

# Environment & Sustainability

# About Us

## **Introduction**

The Solo Group is a trading name of AMS (GB) Limited.

The Solo Group was formed with a single purpose to link like-minded production partners who share a common work ethos – the supply of exceptional service, quality products and the delivery of projects on-time and on-budget.

## **Service – Integrity – Value**

Our reputation is paramount. Over 30 years we have gained both knowledge and reputation, working with some of the top UK advertising and marketing agencies, worldwide print companies and with some of the largest International clients. This experience has given us a firm base to continue building our reputation.

## **How we work**

We can manage client projects from an initial brief through to final material delivery, however, we can also input at any stage of the journey – we have a flexible approach, which we can tailor to suit the clients requirements.

# Our Mission

## MISSION

Continue to be part of the evolution of the print & design industry by providing the most **Innovative, creative** and **sustainable** solutions to all projects.

## STRENGTH

Deliver **excellence** by providing the best product and service.

Exemplify '**Solo Group Quality**' in everything we make, 100% of the time.

## COMMITMENT

Recognise the **importance of sustainable development** by ensuring that business activities do not have an adverse impact on people, planet and prosperity.

Promote **success** for the brands we are privileged to partner with.

Nurture the **next generation of talent** using our extensive experience in design and print.

# Environmental Statement

Solo Group knows the importance of environmental protection and is committed to running its business responsibly and in compliance with all environmental regulations, legislation and approved codes of practice relating to print manufacture and any area that the Organisation's overall business activities encompass.

It is the Organisation's objective to operate with, and to maintain good relations with all regulatory bodies.

It is the Organisation's declared policy to carry out all measures reasonably practicable to facilitate the ability to continually improve environmental performance.

Primarily:

To assess and regularly re-assess the environmental effects of the Organisation's equipment, stock and operations.

Adhere to all relevant regulations with regards to waste and environmental well-being.

Ensure that all contractor and sub-contractor operations are in-line with our policy.

Train all employees in environmental issues.

Minimise the production of waste.

Minimise material wastage and actively promote the use of recyclable and renewable materials.

Minimise energy wastage.

Reduce the production of pollutants to water, land and air. To make sure all waste is disposed of under controlled conditions when re-cycling.

Control noise emissions from operations.

Minimise risk to the general public and employees from Organisation operations and activities.

Our policy is communicated to all employees, suppliers and sub-contractors and is made available to the public.

All personnel understand their obligations under this statement.

Solo Group constantly monitors and reviews its environmental performance and this Environmental Statement in order to ensure its continuing suitability, and will implement improvements whenever appropriate. Solo Group are a member of the Carbon Club and a member of Printers against Plastic.



# Sustainable Development Policy

AMS (GB) Limited t/a Solo Group (Solo) is committed to operate in an environmentally, socially and economically responsible manner. We adhere to the Ten principles of the UN Global Compact by incorporating it into our strategies, policies and procedures.

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human right abuses.

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; and

**Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

**Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

**Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

**Principle 10:** Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

# Environmental Policy

Solo is committed to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of our operation to the environment. We will continually identify environmental impacts associated to operation and implement measures to improve environmental performance. It is our policy to maintain environmental policies and standards that meet or exceed legal requirements and integrate industry best practices into operations and services. We commit to:

## **2.1. Energy & Water**

2.1.1. Energy source: Ensure that energy used in our offices and other facilities is sourced sustainably, and renewable energy are used whenever possible in order to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

2.1.2. Energy consumption: Ensure that energy is used effectively and efficiently. Energy saving measures should be applied whenever practicable.

2.1.3. Water source: Ensure that water used by our facilities are sourced sustainably and reused whenever possible.

2.1.4. Water consumption: Ensure that water is used effectively and efficiently.

2.1.5. Water discharge: Ensure that wastewater is treated either internally or in local drainage services department before discharging to water source in order to minimise the possible adverse consequences on freshwater and marine environments.

## **2.2. Air Quality Management**

2.2.1. Air Emissions: (if applicable) Solo should have a system in place to monitor its air emissions and practicable measures must be applied to minimise concentration of air pollutant.

2.2.2. Indoor Air: Solo must provide sufficient ventilation in indoor spaces.

## **2.3. Materials, Chemicals & Waste**

2.3.1. Materials procurement:

2.3.1.1. Ensure that materials are sourced sustainably, at an appropriate amount and used responsibly. Materials with minimal negative environmental impact are preferred.

2.3.1.2. Minimise carbon footprint attributed to material transportation by either sourcing locally or prioritising sea shipment for import of materials.

2.3.1.3. Prioritise usage of recycled materials, provided that these materials are of the requisite quality and that sufficient quantities are available. Solo shall notify customers whenever usage of recycled materials is possible, so that it can be considered.

2.3.1.4. Ensure that no wood products used by Solo come from controversial sources.

2.3.1.5. Record of Solo supplied materials must be kept by suppliers and shared to Solo. Final treatment of spares after production should be decided by Solo.

2.3.2. Optimising material usage: Material usage must be optimised at all time to minimise wastage.

2.3.3. Chemical usage: Manage chemical substances possessed by having it clearly labelled, securely stored, and properly handled. Recovery and recycling of chemical used should be explored whenever possible.

2.3.4. Solid waste: Minimise generation of solid waste in all forms. Reuse and recycle of solid waste should be attempted either inside Solo's office or outsourced to a trusted third party. Disposal should always be the last option of waste treatment.

## **2.4. Products**

2.4.1. Products design:

2.4.1.1. Design printed materials and packaging for easy dismantling and recyclability.

2.4.1.2. Present alternative options with less negative environmental impact whenever possible.

2.4.2. Feature communication: Any communication regarding features of product must be accurate and handled carefully.

2.4.3. Products delivery:

2.4.3.1. Prioritise sea shipment as the main delivery mode whenever possible.

2.4.3.2. Plan and schedule production earlier to avoid air shipment. If customer requires further reduction of transportation timing, suggest customer to consider train shipment whenever possible.

2.4.3.3. Encourage customer to place orders earlier to minimise the need for urgent shipment.

## **2.5. Monitoring**

Regularly monitor environmental impact (energy consumption, water consumption and discharge, solid waste generated, etc.) from operation and keep record.

## **2.6. Environmental Awareness**

2.6.1. Communication: Communicate Solo's environmental policy, targets and performance to employees, suppliers, customers, etc.

2.6.2. Training: Educate and enhance our employees' environmental awareness so that any decisions and actions take into account environmental considerations.

## **3. Sustainable Procurement & Supply Chain Policy**

Solo commits to identify and manage the environmental and social impacts within our supply chain. Solo's expectation on our suppliers are exactly the same as upon ourselves'. We will prioritise suppliers who have embedded sustainable and ethical practices within their organisation. Additionally, we will work with our suppliers to continuously improve their performance to minimise negative and maximise positive environmental and social impacts.

# Green Eco Friendly Printing

Solo Group believe that there is duty and opportunity for everyone to stake a claim in environmental responsibility.

## Eco Friendly Printing - A Quick Overview

Solo Group are a waterless printer.

Solo Group are a chemical free printer.

Solo Group only use recycled boxes.

Solo Group use biodegradable eco-flo packaging as an alternative to polyester.

Solo Group only use 100% recycled paper or paper from sustainably managed forests.

Solo Group use Carbon Offset papers.

Solo Group's inks are vegetable oil based.

Solo Group's toners are new generation eco-friendly.

Solo Group recycle 100% of our printing generated waste with none to landfill.





# Paper and board

Solo Group only use paper from sustainable managed forests, 100% Recycled Paper or paper containing an element of recycled fibre.

We purchase our paper and board from only the largest paper merchants and mills who have all the right accreditations in place.

Our paper merchants are all:

**Carbonneutral® company certified**

**ISO 14001 certified**

**FSc certified**

**PEFC certified**

**Run the Carbon Balanced Paper Initiative by the World Land Trust**  
**Support "Love Paper" Sustainable Campaign by Two Sides**



# Printing chemicals, inks & Toners

We use an inert water based protective coating on many of our products which is an eco-friendly alternative to polymer based coatings, "litho seal" and plastic laminates.

We run IPA - isopropyl alcohol - free on our litho printing presses.

Our inks are vegetable oil based - specifically soy oil - as opposed to mineral oil.

The removal of IPA alcohol and use of vegetable ink has virtually eliminated our emissions of VOC's - Volatile Organic Compounds - into the atmosphere. These VOC's are a major source of ozone pollution and are a potential a health hazard to our staff.

We promote full colour printing which uses significantly less chemicals, solvents and paper in job setup and press cleaning than traditional one or two colour printing.

All of our printing plates are produced 'chemistry free' and fully recyclable.

A grey area in digital printing has always been the eco-credentials of the toners or ink employed. But the next generation of toner from industry-leader Ricoh has changed that. Produced by a patented polymerisation process, very small, uniform particles are created which do not use the conventional kneading or pulverising method. 'Growing' the toner particles uses 25 -35% less energy per 450g of toner, combined with 40-50% less toner required during printing.

Our Ricoh presses are International Energy Star certified, meet EPEAT Silver criteria and are EU RoHS certified. The toners (called Colour PxP EQ) are a new generation of polymerised toner that achieves co-existence of eco-friendliness and quality through low-temperature fixing and high colour definition.



# Waste

We have reduced our unavoidable production waste of paper and chemicals by up to 85% and continue to seek ways to further reduce such waste.

We segregate, re-use and recycle all of the paper waste produced in the course of printing.

Waste paper and used aluminium printing plates are collected for recycling, as are all of our spent chemicals.

All our spent toner is returned for recycling using the Ricoh Eco Box scheme.

