



Environment Policy

Green Building Store is committed to offering leading edge products for low energy buildings and aims to champion best practice in low carbon and sustainable construction. Sustainability is at the heart of what we do, however we recognise that our operations will inevitably have an impact on the local, regional and global environment.

To address this, Green Building Store seeks to continually improve its environmental performance by preventing pollution, increasing energy efficiency and minimising waste. Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

Green Building Store commits to:

- Ensure that all employees are kept informed of the company's environment policy and of the environmental implications of their actions within the workplace. The company's environmental aims and objectives are also communicated to Green Building Store's customers, partners and suppliers.
- Green Building Store will review its environmental performance and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations annually and will set environmental targets and goals for the coming year. The Environmental Performance Review will be carried out in August of each year, with the next review taking place in August 2020.

Main activities

Nationwide supply of a range of building products, consultancy and training for low energy and Passivhaus buildings.

Number of sites and locations:

Office and four industrial units in Heath House Mill, Bolster Moor (leased from private landlord P Clark), West Yorkshire. (NB The fact that these are leased puts some limitations on Green Building Store's control over unit infrastructure, electricity supply etc.)

Ownership: Green Building Store is a trading name of Environmental Construction Products Ltd, Heath House Mill, Heath House Lane, Golcar, Huddersfield HD7 4JW.

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Environmental Performance Report 2019

1) Campaigning

Following the recent UN IPCC report outlining the urgent timescales needed for climate action, Green Building Store has made a number of additional commitments to take action as a company to respond to the climate emergency:

- Lending support to the Kirklees Climate Emergency campaign – calling on our local council to pass a Climate Emergency Motion and to set targets for drastic cuts to climate emissions. Support will include printing materials, publicity work, voluntary time given by Directors and others to promote and share best practice on low energy construction.
- Sharing news of the climate emergency on our social media and newsletter platforms.
- Increasing involvement in the Zero Carbon Yorkshire BUILDINGS/ AECB Yorkshire group to ensure that there is a strong local response and readiness to address the climate crisis from building and construction industry.
- Working collectively with the AECB and Passivhaus Trust to promote best practice in low energy building.
- Working with ShareAction to campaign for our pension provider The People's Pension to reduce its exposure to the risk of stranded assets by offering an alternative fossil free pension option.
- Committing to planting a tree for every window order placed, in an ongoing partnership with the Trees for Yorkshire campaign and Colne Valley Tree Society.
- Supporting the Global Climate Strike on 20 September 2019 by actively supporting any staff wishing to join the climate strike on 20 September, including paying them if they do take the day off to take part in climate strike actions. Working with the AECB and others to gain additional support from other businesses within the sustainable building sector.

2) Dissemination of ideas and knowledge

- Sharing resources on Passivhaus and radical retrofit for building professionals and selfbuilders through films, technical briefings and blogs on our website.
- Offering 'Introduction to Passivhaus' CPDs and talks to building professionals and selfbuilders across the UK.
- Using our construction arm Green Building Company to undertake innovative research and development in construction and retrofit.

- Continuing campaigning work to promote Passivhaus and low energy building by Green Building Store Director Chris Herring through voluntary roles with the AECB, Passivhaus Trust and International Passivhaus Association.
- Dissemination of Passivhaus construction best practice through Director Bill Butcher's role in teaching on the AECB CarbonLite CEPH and Retrofit course

3) Innovative products

Green Building Store aims to source and supply high performance building products suitable for low energy homes and buildings.

In particular, Green Building Store aims to:

Product sustainability

- Carefully consider the environmental impacts of its product range at all stages of their lifecycle from manufacture to disposal.
- Offer products which demonstrate clear advantages in reduced environmental impact and increased sustainability and which minimise or eliminate potentially harmful effects on human inhabitants of buildings.

Environmental information

- Offer clear and informed advice to our customers on the environmental impact of all of the company's product range.
- Make no unsubstantiated claims for environmental qualities or sustainability. Ensure that, as far as possible, all environmental information disseminated by the company is in line with the current state of knowledge.

Queen's Award for Enterprise: Sustainable Development

In April 2009, Green Building Store received a Queen's Award for Enterprise: Sustainable Development. The citation for the Award read: "Green Building Store has received the Award for its pioneering approach to sustainability, seeking to develop the market for 'greener' or more sustainable products and progressing the industry's approach in respect of this. Green Building Store's central focus upon providing more sustainable products for the construction industry and DIY marketplace, represents a leap in sustainability governance in a sector which has previously not to-date fully embraced this challenge. **Its actions and achievements have not only delivered cutting-edge sustainable products to the market, but in so doing have progressed the nature of this market place itself.** The range of wider activities undertaken by Green Building Store has furthermore served to disseminate and normalise the concept of sustainable building products, consciously driving broader competitor best practice in the process".

4) Operations

Green Building Store seeks to minimise the impact of its operations.

In particular, Green Building Store aims to:

Environmental impact

- Undertake all activities with the intention of reducing the company's environmental impact as far as possible.
- Conserve energy in our office and warehouses and liaise with landlord to reduce carbon emissions from buildings, where possible.
- Save water in all our operations, through installation of water-saving devices and other measures, where applicable.
- Endeavour to minimise waste in all our operations, by prevention of unnecessary waste, reuse of materials and recycling.
- Assess and monitor the environmental impact of suppliers and work with them to improve their environmental performance.

a) Energy

- The warehouse and office are rented from a private landlord which has limited the insulation measures and renovations we have been able to undertake. However, before we moved into the office, we were able to include some energy efficient features, working in collaboration with the landlord. Energy-saving features include: Green Building Store alu-clad thermally efficient double-glazed windows and doors; Thermafleece sheep's wool insulation in the loft space; and energy-efficient gas condensing boiler.
- In 2010 we refurbished an additional unit of Heath House Mill to accommodate an extra training room, showroom and office. This refurbishment was undertaken by our construction division Green Building Company to high airtightness and insulation levels, based on our experience of Passivhaus building. We were able to do this thanks to an agreement with our landlord who retained the previous lower rental charge in return for our investment in the building fabric.
- Measures have been taken to halve office fluorescent lighting, and reduce energy consumption of IT equipment eg computer monitors in the office now automatically 'power down' after 30 minutes inactivity and staff have been enabled to access their computers remotely, without having to turn on the computer in the office as well.

- As part of former mill complex, the warehouse (Unit 6) is poorly insulated. Green Building Store has installed secondary glazing over the Mill windows (covering windows with polythene on frames) – in response to an employee-led initiative to develop a solution to the problem, which has partially improved the situation. The warehouse is now only occupied for brief periods of time, meaning the need to increase energy efficiency is not as urgent.

b) Water

- The ES4 4 litre siphon WC and Ifo Sign Universal dual flush WC have been installed at the Green Building Store office washrooms.
- Water-efficient taps are fitted throughout the office – in bathrooms and kitchen.
- A 6 litre per minute Aqualogic showerhead has been installed in staff shower room.
- Unfortunately, there are no water meters available to monitor water usage at the Heath House Mill site.

c) Waste

- ‘Recycling Dri Mixed Waste’ is collected from Heath House Mill by Biffa Waste Services Ltd. Biffa Waste Services Ltd is a Registered Waste Broker with the Environment Agency (Licence Number: [CBDU104360](#)). Registration was checked on the Environment Agency Public Register (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>) as at 06/08/19.
- Office paper, cardboard, glossy paper waste and polythene is recycled through BIFFA, in response to an employee-led initiative to develop a solution to the problem.
- Office paper is reused as fax/scrap paper (if only printed on one side) and then recycled through BIFFA.
- Systems are in place to recycle redundant electrical/ computer equipment with www.weee-recycler.co.uk
- Systems are in place to recycle mobile phones with <https://egorecycling.com/>
- Reusable items (eg window and door seconds) are offered on Freegle (or similar) to members of the local community.
- A compost collection scheme has been started in office kitchen – with compost materials being recycled in a nearby Bolster Moor smallholding compost system.

d) Transport

- Green Building Store has 5 vans for joint use between Green Building Store and Green Building Company. These are all currently diesel-powered. New vehicles are selected for their energy efficiency.
- 2 hybrid low emissions vehicles are currently used in Green Building Store's fleet.
- Green Building Store has joined www.cyclescheme.co.uk which enables employees to purchase bikes tax-free through the pay-roll. Many employees have already taken advantage of the scheme.
- The company encourages the use of bicycles on company business and offers a bicycle mileage allowance of 20 pence per mile.
- Green Building Store is a member of the West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network (WYTPN). The Network enables us to assess travel options to our site – including public transport, car sharing, cycling etc.
- The Heath House Mill office has a bike shelter offering undercover bicycle storage and a shower to encourage employees to cycle to work.
- Green Building Store tries to avoid air travel for overseas business visits, as far as possible, preferring boat, rail or car/boat options. We also use tele-conferencing and online webinar options, where possible.

e) Procurement

- The company aims to use 100 % recycled paper for all stationery requirements, including envelopes and promotional materials.
- Marketing materials are predominantly printed at Seacourt – a specialist printing firm which uses a waterless printing system and vegetable inks. 100% recycled paper is used as standard.
- The company strives to ensure that all tea and coffee purchased for the office is fair trade and/or organic.

f) Suppliers

- Green Building Store has a range of UK and European partners/ suppliers. Many of these are small-medium sized manufacturers of environmentally-sensitive building products.
- Before entering into a significant relationship with a new supplier, Green Building Store makes efforts to research the company's environmental performance and practices. It does this using a variety of sources, including information databases such as Corporate Critic (from Ethical Consumer Research Association).

- A supplier questionnaire has been developed to cover environment policy and health & safety issues. The questionnaire is sent out periodically to all key Green Building Store suppliers.

5) Supporting the Community

- Green Building Store Director Chris Herring has been a voluntary Non-Executive Director of the AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building www.aecb.net) for the past 22 years and served as National Chair for 8 years. The AECB, also known as the sustainable building association, is a membership organisation which has been promoting sustainable construction issues since its inception in 1989. In the last few years the AECB has been particularly focussed on promoting best practice in low carbon design, particularly focussing on the German Passivhaus standard and radical retrofit. .
- Since July 2010 Green Building Store Director Chris Herring has served as a voluntary Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Board of the Passivhaus Trust (www.passivhaustrust.org.uk)
- Since 2014 Green Building Store Director Chris Herring has served as Chair of the International Passivhaus Association (IPHA) Affiliates Council of affiliated international Passivhaus organisations.
- The company has initiated a tree planting scheme at Scammonden Water, working with a local community group Colne Valley Tree Society, Trees for Yorkshire and White Rose Forest and has already planted over 1200 trees over five years. The next annual tree planting event is due to take place in March 2020.
- In the local community (Huddersfield and Kirklees) Green Building Store is making an active contribution to the environmental regeneration of the Colne Valley in which it is based. The company has spoken on the subject of sustainable construction to local audiences including Holmfirth Transition Towns (HoTT), Marsden & Slaithwaite Transition Towns (MASTT), Huddersfield University Green Week, BBEF, Kirklees Council, Yorkshire Quakers and at the Ecology Building Society AGM. The company's press releases are regularly featured in the local news media (eg Huddersfield Examiner, Yorkshire Post) relating to sustainable construction issues.
- Between 2007-19 Green Building Store Director Bill Butcher has been working with Huddersfield University Architecture Department, lecturing on Passivhaus and sustainable construction to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Bill has also been involved with various events at the local sixth form college – talking to business students about running a green business and appearing as a 'Dragon' in a student Dragon's Den.
- Green Building Store Director Chris Herring is currently (volunteer) Convenor of Zero Carbon Yorkshire Buildings Group/ AECB Yorkshire group. The Zero Carbon Yorkshire Buildings working group is made up of a wide range of building professionals, businesses, activists and academics from across the Yorkshire region.

It is now also affiliated to the AECB as the AECB Yorkshire group. The group meets three times a year in Leeds and has identified the following areas to work on initially: Promotion of Passivhaus low energy building standard (for newbuilds) to local authorities and housing associations within Yorkshire; Exploring solutions to the financial, political and technical challenges posed by the need to undertake radical retrofits of existing buildings within Yorkshire; Promote low carbon building and showcase local exemplar projects within Yorkshire through conferences and websites; Exploring appropriate low carbon energy sources for ultra low energy buildings.

Chayley Collis, Green Building Store's Communications Manager, is the group's (volunteer) Coordinator and Administrator organising the events and communicating to the group.

Targets for 2019

There has been an unfortunate gap between publication of Green Building Store's Environment Performance reports, which the company has now committed to rectify. So this report sets out some new targets for the company, which will be reported back on in the next report in August 2020.

- Meet up with the landlord at Heath House Mill to discuss any ways that the Mill can reduce its environmental impact and strongly encourage action.
- Research more recycling stream options for Green Building Company waste.
- Implement any resulting building waste recycling systems
- Investigate and, if viable, propose an electric vehicle charging point at Heath House Mill and have a meeting with landlord at Heath House Mill to discuss the possibility.
- Reinstate annual publication of Environmental Performance reports. Next report due on August 2020.
- Active involvement of company Directors, and any staff wishing to participate, in the Global Climate Strike on Friday 20 September 2019.

We would welcome any further suggestions for ways we can take action. Please email chayley@greenbuildingstore.co.uk with your ideas.