



# Sustainability Plan

3 November 2023

## Introduction

Our commitment to being a sustainable business and friendly to the environment is at the heart of everything we do.

This Plan outlines our commitment to align with UK government and international strategies, aspirations and legislations between now and 2050 to ensure all areas of our business comply with the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty that entered into force on 4 November 2016. It marks the beginning of a shift towards a net-zero emissions world.

The Paris Agreement sets long-term goals to guide all nations:

- To substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees
- To review countries' commitments every five years
- To provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts

In line with this international legislation of achieving zero greenhouse gas net emissions by 2050, we are committed to delivering our Plan by 2050, if not sooner.

## Locations

This Sustainability Plan covers our sites in Peterlee, County Durham, in Exeter, Devon and our satellite office in Telford, Shropshire.

## Our Short-Term Plans – now to 2025

### Waste

- All our cardboard and general waste for our sites, which includes plastics and metals, are 100% recycled and recovered. Nothing goes to landfill.
- 100% of our cardboard and general waste is recyclable.
- Pallets – 100% of the pallets we buy are recycled and have been used by many suppliers. We encourage our customers to get on board to recycle pallets and

our drivers collect these when they deliver to our customers ensuring they are used time and again.

- We are working with an external, specialist partner to further review and reduce our energy consumption with energy saving technologies and cloud-based energy monitoring to help quantify and manage our usage across all sites to meet operational and Health & Safety needs. This will also precisely control costs, make effective improvements that will enhance our environment and reduce costs too.

#### Lighting - Internal

- This plan is ongoing. Older style strip lighting that simulates daylight in the factory is being replaced with more efficient LED lighting. This uses less energy for the same output, has longer life and over the long-term will cost the business less.

#### Lighting - External

- Outside, spotlights are being replaced with LED night lights, which makes for far more efficient usage of electricity and overall the use of less power.

#### Water

- The conservation of water is a high priority for us. We use mains water to clean the water-based inks on our machines and this effluent water complies with strict consent levels from Northumbrian Water who consistently record COD levels and monitor our usage on a monthly basis.

#### Inks

- All our inks and glues are water based. They are compostable, biodegradable and fully recyclable and are diluted with an aqueous solution, rather than solvent solutions and are 100% environmentally friendly and safe. They do not require treating before disposal and therefore do not contaminate the environment.

### Product Certification

- All our sites are Chain of Custody Certified, which means we help support the future of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home.

### Accreditations

- We are stringently audited and monitored annually on our Environmental, Quality and Health & Safety certifications to ensure we continuously adhere to their exacting standards across all areas of our business.

### Certifications

We are proud to have secured the following Certifications:

- ISO 14001 Certification – Environmental Management
- ISO 9001 Certification – Quality
- EcoVadis Silver rating
- Health & Safety
- BRC Hygiene Policy
- FSC Certification

### Employee Training Policy

- Our Training Policy is ongoing and is continually reviewed and modified on a monthly basis. During their induction, our new employees are encouraged to read, observe, train on and support all key areas of our Environmental Awareness Policy, which they have signed up to.

### Machinery

- We are stringent about CIL, the Cleaning, Inspection and Lubrication of our machinery and ensure ongoing maintenance of these and complete monthly Inspection Sheets to meet not only with our strict Health & Safety Guidelines, but also to ensure machines operate at their optimum efficiency levels, which should in turn decrease energy wastage.

### Vehicles

- All our owned delivery vehicles will be upgraded to new, Ad Blue consuming, less polluting, more fuel-efficient assets in the Spring of 2024, helping to reduce harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere. They will also comply with congestion charges, which are being implemented in many towns and cities across the country.

### Forklift trucks

- We have recently replaced all our forklift trucks with energy-efficient trucks, which operate on non-polluting gas and have up-to-date safety elements to comply with our stringent certifications.

## **The Medium Term – now to 2030**

We are determined to work closely and proactively rather than reactively with our many suppliers and customers to develop more efficient ways to achieve the medium and long-term goals we have in mind in creating a more sustainable future. We believe with innovation and a forward-thinking attitude we can eliminate wastefulness and achieve excellent sustainability for the BoxWay Packaging Group.

### Solar panels

- We have installed 37 solar panels at our Exeter site, which contribute to energy reduction and we are working to ensure our Peterlee site installs these over the next few years.

### Energy

- We are committed to reducing our electricity usage continually and monitor and document this on a monthly basis so energy efficient measures can be implemented.
- We are aiming to consistently reduce electricity consumption at all sites, and are even taking simple steps such as switching off lights, compressors, extractor fans and machine belts at the end of shifts or during staff breaks, ensuring staff are consistently mindful of usage, is making a difference.

### Our Carbon Footprint

- We are continuously reviewing measures over the medium term to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our energy consumption across all areas of the business. We are seeking to replace all strip lighting with energy efficient LED lighting, investing in two new compressors which use less energy and also prevent leakage into the atmosphere.
- Through our energy-saving measures we are continually saving carbon.

### Our Gas heating

- Our gas use is highly regulated by our supplier, and we are obliged to use our gas heating within set parameters. It is serviced every six months to comply with government standards to ensure maximum efficiency.

### **Our Long-Term Plan – By 2050**

- We are consciously and conscientiously working towards the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and we will continue our proactive approach in all efforts to further reduce emissions to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

### Information requests

All documents referred to in this Plan are available upon request.

Please contact: [Andrew.Woollard@boxwaygroup.com](mailto:Andrew.Woollard@boxwaygroup.com) for further information.