



Environmental Policy Statement

Disability Equality North West (DENW) is a small organisation however it recognises that it should encourage environmental sustainability in its everyday operations, as much as is reasonable, in order to reduce its impact on the environment (carbon footprint).

The key points of its strategy to achieve this are:

- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.
- Minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of its transportation and the source of its power requirement.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers.
- Source and promote a product range to minimise the environmental impact.

DENW will offer training for its staff and volunteers to raise awareness of environmental issues and enlist their support in improving DENW's performance on environmental impact.

DENW will encourage the adoption of similar principles by its suppliers.

Transportation

DENW encourages transport sharing.

It enables staff to use public transport and does not make it a requirement to own or use a car.

It supports volunteers to access the NOW card to use public transport.

Stationery and supplies

DENW buys recycled paper wherever possible

DENW recycles its print cartridges

DENW is working towards a policy of only buying and using environmentally friendly products for all its cleaning operations.)

Improve recycling/minimise waste

All our used paper is and must be shredded and is collected. Please ensure that all waste paper is shredded.

Cardboard is placed in the recycling bin in the courtyard. Please ensure that all waste cardboard is put in the recycling bin.

Plastic bottles and tins are recycled

We pay the local council to collect and recycle paper and cardboard. As yet the local authority does not recycle tin, glass and other materials.

Old computer stock is redistributed through silent auctions

We sometimes hold a very small stock of old wheelchairs and other mobility aids. These are loaned out when required, or passed on for a small donation to those who need them.

Improved energy efficiency

Whilst we are constrained by the building that we use we do encourage energy efficiency.

DENW uses low energy light bulbs wherever possible.

It ensures that staff, volunteers and users of the building ensure that they switch off all energy sources.

Energy/heating is not used in rooms not in use at any given time.

Electrical equipment is switched off at the end of the day.

Looking after the outside environment

The office is situated next to a plot of waste land.

It uses this ground to plant bulbs and other plants to keep the area looking pleasant.

Any fly tipping is dealt with promptly by contacting the local authority.

Dealing with other like minded companies/organisations

DENW will enquire if suppliers provide environmentally friendly products

Continuous improvement

DENW will regularly review its environmental policy to examine if there are any other creative actions it may take to reduce its carbon footprint.

Possible suggestions

Find a local partner (Charity)

Obviously we can't be taking all our recycled material along to the local household recycling plant so we could find a local partner who can come into your offices and collect any material that will be recycled

Set up a recycling scheme

Once we have a local service partner we could set up our own recycling scheme.

Here are some of the best ways to start things off:

- Have a launch event that every one can take part in
- Train staff on what can be recycled and what's included in the scheme
- Have ongoing communication pieces and emails providing information on how much waste has been recycled and what this means for the business and the environment.
- Have recycling bins and containers in each functional area so it's easy for employees to recycle and not inconvenient.
- Recycling our print cartridges
- Make note pads out of waste paper that is not of a confidential nature so it does not contravene data protection legislation(a volunteer could do this)
- Re-use and recycle envelopes through the use of sticky labels that states that envelopes are being recycled (could be made with DENW on the label)
- Establishing a recycling of mobile phones through a reputable charity