

Environmental Policy

We recognise the importance of our Environment.

Throughout the production process, we actively work to minimise our impact on the environment whilst continuing to reduce our carbon footprint. By working closely with all our suppliers, we maintain our policy of purchasing certified papers along with those containing a recycled content. The papers which we use can also be carbon-balanced via World Land Trust with all donations being put towards the many conservation schemes which they support.

We are a large user of paper and compostable magazine-wrappers which can both be recycled easily in a variety of different ways. We offer eco-friendly coating solutions and have two in-house baling plants to assist with the removal of waste paper. Our reel-to-sheet Cutstar presses have a variable cut-off facility which also helps reduce paper waste. When this process is combined with the latest Heidelberg press technology, the amount of “make-ready” sheets is kept to an absolute minimum; therefore, we generate far less waste than those suppliers who operate conventional sheetfed or web-offset presses.

We possess ISO14001:2015 GB07/72753, ISO9001:2015 GB95/6121, PEFC since 2007, FSC since 2007.

In addition, Stephens and George Ltd will endeavour to:

- Reduce carbon emissions via energy efficiencies;
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and approved codes of practice.
- Protection of the environment by striving to prevent and minimise our contribution to pollution of land, air, and water.
- Minimise waste production and encourage recycling throughout the site.
- Lower solvents usage by implementing new technology.
- Conserve natural resources used in manufacturing and despatch operations.
- Maintain Duty of Care requirements through the safe storage and disposal of waste.
- Reduce noise to the lowest levels practicable.
- Retain best housekeeping standards in and around the site.
- Operate in a responsible manner communicating best environmental practice to all employees.
- Maintain an environmental management system that reflects the principles outlined above.
- Continue to invest in cutting edge technology which is consistently manufactured with the environment i.e. energy and emissions efficiencies as prime factors.

Key Achievements:

- Replacing 5 compressors with 1 large variable drive compressor for max efficiency as it runs only as fast as usage dictates, 1 normal and 1 slave compressor reducing total energy used.
- Forklift trucks powered by LPG gas replaced existing diesel trucks, reducing certain emissions including NOx, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and fumes.
- We hold a Climate Change Agreement; and the Company improved its energy efficiency significantly in 2019 and 2020 by 39.7% compared to its base year of 2008. This was against a target of 8.4% set by the Environment Agency. This meant the site overachieved its energy efficiency target by 810 tonnes of Carbon and 2973 tonnes of CO₂. Over the four measuring periods the Company overachieved against its targets to the value of 3745 tonnes of Carbon and 13,734 tonnes of CO₂.
- External lighting has been replaced with more efficient LED fittings; internal lighting has all been fitted with movement sensors. All production areas have been fitted with new LED fittings, replacing the inefficient T5 tubes.
- Investment in new more efficient technology has also reduced consumption of energy from 6,594.977Kwh in 2017 and CO₂ emissions of 3,567.8 tonnes in 2017, to 6,172,722 Kwh in 2019 and CO₂ emissions of 1,647.09 and 449.17 tonnes of carbon in 2019. * In 2020 electricity usage was 4,223,239 Kwh, CO₂ emissions of 1,031 which produces 281 carbon. * Covid reductions apply. In 2023, our electricity usage was 4,493,602 Kwh CO₂ emissions were 868.92 tonnes producing 234.62 tonnes of carbon, on a much-increased productivity of total sheets printed of 5 colour 13,329,223 million sheets 64 x 90. Our perfectors printed 178,134,531 million sheets giving a total of 191,673.531 sheets printed with a huge comparative reduction in energy usage as a result of our new technology.
- Company commercial vehicles fitted with Euro 5 or Euro 6 engines and ECO Drive systems.
- We have a fleet of 4 electric 8 hybrid and 5 petrol/diesel cars and 4 eco-friendly vans.
- We have installed 12 electric charging points for staff and customers.
- Weekly site inspections, reports issued to management with findings used to generate environmental non-conformances.
- Monthly compliance review ensuring we act in accordance with all relevant environmental legislation. All NCRs in line with ISO procedures.
- Our IPA solvent usage on presses is 4-4.5%.
- 100% of all waste is recycled. Achieved through implementation of waste segregation system within the factory where different streams of paper, card, plastics, wood and chemicals are collected and stored until collected by our waste partners. Paper is returned to the mills, wood is sent for chipping, plastics and card sent to recycling, chemical waste sent for recovery or utilised in a cement kiln for recovery in energy form. All domestic waste is now incinerated to provide energy (Viridor the energy plant where this is sent is producing energy from waste of 1,807GWH equivalent to powering 500,000 homes.) 12 electric charging slots installed. In line with the new Welsh Assembly Government Legislation, we have amended our internal waste streams into even more defined areas e.g. food waste collected separately taken to methane productivity site.
- Members of Paperpak scheme – Packaging Waste Regulations meeting our obligations, based on packaging purchased.

- We are installing an inkjet system for cartons which will eliminate the use of recyclable labels.
- Our printers' pallets purchased are made to order and re-used. Any broken wood/damaged pallets are collected by our pallet supplier on a weekly basis and chipped for agricultural and industrial use.
- Records kept and analysed on Energy usage, waste streams, verification of waste collections and waste carrier's licences, Duty of Care visits undertaken.
- Conventional plate processors replaced with processor-less units using only water and non-chemical-based gum to protect the plates.
- In-house barcode system allows us to track all paper usage from storage to press minimising paper waste, our new management system has even more detailed tracking facilities.
- Reduction in plastic wrap for mailing with introduction of compostable wrap and paper wrap.
- An example of how investment in our manufacturing equipment has benefited the environment. The purchase and installation of paper-wrapping and mailing equipment in 2018, means that since 2017 the shrink wrap and poly-film purchased for mailing and despatch was 86.9 tonnes in 2019 this had reduced to 39.6 tonnes and in 2020 this was 21.02 tonnes, 2023/2024 Paper 55%, compostable poly 18% mailing 21% normal poly 25%.
- As a result of our closed loop system in press hall we have reduced our consumption of water. As a consequence, we only use 0.001602 litres of mains water per sheet.
- We have installed solar panels on our roof space, and is now generating energy. This installation is projected to produce some 18% of our total energy consumption.
- We have replaced all of our old air conditioning units with new R32 units or the equivalent.
- As a result of Heidelberg evaluation of Anti Set-off Spray Powder contamination, automated powder screens and powder suction chambers have confirmed a 50% reduction across all presses.



Andrew L G Jones
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