

# VMI Environmental Policy and Strategy – December 2024

## Mission Statement

VMI has taken great strides to reduce its impact on the environment and continues to do so, going forward, wherever and whenever possible and achieving net zero by 2030.

VMI commits to completing a carbon audit annually with SBTi standards and posting this publicly on its website, showing how we are progressing in our aim to achieving Net-Zero by 2030

## VMI Wins Many Sustainability Awards

We're proud of the many awards we've won for our incredible client service as well as being a certified 'Great Place to Work'. VMI won a special commendation at the 2023 West London Business Awards for Park Royal Company of the recognising our industry contribution to sustainability and previously won us the Hero of Net Zero award by the UK Government at COP26 in November 2021 and Park Royal Company of the Year in 2022.



## VMI Uses Only Green Power

Most of VMI's power is generated by its own 55kW of solar panels and any shortfall is from certified 100% renewable sources.

For 4-5 months per year, VMI's solar panels generate so much surplus power, that we become a net electricity exporter.

## VMI is a Nil Waste Company

We are a nil waste company, recycling all dry and food waste our waste collector incinerates the remainder, ensuring that none is buried in landfill.

VMI only uses recycled paper and recycles all paper waste that it produces. VMI recycles all dry waste and also bio food waste in both buildings.



VMI has also discarded the use of water coolers, which increase fuel use (for deliveries), plastic production (for the bottles) and electricity consumption (for keeping the water cool). Instead, it has installed water fountains that supply ground-cooled water straight out of the water main for staff and clients to drink.

VMI has also eradicated towel waste, having installed Dyson Blade hand driers in both toilets.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and other harmful waste are strictly taken to Council recycling points for correct recycling.

## Recycled Paper Labels to seal cables

In 2019, VMI committed to cease stocking single use plastic to seal cables and filters and pioneered using adhesive paper labels to seal cables instead, which are made from 100% recycled paper.

### Wrap from Potato Starch to seal filters

Just with the cable initiative, after extensive testing, VMI replaced single-use plastic to sheath our filters to wrap made from Potato Starch, which fully degrades in regular compost heaps in just 3-months.



### Eco Building Design

Our London HQ building based in W3, was purpose built in 2012 and designed with efficiency and reducing VMI's impact on the Environment as a focus.

The entire building is installed with cool LED lights throughout, which offer a better quality of light, less tiring to staff, as well as reducing electricity and cooling. The floors of the warehouse are installed with Ecotiles, which are made from recycled material. We have insulated our cavity ceilings and designed our heating/cooling programmes with efficiency in mind.

Our Bristol building has an insulated roof, triple-glazed roof lights and also has LED lighting installed throughout.

### VMI's Delivery Fleet is now 75% EV/EV Hybrid

As of November 2024, 75% of VMI's delivery fleet are EV/EV Hybrid. The company plans to migrate to 100% sustainable transport services as the technology permits. The vehicles are charged with power from 100% sustainable sources.



By reducing transit charges to clients for non-timed deliveries, increases the number of drops per van trip and thus reduces trips saving fuel and emissions and this led to a measurable saving in energy/fuel usage over the past 5 years, since inception.

### Sustainable Transport Promoted

- We promote sustainable transport for all of our staff and champion E-bike leasing, cycle-to-work schemes and Octopus Electric Dreams EV leasing, all of which are tax-efficient and reduce our scope 3 emissions.
- Included in this is the provision for home-working which reduces commuting journeys which is supported by at least 3 members of staff on a regular basis including VMI's Managing Director.
- Staff are also permitted to charge their EVs at VMI without charge.
- We have banned the use of aeroplanes for business transport and prefer to use EVs or trains for travel.
- VMI also award staff an additional day's leave if they have not privately flown in the previous 12-months.

### VMI Environmental policy statement

VMI also takes its environmental impact very seriously. The Board of Directors determines the overall environmental policy for VMI paying due regard to the protection of the environment, the effective and efficient use of energy and raw materials, and the minimisation of waste.

The aim of the policy is not simply legislative compliance, we wish to enhance our corporate social responsibility by supporting the development of best practice and innovative solutions to deliver sustainable growth whilst continually improving environmental standards.

### **VMI commits to:**

- The education and training of employees in environmental issues and the environmental effects of their activities.
- To continually improve on environmental performance and review this annually.
- VMI only uses recycled paper and recycles all paper and cardboard waste that it produces. Faxes are now received and filed electronically avoiding unnecessary printing them – likewise with electronic mail.
- Promoting the use of sustainable transport amongst its staff. Included in this is the provision for home-working which reduces commuting journeys which is supported by at least 3 members of staff on a regular basis including VMI's Managing Director.
- VMI also encourages its staff to use bicycles to commute and supports the bicycle to work scheme.- at least 3 members of the team frequently ride to work.
- VMI promotes the merits of tape-less technology to avoid stock waste.
- The minimising of unnecessary journeys of delivery vehicles through efficient planning and scheduling and have reduced transit charges to clients for non-timed deliveries to encourage enable multiple drops to be possible on round trips.
- VMI also promote to West-End clients a subsidised delivery service providing they book their deliveries and collections in advance, thus enabling VMI to efficiently schedule multiple trips to W1 and avoid unnecessary duplicitous journeys.
- Where possible, VMI try to sub-hire equipment from local companies to VMI to minimise on road delivery miles.
- Minimising on wasteful packaging, such as the unnecessary bagging of cables, which though they improve presentation, they actually serve no practical purpose.
- VMI is also discarding the use of water coolers, which increase fuel use (for deliveries), plastic production (for the bottles) and electricity consumption (for keeping the water cool). Instead, it is installing water fountains that supply ground-cooled water straight out of the water main for staff and clients to drink.
- Efficient use of water and energy by installing water meters to monitor and regulate water usage and avoid costly air-conditioning in the offices where possible.
- The use of biodegradable chemicals where possible.
- Minimising use of solvents and lead-based paints,
- In building projects, VMI require that builders only use timber from sustainable (managed) forests.
- Minimising noise disturbance to neighbours.
- The phasing out of CFCs and ozone-depleting substances. VMI use very few chemicals but are sensitive to the environmental damage of using them and so restrict their use. VMI no longer buys canned air but instead uses a compressor to deliver pressurised air to the work benches.
- Ideally, VMI would choose to work with clients and suppliers to achieve the common aim.

**The Board accepts responsibility for the overall effectiveness of the environmental policy and recognises the essential role that employees at all levels need to play in the development of environmental awareness and efficiency.**

**Updated December 2024**