

Town & Country Cleaners

0033 – Carbon Reduction Policy Plan

Purpose: This policy aims to reduce the carbon footprint of our cleaning company by minimising the use of plastic cleaning bottles and reduce the carbon footprint of our company fleet contributing to our overall sustainability goals and compliance with environmental regulations. By adopting sustainable practices, we strive to a reduction in carbon, to contribute to environmental conservation and promote a healthier planet.

Scope: This policy applies to all employees, contractors, and stakeholders involved in the procurement, use, and disposal of cleaning products and to all company-owned and leased vehicles, including passenger cars, vans, and trucks within the company.

Policy Statement: Our company is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by implementing the following objectives and strategies:

Company Owned & Leased Vehicles

Objectives:

- **Reduce Fleet Emissions:** Achieve a 50% reduction in fleet carbon emissions by 2030.
- **Transition to Low-Emission Vehicles:** Transition to a 100% electric or alternative fuel fleet by 2040.
- **Promote Sustainable Practices:** Encourage eco-friendly driving and operational practices.

Strategies and Actions:

Assessment and Baseline Setting

- **Fleet Evaluation:** Conduct an annual assessment of the fleet's fuel consumption and emissions.
- **Baseline Emissions:** Establish and update baseline emissions data to track progress.

Fleet Transition

- **Electric Vehicles (EVs):** Gradually replace conventional vehicles with EVs, prioritising high-mileage vehicles.
- **Alternative Fuels:** Utilise alternative fuels such as hydrogen or biofuels where EVs are not feasible.
- **Incentives:** Provide incentives for departments that adopt low-emission vehicles early.

Infrastructure Development

- **Charging Stations:** Install EV charging stations at all company facilities and partner locations.
- **Renewable Energy:** Source renewable energy for all charging stations to maximise environmental benefits.

Operational Efficiency

- **Route Optimisation:** Implement route planning software to minimise mileage and fuel consumption.

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- **Driver Training:** Provide regular training on eco-friendly driving practices to improve fuel efficiency.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Ensure regular maintenance to keep vehicles operating efficiently.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- **Telematics:** Use telematics to monitor vehicle performance and emissions in real-time.
- **Progress Reports:** Report progress towards emission reduction targets quarterly to stakeholders.

Engagement and Incentives:

- **Employee Engagement:** Involve employees in sustainability initiatives and recognise their contributions.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with suppliers and partners to support carbon reduction goals.

Compliance and Review:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure all fleet operations comply with local, national, and international environmental regulations.
- **Policy Review:** Review and update this policy annually to reflect technological advancements and regulatory changes.

Note: Within our ISO 14001 Policy, we also monitor and challenge our vehicle fleet to improve the fleet average MPG year on year. We have undertaken this since our accreditation in 2009. We welcome more competitive vehicle prices and the appropriate infrastructure in place to accommodate our commercial fleet vehicles.

Minimising the use of plastic cleaning bottles

Objectives:

- **Replace existing products:** Replace existing products used with concentrated products by 2030
- **Reduce Plastic to landfill:** Reduce plastics to landfill by 80% by 2030

Strategies and Actions:

Transition to Concentrated Products:

- Use concentrated cleaning solutions that require less packaging and can be diluted with water on-site.
- Educate staff on the proper dilution ratios to ensure effective cleaning while reducing plastic waste.

Adopt Refillable Systems

- Implement refillable cleaning systems where employees can refill reusable bottles from bulk containers.

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- Partner with suppliers who offer bulk purchasing options and support refillable systems.

Choose Eco-Friendly Packaging:

- Source cleaning products packaged in biodegradable or recyclable materials.
- Prioritise suppliers who use minimal and sustainable packaging.

Promote Reusable Bottles:

- Provide employees with durable, reusable cleaning bottles to replace single-use plastic bottles.
- Encourage the use of personal reusable bottles for other purposes within the workplace.

Waste Reduction and Recycling:

- Set up recycling stations for plastic bottles and other recyclable materials.
- Educate employees on proper recycling practices and the importance of reducing plastic waste.

Supplier Engagement:

- Collaborate with suppliers to find innovative solutions for reducing plastic packaging.
- Request environmental impact reports from suppliers to ensure alignment with our sustainability goals.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Track the usage of plastic cleaning bottles and report on progress towards reduction goals.
- Regularly review and update the policy to reflect new technologies and best practices.

Engagement and Incentives:

- Conduct regular training sessions using our Uhub training platform educating our staff on the environmental impact of plastic waste and the benefits of reducing plastic use.
- Encourage employees to suggest and implement new ideas for reducing plastic waste.

Compliance and Review:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure the surfactant(s) contained in the products we use complies(comply) with the biodegradability criteria as laid down in The Detergents Regulations (as amended). and UK Regulation: SI 2020 No. 1617 "The Detergents (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020".
- **Policy Review:** Review and update this policy annually to reflect technological advancements and regulatory changes.

Note: We also recycle plastic bags by reuse and microfibre dusters are rewashed at least 5 times before replacement.

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