)
- Segregate waste and dispose of in the correct manner as agreed with local authorities
- Be aware of risks from leakages and spills
- Minimise the impact to nature and wildlife, particularly when working in rural locations
- Observe relevant COSHH regulations, safe handling procedures and regulations
- Identify any unknown substance – do not dump it
- The entire **ISO 14001 Environmental Management System** including this policy and the records associated with it must be formally reviewed to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness in the light of changing circumstances and records kept of the process
- Training regarding each member of staff's responsibilities relevant to the Environmental Management System must be undertaken and recorded

4. Conclusion

This policy commits WCS Care Group to take all reasonable steps to prevent pollution and to reduce the organisation's environmental impact. WCS Care Group will ensure this policy is communicated to all employees, suppliers and sub-contractors and is available to the public via our web site.

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