



# Sustainability Plan

January 2025





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



## Introduction

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.
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# 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 Waste

- All our cardboard and general waste from 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
- 100% of the pallets we buy are recycled and are used by many of our suppliers. We encourage our customers to recycle pallets. Our drivers collect these when they deliver to our customers ensuring they are used again and again.

## Lighting – Internal

- This plan is ongoing. Older style strip lighting that simulates daylight in the factory has now been totally replaced at our Exeter site with more efficient LED lighting. Strip lighting at our Peterlee site will also be replaced this year. 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.



# Our Short-Term Plans

## Now

### 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.

### 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
- ISO 9001 Certification – Quality
- ISO 45001 Health & Safety
- EcoVadis Silver Medal *(This medal reflects the quality of our sustainability management. To achieve the Silver Medal, we had to land in the top 15% of all companies assessed by EcoVadis)*
- \*BRC Hygiene Policy

\*BoxWay Packaging Peterlee





# Our Short-Term Plans

## Now

### Employee Training Policy

- Our Employee Training Policy is ongoing and is continually reviewed and modified monthly. 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 committed to the cleaning, inspection, and lubrication (CIL) of our machinery. We prioritise ongoing maintenance and complete monthly inspection sheets to adhere to our strict health and safety guidelines. This approach not only helps ensure that our machines operate at optimal efficiency but also reduces energy waste.

### Vehicles

- All of our owned delivery vehicles have been upgraded to new, AdBlue-compliant models that are less polluting and more fuel-efficient. This upgrade helps reduce harmful emissions released into the atmosphere. Additionally, the vehicles now comply with congestion charges that 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.



# Our Procurement Policy

## Supplier approval and selection

We are equally rigorous with our Procurement Policy checks and processes with regards to both the suppliers we work with and potential new suppliers to ensure the products we purchase align with our Sustainability Plan and our future sustainability goals.

All new, current suppliers and transport businesses are required to complete a Supplier Approval Form (IMS 2095) giving general details regarding the extent of their quality, safety, environmental and hygiene systems, processes, ethical trading, bribery, REACH compliance and any other accreditations they may have within their organisation. The outcome of this evaluation is recorded on the Approval Register (IMS 2098).

Spot checks are carried out on supplies we receive to maintain compliance and the results are meticulously recorded to ensure we are continuously supporting our Sustainability Policy and Procurement Policy therein. There is consistently clear traceability throughout the entire manufacturing process and across all areas of our business.



# Our Medium-Term Plans

## Now

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.



## Net Zero

We are committing one hundred per cent to reducing our impact on the climate crisis by partnering with leading Carbon Accounting Consultants, Turning The Black Country Green (TTBCG), to become verified Carbon Neutral by 31 March 2025.

We will undertake ISO14068-1 Carbon Neutral certification, meaning we will calculate all GHG emissions and mitigate them each year, to offer all our customers a ZERO CARBON FOOTPRINT packaging solution. We are then building a plan to reduce these emissions to achieve Net Zero by 2045, five years ahead of the UK backstop of 2050.

## 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.

# 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.