R B CONSTRUCTION GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

RBP2000.1.11 RBP2000.2.11

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MISSION STATEMENT & COMMITMENT

R B Construction Group Ltd in its role as a construction company acknowledges that the Company and its activities have a significant impact on the environment. We have identified the key areas as energy, water, waste, transport, hazardous materials, business operations, biodiversity and health. We aim to protect and improve the environment by an in depth analysis, identification and measurement of these environmental aspects and impacts and to set targets to reduce them.
We have signed up to the government's landfill initiative via the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).We are committed to reducing our waste and are working hard to adopt and implement standards in good practice to prevent, reduce and recycle the materials used during our operations.
In May 2012 we achieved level Blue in the STEM certification and will continue on to achieve Silver and Gold.

Our Commitment is to:-

✓ Identify, meet or exceed the environmental legislation, standards and codes of practice that relates to the Company's activities

✓ Continuously improve our environmental performance and integrate environmental best practice into our business operations

✓ Reduce our consumption of resources and improve the efficient use of those resources

✓ Assess, measure, record and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of our business activities

✓ Manage waste generated from our business operations according to the principles of reduction, re-use and recycling

✓ Continue to improve our environmental performance through effective communication, provision of staff training and adoption of best techniques available

✓ Manage our business operations to prevent pollution

✓ Ensure environmental, including climate change, criteria are taken into account in the procurement of goods and services

✓ Be a respectful neighbour by minimizing the impact that our activities, sites and premises have on local communities

✓ Protect and, where feasible, enhance biodiversity on sites and premises where we hold responsibility or can influence those who do

✓ Seek to Influence our clients to adopt, and our designers to provide, solutions that benefit the environment

✓ Establish targets to measure the continuous improvement in our environmental performance as identified in our RBP2000.11.4.1 (environmental management targets).

✓ Set corresponding targets in procurement and work with our Supply Chain to help them achieve our targets

Denise Best
April 2012

To meet our commitments we will:

- ✓ Use only timber certified as being from sustainable forests
- ✓ Use recycled waste and demolition products where possible and use waste management contractors who have similar environmental policies as ours
- ✓ Use recycled aggregates where practical
- ✓ Regular service our portable machinery appliances to control pollution
- ✓ Reduce and replace the use of 'toxic chemicals' with 'green' replacements where possible
- ✓ Use CFC free products.
- ✓ Regular maintain and service our vehicles to ensure emissions are kept as low as possible
- ✓ Maximise delivery of materials and reduce return trips made by unladen vehicles.
- ✓ Identify our waste streams and reduce material wastage by carefully planning recycling, reusing and selective ordering
- ✓ Make lighting and power energy savings both at work and on site,
- ✓ Use peat alternatives in landscaping and ensure that mature trees are retained, wherever possible, on site
- ✓ Implement office recycling
- ✓ Minimize the need to travel but, where travel is unavoidable, use modern and efficient modes of transport
- ✓ Establish, measure and monitor key objectives and targets annually
- ✓ Apply the following standards

STANDARDS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Community relations

We will warn local residents and businesses about activities that are likely to take place on site to help reduce their concerns and allow for their participation in environmental issues. Our sites will have a point of contact for enquiries or complaints, to show that we are taking responsibility for our actions and are aware of the surrounding community.

In the case of emergencies, we will display a 24-hour contact Number.

We will appoint a contact person who will be responsible for logging complaints and taking appropriate action.

We will endeavour to carry out all noisy works between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

At any especially sensitive buildings such as residential property, hospitals, schools and businesses, we will especially take measures to reduce and environmental impacts such as dust and noise.

We realise that some activities can take place on site without residents being disturbed. This work may be carried out outside our standard working hours if it does not disturb people at the nearest occupied property to where the work is taking place.

Setting up the site
No temporary structures to cover utilities covers (such as gas, water or electricity covers) or any street gullies. All site gates to open inwards and not outwards onto the highway.
All temporary structures to be kept in a safe and well-maintained condition at all times, and must display an information board with the relevant contact details for the particular site.
Hoardings and signs re-used in accordance with our sustainability policy.
A clear path 1.2m to 1.8m wide to surround structures

Nuisance
Construction works can cause unnecessary debris on the highway such as mud, spoil, concrete and dust. We will do everything we can to stop this happening, such as facilities on site for washing down vehicles and to ensure lorries are covered when they leave the site. Mud, spoil, concrete and dust will not be washed into street gullies.

Construction traffic
We will plan vehicle movements to and from site and agreed in advance, enforced with all our drivers and subcontractors.
Vehicles will enter the site immediately and leave the site in a safe and controlled manner. The area around the site or any road will not to be used as a “holding” area for deliveries. No employees or subcontractors to cause a nuisance by parking or blocking the highway or neighboring roads etc.

Air pollution and dust
Identify construction activities likely to cause pollution problems along with methods to minimize them. Environmental risk assessments to be carried out if necessary
We will specify and select low emission materials and fuel.
Use damping down sprays in dry weather, use wheel washers and regularly sweep around the site.
Use screening and hoardings.
Cover skips and loaded lorries.
Use rubble chutes and handle materials carefully to avoid dust.
Use the most modern and least polluting mechanical and electrical plant wherever possible.
Maintain plant engines and exhaust systems.
Site plant exhausts sited to avoid public areas and air outlets on adjoining buildings

Materials handling, storage, stockpiles, spillage and disposal
Use silo or covered storage for cement and other powdered materials.
Use sheeting for friable boards and building blocks.
Use bunded areas (secure and impervious areas) for diesel fuel or chemicals.
Undertake regular site inspection for spillage of cement and other powders.
Cut materials for building off site whenever possible.
Use cutting and drilling plant with water sprays or dust extraction/collection wherever possible.
Install screens round cutting areas and use water sprays near public areas.

Use shears and guillotines where possible to replace disc cutters used on re-bar etc.
Carefully site tar burners and asphalt burners; control their temperature and make sure the boiler lid stays in place whenever it is used.
Not allow bonfires on site for any purpose.
All equipment will be properly maintained and switched off when not in use to reduce fumes.
Not over rev equipment and vehicles when in use.
Take precautions to control fumes from stored fuel oils.
Carry out regular monitoring where there is evidence of fumes and dust becoming airborne. Have contingency plans in place in cases of accidental release.

Waste disposal and the "duty of care"
All materials disposed of as per the SWMP to an appropriately licensed or exempt waste management.
Our Company has a waste transfer certificate and carries waste according to the Environmental Waste procedures.

Asbestos
Risk assessments are carried out, together with the Asbestos register, to consider the presence of asbestos and the associated level of risk, together with the development of safe working practices. Our Policy is not to touch Asbestos but use a licensed asbestos-removal contractor.

STANDARDS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT: THE SITE

Active Management

Site
The environmental impacts of construction work will be considered as early as possible in the project, and from this a site waste management plan will be produced. Where potential adverse impacts are identified, measures to offset or reduce them will be incorporated into the project proposals at the earliest stage.
Incorporated in our meetings are discussions on ways to reduce emissions and act on them. The main site potential environmental impacts arising from site works have been identified as noise, water, vibration fumes, waste and storage, the mitigation measures are limited by the nature of the work, but they will be:

Noise
All efforts shall be taken to reduce noise to a minimum. Silent generators shall be used, only properly.
Maintained machinery with engine covers in place shall be used; plant and machinery shall be switched off whenever practical and idling plant shall be stood away from residential and business and premises whenever possible.
Noise on site to be reduced as far as possible to protect their own health and safety and the community as a whole
Antisocial behaviour such as shouting, using radios and swearing will not be permitted.

Water
Site run-off and wastewater produced as a result of site activities, to be disposed of in line with the requirements of the Environment Agency and have enough protection in place to make sure any dangerous materials used onsite do not. A suitable drainage system onsite for the construction phase to be made to reduce flooding and pollution. Ways to reuse water that is usually wasted during construction. i.e. collect, store and re-use water that collects on site for lower-grade uses will be applied wherever possible.

Vibration
To protect occupants, users and building structures from harm and damage, acceptable levels of vibration from all sources, during demolition and construction to be kept.

Fumes
To reduce the volume of fumes generated, only properly maintained plant and machinery shall be used, and plant and machinery will be switched off whenever practical.

Storage
Petrol and diesel shall be stored in approved containers and shall be locked away in the vehicles that they came in.

Waste
All scrap/waste materials shall be recycled either on or off site as in the site waste minimisation plan.
Any generators used on site shall have drip trays positioned beneath them, which will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure they do not overflow. The periodicity of this monitoring will be determined on site, and varied according to weather conditions and degree of fluid leakage experienced. Once full, or at the end of the works (whichever occurs first), any residue collected shall be disposed of correctly.
All soil, hardcore etc. to be recycled.
No waste food to be left uncovered on site. Good canteen practices to be maintained to avoid pest problems.

Recycling
We are keen to promote the positive use of surplus or waste materials in reducing the effect on the environment and the costs of disposing of them.
Materials produced from demolition or construction work in the planned development.
to be re-used wherever possible or skip companies to be used that recycle.
A demolition waste audit of the development site to be carried out before any demolition to salvage any materials from the site that can be reused such as: brick, concrete, hardcore, subsoil, topsoil, timber, metal, steel frames, plastics ect.
The Construction waste management plan tackles:
waste arising through the development process
ways of recycling waste
ways of reusing and recycling waste

PROCEDURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT: OFFICE, WORKSHOP, STORES, COMPANY VEHICLES

Office Workshop, stores company vehicles
We have identified the following environmental impacts:
1. Office waste
2. Workshop waste
3. Electrical good waste
4. Energy waste
5. Hazardous chemicals
6. Vehicle emissions

Active management
Office waste
Recycling paper, cartons, cardboard etc.
Empty printer cartridges collected and recycled by local charity.
Encouragement of suppliers and clients to send and receive electronic statements and payments rather than paper.
Double sided printing and electronic invoices and communication

Workshop waste
Recycling wood waste and sawdust.
Maintenance of machines to improve efficiency.
Low energy lighting.
High use of natural lighting.

Electrical good waste
Electrical waste in the forms of mobiles sent to charities or companies such as Fonebak for reuse.
All spent batteries placed in recycling bags and sent to the appropriate charities.
Redundant computer equipment managed by charities such as Techknowledgy

Energy waste
By ensuring that all workstations and lights are turned off when not in use.
By ensuring all thermostats are set at the correct temperature or turned down by 1°C.
By ensuring all radiator temperature valves are working and turned to zero when room not in use.
By ensuring all doors are draught free.
By ongoing replacement of single glazed windows to double glazed energy efficient.
Ensuring water thermostat not higher than 60°C/140°F.
Closing blinds in the winter months at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.
No appliances, mobile charges left on standby and appliances not charged unnecessarily.
Water to be boiled as needed (remembering to cover the elements).
Ensure no leaking taps and always fully turned off.
All lighting to be energy saving lights.

Hazardous chemicals
Ensure all products containing hazardous waste are replaced where possible with safer green products.

Vehicle emissions and Green Fleet Policy
Encouragement of local employment cycling to work and car sharing.
All site visits will have clear site directions to prevent waste Plan Routes.
Planned and measured site visits and vehicle sharing
All new Company Vehicles will be ordered based on their fuel efficiency and emissions.
Discourage use of private vehicles if fuel inefficient and or with high co2 emissions.
Encourage drivers to adopt an eco-driving style. to make real savings, but help with the environment, to drive more efficiently and thus produce less carbon dioxide (CO_2), the main gas contributing to climate change.
By active encouragement of the workforce to follow the steps below the fleet impact on the environment will be reduced

1. Check revs - change up before 2,500rpm (petrol) and 2,000rpm (diesel).
2. Anticipate road conditions and drive smoothly, avoiding sharp acceleration and heavy braking. This saves fuel and reduces accident rates.
3. Use air conditioning sparingly as it significantly increases fuel consumption.
4. The most efficient speed depends upon the car in question but is typically around 55 - 65mph. faster speed will greatly increase your fuel consumption.
5. Drive away immediately when starting from cold - idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.
6. Accessories such as roof racks, bike carriers, and roof boxes significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency, so remember to remove them when not in use.
7. Avoid short journeys - a cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel and catalytic converters can take five miles to become effective.
8. Plan journeys to avoid congestion, road works and getting lost.
9. Check tyre pressures regularly - under-inflated tyres are dangerous and can increase fuel consumption by up to 3%.
10. Stuck in jam procedures: - switch the engine off if you expect to be there for more than a minute or two. Cutting the engine will save fuel and reduce emissions.

Senior management will review this policy annually and establish environmental objectives and targets that are consistent with the businesses' current policy commitments.
This policy forms part of our Quality Manual RBP2000.1.7 and will be communicated to all staff and a copy placed on the R B Construction Group Website

Information sites

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ www.envirowise.gov.uk/ems www.energysavingtrust.org.uk www.foe.co.uk
www.ends.co.uk
www.brookes.ac.uk/eie/quickwaste.htm
www.inem.org/

Document Change Note			
No.	**Brief Description**	**Date**	**Action**
1	Content change	01/04/2009	
2	WRAP	01/04/2010	Mission statement
3	STEM	22/05/2012	Added to statement
4			
5			
6			