## **Introduction**

In the pursuit of our business objectives, Bell Group UK is a major user of timber, solvent based coatings, motor vehicles and plant, which bring great benefits to modern society, but their resourcing and technologies have a detrimental effect on the environment. Bell Group UK recognises that some solvent based fumes and CO2 emissions from engines are a contributor to global warming and likewise, the sourcing of sustainable timber is a vital component to combat the same. In particular, vehicle emissions have an adverse effect on air quality, with potential consequences for public health.

Our Company cares about the environment and we accept that we are part of a global community from which many benefits are derived, but also to which we owe great responsibility. Bell Group UK accepts responsibility to mitigate the impact of our operations on the global community and the environment on which we depend. As such the Company has put in to effect an Environmental Management System which complies with ISO14001:2015 and considers all relevant legislation.

**The Purpose of Our Environmental Management System is for Bell Group UK to;**

* recognise that environmental protection is a strategic business issue and an integrated part of our corporate strategy in operating our company;
* recognise that a healthy natural environment is essential for sustainable development;
* be committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment when carrying out our own functions and duties;
* accept responsibility for complying with all relevant environmental legislation and requirements of the ISO 14001 standard;
* minimise the environmental effects of all Group activities;
* be committed to the recognised waste management practices of source reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery and environmentally safe residue disposal; and
* be committed to continual improvement of our environmental performance through implementation, monitoring and review of Environmental Targets, Company policies, sustainability objectives, programmes and services.

**The principles that underlie the Policy statement are:-**

* *“prevention is better than cure*” - it is always preferable to prevent an environmental problem emerging than trying to clean up afterwards;
* “*the polluter pays*” - the organisation or individuals responsible for environmental threat should bear the cost of cleaning up, or of prevention;
* “*equal priority*” - the protection of the environment ranks equally with other business activities such as Health and Safety, Quality, Customer Satisfaction and Financial Control;
* “*resource efficiency*” - activities will be conducted in ways which result in the most efficient use of natural resources; and
* “*no harm*” - this applies to our people and the environment

**Environmental Policy Commitments**

There are policies and benchmark standards actively pursued within our business involving the purchase of raw materials and the purchase and use of chemicals and vehicles. Our standard operating procedures are in consideration of our environment and include but are not limited to the following:

* We source people locally for our contract sites in consideration of required travel, shared transportation and reducing our carbon footprint.
* We commit to identify the main environmental aspects of Bell Group’s activities and assess the significance of the environmental impacts arising from this, whilst considering the full life cycle perspective.
* We seek to reduce levels of consumption and waste in all materials we use through accurate planning and methodology. We strongly encourage recycling of waste / left-over materials where reasonably possible
* We work with all our suppliers and clients to ensure we are using items required for the successful delivery of our services, in consideration of our environment.
* We utilise energy saving technologies and adopt energy saving practices at our Branches and on site in order to minimise our consumption levels and carbon footprint.
* We collaborate with our suppliers to specify the most environmentally friendly materials as well as effective recycling and waste disposal methods
* Wherever possible we use equipment that reduces overall consumption.
* We operate a segregation of waste system at our Branches and on all sites to dispose of materials professionally according to type.
* The vehicles we use to facilitate the delivery of our services form a major part in our dedicated approach to working in consideration of environmentally ethical operations.
* We are committed to working towards a paperless environment, encouraging staff to use and view documents electronically.
* We work with a number of organisations through the recycling of printer cartridges, paper, paint tins, cardboard and paint surplus.
* We have implemented a UK wide policy and KPIs relating to the recycling of waste and ultimately reducing the effects on landfill sites.
* We maintain a Register of Environmental Aspects & Impacts, assessing the significance of impacts and implementing mitigation measures to minimise impacts.
* We will continue to produce an annual carbon footprint report outlining the sources and consumption levels of carbon producing activities.
* The continuous support and training we deliver to our people includes these visions and values.