Environmental Policy

INJECTION DEVELOPMENT
GARAGE SERVICES

Version 1 - March 2023

Created in partnership with
Sustainability and Business Services Limited

Contents

Introduction 2
The need for change 3
Injection Development (Canterbury) Limited - vision 5
What does sustainability look like for Injection Development? 6
Embedding sustainability through good management 7
Building knowledge and capacity 8
Working with renewable technologies 9
Making the most of our resources 10
Encouraging biodiversity 11
Promote and publicise our work 12

Introduction

Climate Change is no longer something that is predicted to happen in the future. It is something that is happening all around us today. Whether it be scorching heat and wildfires in Southern Europe, catastrophic flooding in Pakistan, droughts in the UK, record carbon dioxide emissions in the earth's atmosphere or unprecedented high temperatures in Northern America, it is clear that the world's climate is changing and becoming far more unpredictable. It is also clear that this rapid acceleration of changing climate is due to human impact on our planet.

Injection Development (Canterbury) Limited is passionate about reducing our impact on the environment. This policy sets out what our approach will be over the coming years and acknowledges that addressing the damaging consequences of climate change is not, and should not be, something we do in isolation. Working in partnership with others is key to delivering the ambitions we have set out. This strategy will outline how we intend to do that and become community leaders in this agenda.

We will challenge ourselves to be bold, ambitious and action-orientated. As a business, we will ensure that sustainability remains a central consideration in our decision-making and actions and that all our staff are fully supportive of our ethos and mission.

This policy seeks to make our company a greener place to work. It sets out our own roadmap to becoming a carbon-neutral and sustainable organisation, paying close attention to its impact on the environment and values biodiversity.

The need for change

Climate Change refers to long-term changes in climate patterns at a global or regional level that are caused by rising temperatures in the atmosphere. During the last 10,000 years, these fluctuations have remained within a limited temperature range, enabling a relatively stable climate and the emergence and growth of our modern civilisation.

However, the rapid rise in global temperatures from the mid-20th century onwards represents a distinct departure from these earlier trends.

Scientific research has shown that this rise in temperatures is linked to an increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs). The most abundant GHG is carbon dioxide which accounts for roughly two-thirds of the GHGs in the atmosphere.

As shown in Fig.1, the current concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached a radically higher level than at any point in the last 800,000 years.

This conclusion was reached by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2013. Furthermore, the IPCC stated that the main reason for this increase was human activity.

It is estimated that global temperatures will increase by around four or five degrees Celsius by the end of the century if no action is taken. By way of comparison, the last time Earth experienced similar temperatures was around 40 million years ago.

At that time, Earth was practically ice-free and sea levels were around 100 metres higher than today and there were no humans living on the planet. The impact of a similar rise in temperatures, with almost 8 billion humans on earth, many living in low-lying coastal areas and relying on a global supply chain would be utterly devastating.

It is those countries that have contributed the least to global warming that are already suffering the most from the effects although no-one will escape the catastrophic global impacts.

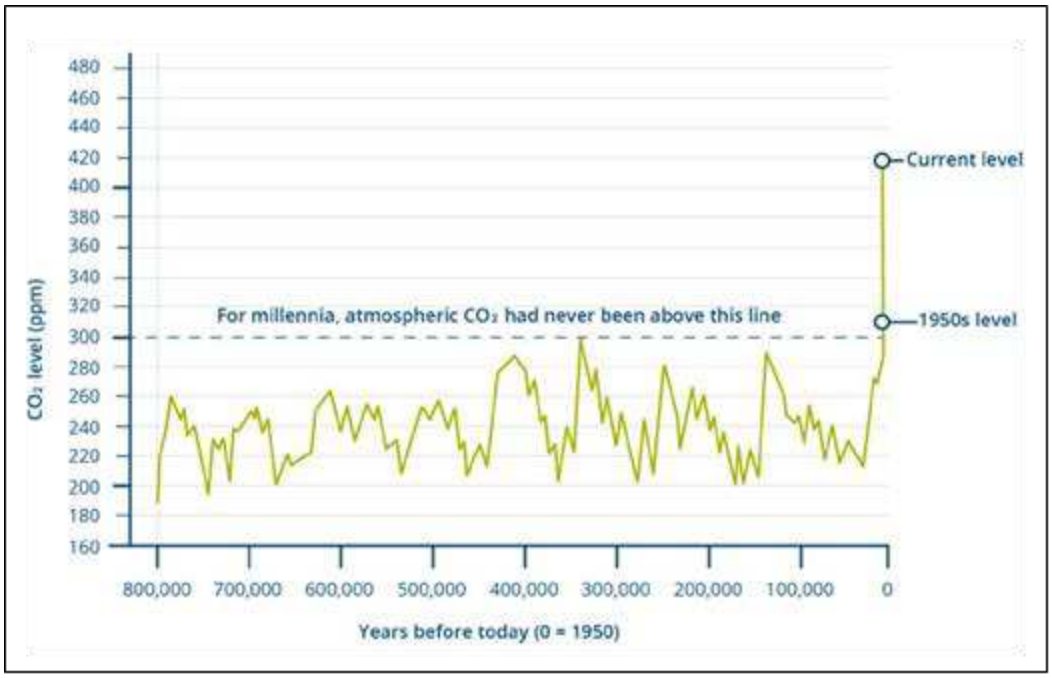

Fig. 1 – Concentration of CO^2 in the atmosphere (IPCC – 2013)

Injection Development (Canterbury) Limited - vision

Injection Development is keen to demonstrate its green credentials and become community leaders in this field.

The organisation has already worked with Sustainability and Business Services Ltd to measure our Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions. This has led to a full understanding of the Scope 1 and 2 emissions and some recommendations to focus on reducing emissions in the short and medium term.

The natural next step for us is to incorporate this work into a wider environmental policy that sits under the umbrella of our organisational sustainability strategy.

Measuring and reducing carbon emissions is an important part of becoming a sustainable organisation. Emissions are broken down into different categories or 'scopes'.

Scope 1 emissions - refer to gas usage and company vehicles such as minibuses, vans, lorries or other company-owned vehicles.

Scope 2 emissions - refer to electricity consumption.

Scope 3 emissions - focused on the organisation's 'value chain', covering fifteen different categories including goods purchased, waste generation, water usage, business travel, employee commuting, etc.

Around 10% of SMEs have a good understanding of their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, however very few have extended this work to include Scope 3 emissions. They are regarded as 'pioneers' in the SME world.

Injection Development will review our carbon emission reporting in the coming years and decide which Scope 3 categories to measure, report on and reduce. Some of these will be more relevant than others and this will form part of the consideration and decision-making.

What does sustainability look like for Injection Development?

A useful definition of sustainability is, 'To achieve a balance between our activity and its impact on the Earth's resources.'

Although measuring and reducing our carbon emissions is a huge part of this, becoming a sustainable organisation is far more wide-ranging. Truly becoming sustainable also focuses on initiatives that minimise our impact on the environment around us and both promote and protect our natural resources such as plants, trees and wildlife.

Sustainability is also about having an ethical and socially responsible approach to our decision-making; these values should always be embedded in the way we work and the image we present to our communities and customers.

Sustainability needs to be at the core of who we are and what we do. It will shape and drive how we deliver our services, what we buy, what we use, what we share and how we travel. We need to use our position as community leaders to inspire our staff and users to make a positive impact on the world themselves.

Many of the objectives in this policy will directly lead to a reduction in our carbon emissions. Others will be directed at improving our local ecosystems. It is a combination of these two approaches which will make us a genuinely sustainable organisation.

Embedding sustainability through good management

We need to make sure that the environmental impact is considered in everything that we do. Our sustainability agenda cannot succeed unless the whole business supports the journey we are taking. It must be a key part of our decision-making.

To achieve this, we will:

Regularly discuss our vision and values with staff:

We will communicate our green vision to our staff and invite feedback and ideas on actions the business can take to further improve our environmental credentials.

Review existing buildings to make sure they assist with our emission reduction journey:

Over the last few years, we have made a number of energy-efficiency improvements to our garage. A good example of this is the installation of solar panels. Over the coming years we will investigate the feasibility of installing a battery for the solar installation, insulation for parts of the building to retain heat and may replace the roof skylights to maximise natural light entering the building.

We are in the process of selling surplus electricity back to the grid and this will be a source of income for the business over the coming years.

Ensure our suppliers and partners share our sustainability values and commitment:

We want to work with others who share our core values and beliefs and want to use our purchasing decisions to make sure our suppliers are also committed to the same goals.

An example of this is reducing emissions caused by upstream distribution. As some suppliers have merged, this means the distances travelled to obtain key parts has been reduced as well.

Donate 1% of our annual profits to local environmental causes:

We will identify worthy local causes and donate a proportion of our business profits to those which promote sustainability and green actions.

Building knowledge and capacity

As with any policy, we are obliged to make sure our organisation has the right skills and knowledge to help us deliver it. We will achieve this vision by doing the following:

Provide support for staff:

We will support our staff to build their understanding of what we are delivering. They act as our ambassadors in the wider community and are a critical part of our journey.

We will take on apprentices in the business where feasible to give the next generation of mechanics an opportunity to develop their skills and find employment.

Promote volunteering:

We have been involved with community volunteering events such as litter picks, sponsored car washing, supermarket food packing, etc. These activities have been carried out directly or in partnership with others.

We sponsor the Herne Bay Youth Rangers Under 15 team and have provided them with kits and equipment. We are proud of this affiliation and we have promoted this arrangement in the local media.

Working with renewable technologies

As part of our journey, we have taken on board the business opportunities that electric vehicles present. We are now Level 3 trained for electric vehicle maintenance and are seeking to be Level 4 later this year.

We lead by example and have an EV charging point at our premises and use our own electric vehicle to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

As mentioned previously, we have a solar array on the roof of our building and are investigating battery storage and selling surplus electricity generated back to the grid.

Making the most of our resources

Our resources - the things we own and use - are precious. We will look to maximise the life cycle of equipment to prevent the need for assets to be sent to landfill or incinerated. We will:

- **Recycle old computer equipment:**

  We will use specialised recycling companies for obsolete computer equipment rather than allowing this to be treated as general waste.

- **Continue to promote recycling within our building:**

  We will encourage staff to recycle office waste to prevent unnecessary volumes of waste being sent to landfill or for incineration.

- **Reducing business travel:**

  The carbon emissions from business travel are classified as Scope 3 emissions. We will look to reduce business travel where possible.

- **Reduce paper usage:**

  We will look to reduce our paper usage and only print documents when necessary. This will save purchasing printing paper as well as the power consumed by office printers.

- **Buy ethically:**

  We will always look to purchase recycled or recyclable office supplies where possible. We will reduce and then eliminate single-use plastics from the organisation. Where feasible we will use biodegradable cleaning products and other non-toxic products in our offices.

Encouraging biodiversity

To be a truly sustainable organisation we need to find a balance between our activities and the impact this has on the environment and local ecology.

We will:

- **Take part in tree planting schemes:**

  We want to balance our business activity with enhancing and promoting nature elsewhere. Although we have no green areas around our building, we will take part in community tree-planting schemes to balance our carbon footprint and encourage other businesses to join in.

  We will investigate planting a tree for every job completed to further demonstrate our environmental credentials.

Promote and publicise our work

We will develop a part of our website to talk about our green journey. We will publicise this policy there so both new and old customers are aware of the work we are delivering to become a sustainable organisation.

We will continue to promote our journey in the different networking groups we belong to. We will encourage others to follow our lead and support other local businesses who want to take the same steps.

We will work with local schools to talk about the work we are delivering and will seek to sponsor a local project where students are working on green topics.

Produced in partnership with Andrew Stevens of Sustainability and Business Services Limited

07980 987666
andrew@sustainabilityandservices.com
https://sustainabilityandservices.com

Whilst reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the information contained within this report is correct, Sustainability and Business Services Limited give no warranty and make no representation as to its accuracy and does not accept any liability for any errors or omissions.

All source data and information has been supplied by Injection Development (Canterbury) Limited and we accept no liability for errors or omissions owing to the quality of data provided. All trademarks, service marks and logos in this publication, and copyright in it, are the property of Sustainability and Business Services Ltd.

© Sustainability and Business Services Limited