

**CHEW VALLEY CONSTRUCTION  
LIMITED**

# Environmental Policy





## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

It is our policy to fully recognise the importance of protecting the global ecosystems and reducing the use of natural resources encouraging the use of business solutions in ways that support responsible and sustainable development.

Chew Valley Construction Limited acknowledges that our activities have direct and indirect environmental impacts and endeavour to manage these in a responsible manner. Chew Valley Construction Limited is committed to continuous improvement of our environmental performance, to minimise impact on the environment and to encourage our business partners to do likewise.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will take a proactive role in implementing suitable environmental management standards and are committed to the prevention of pollution within our activities.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will seek to apply best practice in environmental management and to satisfy this aim, Chew Valley Construction Limited have the following objectives:

- To integrate environmental considerations into corporate decision making, the development and delivery of professional services and purchasing and supplier management
- To ensure compliance with local, national and international standards, legislation and other regulatory agreements
- To eliminate or minimise any adverse environmental impact
- To identify and pursue practices which maximise efficiency and reduce environmental impact, by undertaking regular reviews and assessments
- To define objectives for improvements and to set long-term targets, primarily related to waste reduction, recycling and energy consumption
- To communicate effectively to our staff, so that they are fully aware of the significance of their role within the organisation and of any related environmental effects that are within their control
- To attempt to influence, in a positive manner, all suppliers and contractors whose services may also have an impact on the environment

This policy and attendant procedures will be regularly reviewed and up-dated to reflect changes in legislative, organisational, operational and management arrangements.

This statement is fully supported by the

Managing Director **JIM KELLY**

Signed:

Dated:

25.01.12



## IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

Chew Valley Construction Limited are committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment through the implementation of an Environmental Management Strategy.

The organisation will evaluate its activities and will identify the following areas of environmental concern:

### **Assess the environmental impacts of all operations**

As part of the risk assessment process Chew Valley Construction Limited carry out for all works, the environmental impacts of the work will also be assessed. This will involve looking at all phases of the work from the procurement of staff, contractors and materials through to waste disposal, transportation and final sign off.

### **Reduce pollution, emissions and waste**

Awareness of environmental issues is growing, and customers, investors and other stakeholders increasingly prefer to deal with businesses that have good environmental credentials.

Suppliers will be asked to reduce packaging at source and to group deliveries where possible, with local suppliers given preference to reduce delivery distances and travel times.

As part of any future vehicle procurement, the initial cost of the vehicle will not be the sole reason for purchase. Limiting vehicle emissions can help to reduce environmental impact and benefit the business. Emissions from vehicle exhausts are a significant source of air pollutants including:

- CO2
- Carbon monoxide
- Fine dust particles
- Nitrogen oxides
- Unburnt hydrocarbons

By choosing vehicles that are more environmentally friendly and by using them more efficiently, Chew Valley Construction Limited can reduce transport costs, such as fuel bills and vehicle tax.

Chew Valley Construction Limited has a legal responsibility to ensure that any waste they produce, store, transport and dispose of is carried out without causing harm to the environment. This is called Duty of Care.

The Duty of Care has no time limit. The organisation is specifically responsible for any waste from when Chew Valley Construction Limited produce it until that waste is transferred to an authorised person for disposal.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will:

- Store and transport waste appropriately and securely
- Check that waste is transported and handled by people or businesses that are authorised to do so
- Complete waste transfer notes (WTN) to document and describe all waste that they transfer, and keep these notes as a record for at least two years

Waste transfer notes will contain a declaration that Chew Valley Construction Limited has applied the waste management hierarchy, meaning that they must consider reusing or recycling the waste, before deciding to dispose of it.

Chew Valley Construction Limited shall give instructions to all their employees and contractors on how to handle and dispose of each type of waste that they produce, and shall also regularly check that their employees and contractors are following these instructions.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will store all waste materials safely and securely in suitable containers such as skips, intermediate bulk containers or drums. These waste containers will be maintained in good condition and emptied or changed on a regular basis.

Chew Valley Construction Limited shall ensure that waste cannot blow away by making sure that the waste is covered or netted. Waste will be stored under cover if rain will prevent it from being reused or cause contaminated run-off.

Chew Valley Construction Limited shall separate all different waste types where possible as this can increase the value of the waste to the waste contractor and save money in disposal costs.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will prevent liquid wastes and pollutants from escaping into drains, watercourses or surrounding ground. Waste will be stored on impermeable surfaces within a secondary containment system. Ideally this should be a bund which is large enough to hold the leaked contents of the storage containers.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will ensure that waste storage facilities are secure against vandalism, arson, theft and accidental damage.

### **Noise and dust**

As well as the health and safety concerns over the production of noise and dust, Chew Valley Construction Limited also recognises the implications of these products on the environment. Noise and dust levels will be monitored during all Chew Valley Construction Limited works. Deliveries will be arranged during normal working hours to ease noise nuisance levels, especially to local residents, and dust production will be reduced by using dust reduction procedures such as extraction or damping down. Physical means will also be used to lessen both these products.

### **Hazardous Waste**

Chew Valley Construction Limited will separate hazardous waste from other types of waste and keep different types of hazardous waste separately. They will separate materials that

are incompatible, such as chemicals that may react together if they leak. COSHH assessments will be used to assist in the disposal of hazardous waste, and suitable consignment notes will be completed, in line with the Hazardous Waste Regulations amendment 2011.

#### **Hazardous waste record keeping: moving or receiving**

Chew Valley Construction Limited shall maintain records in a register if they become involved in the movement of hazardous waste. This register will include:

- Its removal from our premises
- Intermediate storage
- Transport
- Disposal or recovery

#### **Hazardous waste record keeping: disposal or recovery**

Chew Valley Construction Limited shall also maintain records when hazardous waste is disposed, or recovered, at the same site as its production or storage.

As a producer, consignor, holder, carrier or consignee, Chew Valley Construction Limited shall:

- keep records in a register of hazardous waste movements
- supply specified information to the Environmental Agency, or the emergency services, as required

If Chew Valley Construction Limited is a consignee (someone who receives hazardous waste), they shall also:

- keep records (showing waste locations on the site)
- provide returns to producers, holders or consignors

#### **Site waste management plans**

New regulations came into force in April 2008 which means that any construction project in England costing over £300k needs a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). This includes:

- New build
- Maintenance
- Alteration or installation/removal of services such as sewerage, water.

A SWMP sets out how building materials, and resulting waste, is to be managed during the project.

- The SWMP's purpose is to ensure that:
- Building materials are managed efficiently
- Waste is disposed of legally, and
- Material recycling, reuse and recovery are maximised.

If Chew Valley Construction Limited undertakes the role of the Principle Contractor, they must ensure that a SWMP is written, followed, and updated during the project. Although the plan must be written at the construction design stage, it is a requirement of the SWMP regulations to maintain it during the whole project.

There are two types of SWMP depending on the cost of the project:

- A project costing between £300 - £500k follows a basic template
- Anything over £500k requires a much greater level of detail.

The SWMP regulations are intended to be self-regulated. The onus is on the client (or principal contractor) to make sure that the SWMP meets its regulatory requirements and all those involved in the project act in accordance with the plan and current waste legislation.

### **Efficient use of water and energy**

By monitoring the use of utilities, Chew Valley Construction Limited will strive to reduce their use of these precious resources.

Water meters will be installed where necessary and the water usage monitored. Readings from water meters will be recorded with an objective to reduce water consumption by at least 5% every six months. Regular inspections of work areas will be carried out to identify water saving measures such as repairs to leaking outlets, the fitting of water saving devices to urinals and reducing the levels of stored water in storage tanks. Where stand pipes are used for site activities, these will only be left running when in use and removed to stop unauthorised usage.

Low energy or LED lamps will be fitted as first choice when replacements are needed, and time clocks and solar sensors fitted to outside lights. Chew Valley Construction Limited will consider the use of passive infra-red (PIR) operated low energy lighting on refurbishment or installation works and will discuss this with their clients.

### **Use of biodegradable or alternatives to chemicals and to minimise the use of solvents**

Where possible, the organisation will use environmentally friendly or biodegradable products instead of volatile organic compounds. Volatile Organic Compounds are materials which evaporate readily from commonly occurring sources such as vehicle exhausts, cleaning agents, solvents used in coatings, as well as thinners, some paints and brush cleaners.

In the presence of sunlight, these VOCs can react with nitrogen oxides to create ground level ozone and photochemical smog. These in turn can contribute to pollution of the atmosphere.

When buying or specifying materials, Chew Valley Construction Limited will take into account the environmental impact of these products and this will include office consumables (inks, toners, paper etc.) through to construction materials. The use of paper and timber products from sustainable (managed) forests would be an example of this.

Vendor assessments will be carried out to ask suppliers to consider the environmental aspects of the products they supply.

## **Raise awareness, train employees, and encourage participation**

Chew Valley Construction Limited will provide training to all employees in basic Environmental Awareness issues. This training will be extended to cover the different aspects of each employee's roles. If certain staff require extra training to allow them to raise their environmental awareness, this will be provided.

Staff are encouraged to participate in raising the levels of the organisations environmental awareness. Regular meetings with the staff will be held, and any environmental issues raised. These issues could highlight what the organisation is doing well, any areas where the organisation is failing and any best practices that staff have become aware of.

## **Communication**

To ensure successful implementation of this environmental policy, the statement will be applied organisation-wide. Chew Valley Construction Limited shall strive to gain input from a range of people in the organisation as this will help to ensure commitment and ownership. It also helps to convey the message that environmental improvement is central to the organisation's goals.

Most importantly once the policy has been finalised, it should be distributed and revisited regularly. It should be used to continually involve staff in efforts to go green. The individuals that make up any business can each take simple actions both at work and at home that will greatly reduce the organisation's overall impact, and they should be encouraged by the policy to create positive change.

Staff and organisation leaders should work together to define the organisation's environmental policy statement and ensure that:

- It is communicated to all employees.
- Everyone in the organisation understands the statement.
- Everyone knows what is expected of them.
- The environmental policy statement is made available to the public.

Chew Valley Construction Limited will continuously seek to improve their environmental awareness by monitoring the progress and reviewing the performance annually.