OCM's Green Agenda

Contents

Introduction

OCM's Green Agenda exists to guide our activities and operations for the future of our business. The aim is to minimise our impact on the environment where possible and to ensure our operations run as close to carbon neutral without compromising service levels.

Over 30 years in the IT reuse and recycling industry, as one of the original Information Technology Asset Disposition (ITAD) businesses, have seen many changes in the way the electronic hardware is handled and disposed of.

Energy usage within OCM

OCM set a goal to move our energy usage away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources.

The first stage of this project was to analyse the usage of electricity and gas within the business. We have applied and received EU funding to purchase a solar array to meet the electrical requirements of the company. A solar PV array of 167 panels was installed on our roof during Q1/Q2 2022.

As part of the installation all internal lighting was replaced from fluorescent tubes to LED lighting. The LED lights in the warehouse now operate on motion sensors so lights automatically switch off if there is no activity in certain areas. This has reduced the energy usage of the company.

All heating within OCM is currently reliant on natural gas. This will be reviewed and new options considered to further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Waste streams and working toward 0% landfill

How waste is handled at OCM is one of OCM's priorities to ensure we comply with our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System's objectives. Sorting of components and some materials is handled by OCM before being sent to recycling partners for further destruction and processing. All recycling partners have the relevant licences and registrations in place and are assessed annually to ensure they comply with OCM's requirements.

As with all waste it is very difficult to claim that no waste is sent to landfill. However, OCM's processes ensure that waste is sent to the relevant processor who can recover ferrous and non-ferrous metals. OCM have a baler to ensure that all cardboard is recycled along with plastic wrapping used to secure pallets. In addition, we have an FEL bin that we use to dispose of foam and polystyrene packaging. This waste is taken to an incinerator that creates electricity for the domestic market.

Reduction in fossil fuel vehicle use

A large part of our business requires vehicles travelling around the UK to collect IT equipment. OCM aim to use collection agents where possible as these vehicles are already travelling around the country.

OCM have investigated the possibility of using an electric van to collect equipment. Current technology limits the range available and would leave OCM in breach of contractual requirements such as ensuring vehicles do not stop on return as they would be required to stop for a period of time to recharge batteries.

OCM have purchased electric cars, this means that site visits to customers can be made reducing the CO_2 impact on the environment. The added benefit is that the electric vehicles can be charged at OCM using solar power we have generated.

Packaging materials

OCM use a wide range of packaging materials for collecting and sending IT equipment securely and safely. It is our aim to reduce single use packaging materials and increase the use of recyclable/biodegradable materials.

All pallets are wrapped using plastic shrink wrap. The shrink wrap OCM purchase is made from 30% recycled materials. All used shrink wrap is baled within OCM and sent to recyclers.

Pallets are a sustainable item and sourced from a local company who supply new, reclaimed and reconditioned pallets. New pallets are made using wood from local sawmills who ensure new trees are planted to replace those cut down.

OCM use bubble wrap to secure certain items and similar to the shrink wrap, the bubble wrap we purchase is made from 30% recycled materials. Used bubble wrap can be baled with shrink wrap and sent for recycling.

All cardboard packaging is recyclable/biodegradable. We reuse as much cardboard internally on pallets to protect IT equipment. Cardboard waste is baled within OCM and sent to recyclers.

OCM despatch laptops in a cardboard box(s) with an inflatable pouch to contain the laptop. The pouch is made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE) which is widely recycled. However, this is an area we know we can improve on. A new composable/biodegradable inflatable pouch is due to be released in Q4 2022. When available OCM plan to purchase and use these when sending out laptops.

Supporting wildlife initiatives

OCM have committed to supporting local wildlife initiatives. In 2021 OCM, as a corporate sponsor to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, paid for and planted 13 traditional fruit trees as part of a project to support the Noble Chafer Beetle in Tiddesley Woods.

Tiddesley is home to the orchard-icon that is the Noble Chafer, a beautiful iridescent green beetle. Unfortunately, this fascinating creature has become increasingly rare in the UK and is now a priority species for conservation. The larvae live in old, decaying fruit trees where they take up to three years to develop into adult beetles, which is why traditional orchards must be looked after.

Additionally OCM have supplied tools and equipment to support the work of the Trust in maintaining their 80 sites and over 3000 acres of protected natural landscape throughout Worcestershire.