

# Environmental Policy Statement

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Jan-Dec 2016

## Overview

Aether is an SME with its main office located in the centre of Oxford, which provides environmental consultancy services to national and international clients. We recognise that our main environmental impacts originate from business travel, resulting in emissions to air and have implemented a Low Carbon Travel Incentive Scheme since November 2011, offering a financial incentive to staff to choose low carbon-emitting modes of transport. It is our aim to continue to reduce the environmental impacts of our business and operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

We are a certified Carbon Neutral company, and have been since January 2012, offsetting our Scope 1 and Scope 2<sup>1</sup> emissions as well as emissions from staff commuting and business travel. These are verified by a tool that meets the criteria set by the Quality Assurance Scheme. This ensures the accurate calculation of emissions; use of high quality carbon credits, and cancellation of carbon credits used to offset at the end of each calendar year. We strive to positively affect our local environment and volunteer at local ecology centres.

Aether's Environmental Management System (EMS) has been certified by the Low Carbon Kent Hub to Silver Level of the STEM scheme<sup>2</sup>. This higher level of certification acknowledges the further improvements made to the EMS in place at Aether, supporting our annual offsetting and the continuing management and improvement of our environmental performance.

## Responsibility

This environmental policy applies to all of our operations including management, office services and consultancy services. Gabi Colling is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented. However, all members of staff have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

## Objectives

During 2016, we aim to:

- Reduce our waste and then reuse or recycle as much of it as is possible;
- As far as is possible, purchase products and services that do the least damage to the environment;
- Offset all of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that we have been unable to avoid;
- Enhance our local impact on the environment through volunteering programmes;
- Minimise energy and water use within our buildings and processes in order to conserve supplies and minimise the consumption of natural resources.

## Targets

To achieve our aims, we have set ourselves the following targets:

- Evaluate any potential increase in energy efficiency at the home offices used by staff by Dec 2016;
- Distribute environmental management materials among our employees to encourage a reduction in staff footprints by Dec 2016;
- Decrease distance travelled by high-emitted modes of transport by Dec 2016.

## Communication

If you wish to obtain further details about our environmental management system or would like to discuss our progress against our objectives, please telephone +44 (0)1865261466. This policy is also available on our [website](#).

Gabi Colling  
Office Manager

Melanie Hobson, Director

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<sup>1</sup> Scope 1 and 2 emissions refer to the GHG Protocol definitions. Scope 1 refers to direct GHG emissions (emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting entity). Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kent.gov.uk/business/Business-and-the-environment/steps-to-environmental-management-scheme-stem>