




SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2009





Alumet Sustainability Report

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1. Scope

This report is aimed at assessing where our company is situated with regard to its environmental inputs, outputs and impacts. The report will consider all activities at company headquarters in Southam as well as the procedures and processes under our control at all of our live installation sites.

2. Why report?

The environmental report provides a framework for monitoring our environmental performance. This monitoring will lead to us identifying our most significant environmental aspects. Once these aspects have been identified, procedures can then be put in place to start reducing the impact we have as a company on our environment.

This reduction in environmental impact will translate to cost savings in the short, medium and long term.

3. What will this report cover?

This report will provide an overview of our environmental commitments. This report will cover our Key Performance Indicators as set out in the Environmental Aspects Register.

The analysis will be split into the following reported areas:

- **energy** consumption
- **water** consumption
- the **volume of waste** that we send to landfill
- our **recycling** rate
- transport-related **carbon dioxide** emissions.

4. Executive Summary

After the successes of 2008/2009, the industry wide recession brought everyone back down to earth with a bump. Environmental considerations have had to play a less prominent role as Alumet has struggled to survive. As Britain climbs slowly out of recession, and the company recovers to full strength we are once again moving into a position where we can pursue our environmental goals with vigour.


This year has seen a first for Alumet; the creation of a new post, Environmental Manager. It is hoped that this role will enable Alumet to reduce its environmental impacts whilst at the same time gaining a competitive advantage over its rivals.

2009 has already seen Alumet sign up to and take advantage of many industry best practise environmental commitments, for example WRAPs: Halving Waste to Landfill and the Cycle to Work Scheme. As a company we are also getting ever closer to having our environmental management system (EMS) accredited to the ISO14001 standard.

To meet these defined objectives Alumet is implementing a company wide sustainability program. The new program will ensure a unified sustainability message, produce a cohesive strategic plan of action, connect the focus areas of sustainability and enable ongoing accountability towards a sustainable company culture.

2010 will see the reformation of the Alumet Green Team with new agendas and quantifiable goals. All meeting will now be chaired by the Environment Manager and attended by the Environmental Director. As well as the group having balanced leadership, the new framework creates the opportunity for sustainability decisions and policies to be accepted and supported by the appropriate decision makers. The Green Team's primary goal is to facilitate the implementation of the company's EMS and ensure compliance with the international standard ISO14001.

2010 will also see the introduction of a company wide intranet to convey messages (not solely environmental) to satellite and office based staff. This should prove an effective method of communicating our commitment to sustainability and ensure that all staff are exposed to a consistent environmental message.



Hopefully 2010 will prove to be the year that Alumet Systems (UK) Ltd sets the standard for environmental stewardship in the UK façade industry.

5. Report on our buildings

Our car use and our buildings have the largest impact on our environment. Therefore a brief synopsis of any improvements to the efficiency of the buildings will form part of the report on an annual basis.

Heating

2009 saw the installation of energy efficient boiler systems in the new factory. The mains gas systems throughout the factory floor have replaced the antiquated and inefficient oil fired systems that we inherited with the buildings. The weld shop heating systems underwent conversion from an oil fired set up to mains gas as well. These upgrades should not only reduce our carbon footprint, but produce savings in expenditure on fuel inputs.

Lighting

Late 2009 saw the renovation of the roof of Unit 1. The new roof has led to a huge increase in the influx of natural light during the day. This initiative will lead to less dependence on artificial light, a reduced carbon footprint and reduced lighting costs.

Energy Production

Alumet is looking to take full advantage of the government's Feed in Tariffs (FITs) which will become a reality from April 2010. At the time of writing, the cost/benefit relationship of integrating renewable technologies into our energy production systems is being considered. Alumet are conscious of the need to reduce our environmental impacts and carbon footprint in particular. We are currently looking at pay back periods for the installation of solar thermal, photovoltaic panel, wind turbine, heat exchanger and rainwater harvesting technology.

6. Energy/Resource Initiatives

In 2009 The Green Team highlighted areas where it believed targets could be set for environmental improvement in the areas of energy and resource use reduction. 2009 became a benchmarking year for many of these chosen areas. There were however areas in which real comparisons could be made against 2008 data. The targets were recorded and methods of achieving them were implemented. The key chosen areas are as follows:

- energy consumption of lighting/reliance on artificial light
- energy consumption of idle electrical equipment
- energy consumption of heating systems
- diesel usage
- paper

7. Waste Initiatives

In 2009 The Green Team highlighted areas where it believed targets could be set for environmental improvement in the area of waste reduction. The key chosen areas are as follows:

- Removal of all COSHH material from site to be disposed of responsibly
- WRAP: Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment

8. Training and Awareness

Over the year we have implemented the following training:

- ISO14001

This was undertaken to promote awareness of our environmental obligations throughout the company. The training was designed to give managers and staff alike an overview of the ISO14001:2004 standard itself and to encourage everyone to incorporate environmental best practise into their daily work.

- Internal Auditor Training

Two members of the Green Team have been externally accredited by ISYS. This accreditation has given them the tools to undertake internal audits of our EMS. This should ensure continuing compliance with our Environmental Policy.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

All key staff have been trained and assessed for competency in spill response. The outcome of this training should greatly increase our preparedness for any spill eventualities. As we are more prepared our potential to pollute the local environment is greatly reduced.

- **Plant Refuelling: Drivers**

All plant drivers have been trained up to the Alumet Systems (UK) Ltd standard for refuelling vehicles. The training should ensure that we continue to hold an impeccable 'No Incident' history with the Environment Agency.

- **Company intranet**

This should prove to be an effective tool for communicating environmental awareness to all staff, whether based at HQ or one of our satellite sites. The intranet will include weekly Environment Tips, giving practical advice on ways to reduce one's impact on the environment.

9. Data and Analysis

9.1 Paper Usage

FEB 2008 - JAN 2009

Southam & Sites

Size	Boxes	Reams	Single Pages	Total Pages	Cost	TOTAL
A3	18 X 3	54	500	27,000	£ 285.66	
A4	290 X 5	1450	500	725,000	£3,291.50	
						£3,577.16

Halesowen

A3	12 X 3	36	500	18,000	£ 190.44	
A4	20 X 5	100	500	50,000	£ 227.00	
						£ 417.44
A3		90		45,000		
A4		1550		820,000		
TOTAL	TOTAL REAMS	1,640	TOTAL PAGES	865,000	GRAND TOTAL (£)	£3,994.60

FEB 2009 – DEC 2009

Southam & Sites

A3	10 x 3	42	500	21,000	£222.18	
A4	90 x 5	450	500	225,000	£985.50	
						£1,207.68

Halesowen

A3	5 x 3	15	500	7,500	£65.85	£ 65.85
A4	-	-	-	-	-	
A3		57		28,500		
A4		450		225,000		
TOTAL	TOTAL REAMS	507	TOTAL PAGES	2,535.00	GRAND TOTAL (£)	£1,273.53

2008-2010

Figure 1: Alumet's Total Paper Usage

9.1.1 Methods

Paper usage was seen as one of the quick fixes Alumet could initiate to make a tangible, immediate impact.

The baseline was set as 2008 with usage figures being collated using figures for quantity of paper purchased.

A target of 10% reduction in total paper usage was made for 2009. A review of departmental processes was undertaken to identify areas where savings could be made.

For example, the accounts department was identified as an area where unnecessary printing was taking place. This unnecessary printing was due to the process in place for the production and storage of Purchase Orders.

Office staff were also encouraged to print items double sided wherever possible. Staff were also encouraged to reuse 'scrap' paper where items were for internal use.

9.1.2 Conclusions

These data do not take into account the large variance in turnover between the two years. The report therefore has filtered these results down to a figure representing percentage of turnover. These figures are as follows:

2008 £3994.60/27M x 100 = 0.15%

2009 £1273.53/13M x 100 = 0.09%

This translates as a reduction in paper usage of 40%. The target for reduction was 10%. We can therefore say that the target has been reached and surpassed.

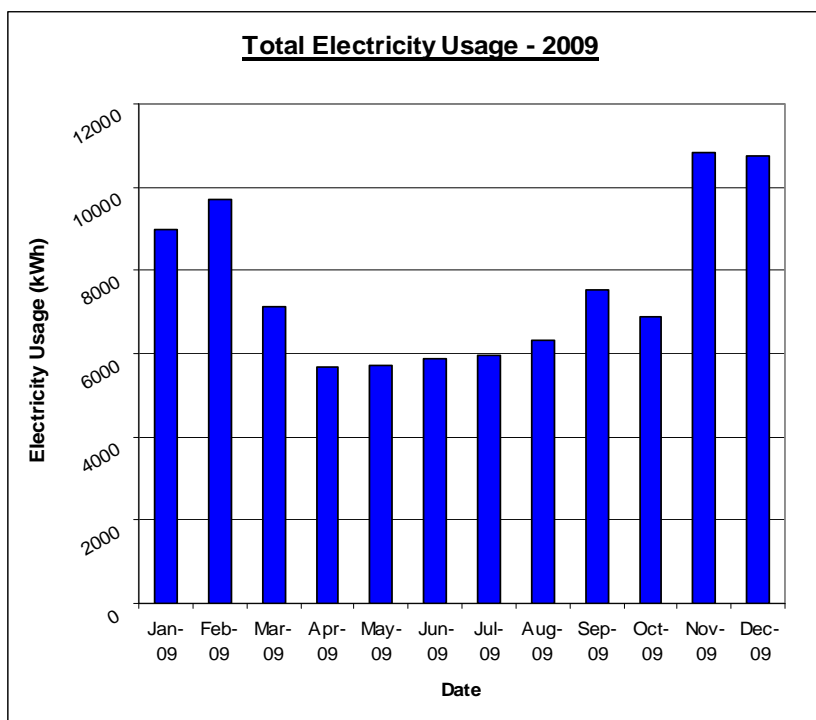
9.1.3 Recommendations

We have far exceeded our goals on this front, but we must continue to reinforce the initiatives that have been working. We cannot let people slip into their old habits and must move forward.

9.1.3a The IT Department will be encouraged to procure printers that print double sided. Currently there are a handful of printers that do not possess this function. This initiative should see the levels of paper bought drop further.

9.1.3b Begin to divide paper usage figures into departments. We will then publish a league table on the best (and worst) figures. This will hopefully incentivise people to cut their paper usage further.

9.2 Electricity Usage



Date	Total Usage (kWh)
Jan-09	8977
Feb-09	9693
Mar-09	7109
Apr-09	5683
May-09	5729
Jun-09	5867
Jul-09	5978
Aug-09	6312
Sep-09	7550
Oct-09	6906
Nov-09	10847
Dec-09	10767
TOTAL	91814

Figure 2: Alumet HQ's Total Electricity Usage 2009

9.2.1 Methods

Electricity usage is one of Alumet's largest financial outlays. 2009 will be taken as a benchmark year and a target of 10% electricity use reduction has been set against turnover. Meter readings are taken manually on a monthly basis and compared against bills received to ensure accuracy. Areas of inefficiency are currently being assessed and findings will be displayed in a separate report.

9.2.2 Conclusions

As 2009 is the benchmark it is difficult to make any conclusions other than the fact that we see a trend towards increased usage in the winter months. This will be due to the colder temperatures and less natural light at this time of year. October is the only month that falls outside of the trend. It is assumed that October was unseasonably warm. Spring and summer usage is fairly even with no large anomalies.

9.2.3 Recommendations

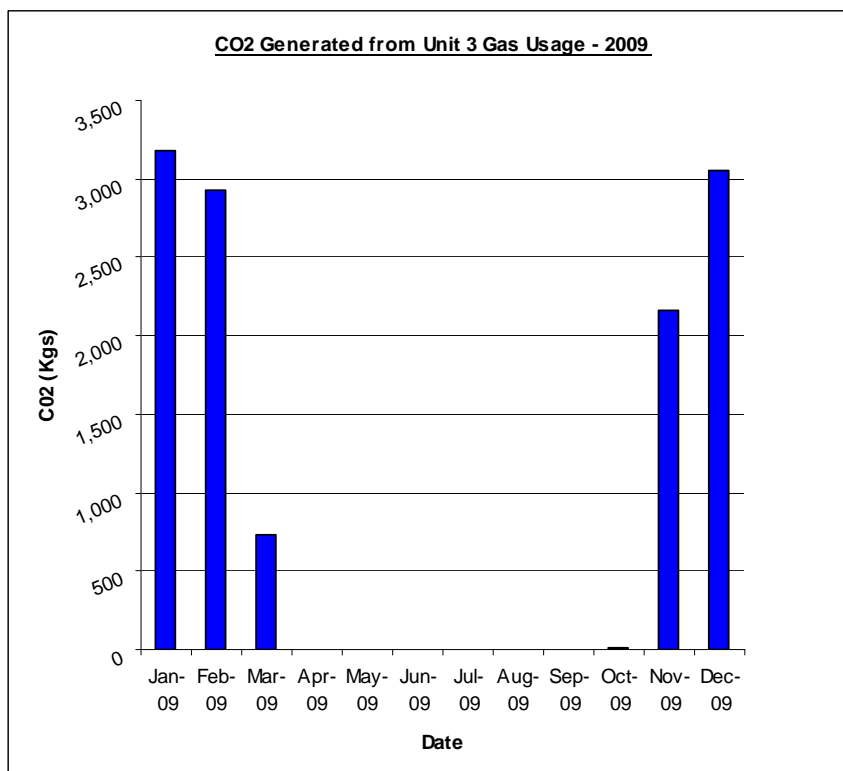
Due to the trends identified it appears that the spikes in electricity usage are caused by external environmental conditions. It would follow therefore that our resources are best directed at minimising these external effects on our operations.

The first stage is to have a carbon generation survey done. This will be undertaken free of charge by the Carbon Trust. They are coming in to survey our lighting and manufacturing procedures.

The findings of this survey will give us a better understanding of the inefficiencies in our operations. We will therefore be in a position to make decisions on where resources would be best spent to optimise our efficiency and thus save money. The timing of this survey is crucial if we are to take advantage of the following government schemes which begin in April 2010.

- Feed in Tariffs
- Enhanced Capital Allowance

9.3 Natural Gas Usage



Month	Usage (m3)
Jan-09	1245
Feb-09	1310
Mar-09	335
Apr-09	2
May-09	0
Jun-09	0
Jul-09	1
Aug-09	0
Sep-09	0
Oct-09	6
Nov-09	996
Dec-09	1406
Total	5301

Figure 3: Alumet HQ's Total Natural Gas Usage 2009

9.3.1 Methods

Natural gas is used to supply the heating system in Unit 3. 2009 will be taken as the baseline year. A target of 10% reduction of gas usage against turnover in 2010 has been set. Meter readings are taken manually on a monthly basis and then checked against bills. Any potential areas of inefficiency are being assessed and findings will be displayed in a separate report.

9.3.2 Conclusions

As 2009 is the benchmark it is difficult to make any conclusions other than the fact that we see a trend towards increased usage in the winter months. This will be due to the colder temperatures and the necessity of keeping a legal ambient temperature in the unit. Professional Energy Solutions (PES) have conducted a small survey of our premises and their recommendations are contained within the appendices.

9.3.3 Recommendations

As with electricity usage the trends identified appear to be caused by external environmental conditions. It would follow therefore that our resources are best directed at minimising these external effects on our operations.

The survey carried out by PES seeks to identify where the most effective use of resources will be.

9.4 Water Usage

Dates Covered	Meter #	Location	Total Usage (m3)
15/1/09 - 15/1/10	44333977	Weld Shop	375.67
15/1/09 - 15/1/10	831074723	Rear Jordan House	3
12/1/09 - 15/1/10	601069542	Rear Jordan House	2
12/1/09 - 15/1/10	510042448	Senator House 1st Floor	15
12/1/09 - 15/1/10	510042448	Unit D	175
12/1/09 - 15/1/09	510014951	Jordan House Ground Floor	353
12/1/09 - 15/1/10	510042448	Jordan House Ground Floor	4
Total			927.67

Figure 4: Alumet HQ's Total Water Usage 2009

9.4.1 Methods

2009 is the benchmark year for reporting on water usage. Meter readings are taken manually and checked for accuracy against bills. No recommendation for reduction has yet been made.

9.4.2 Conclusions

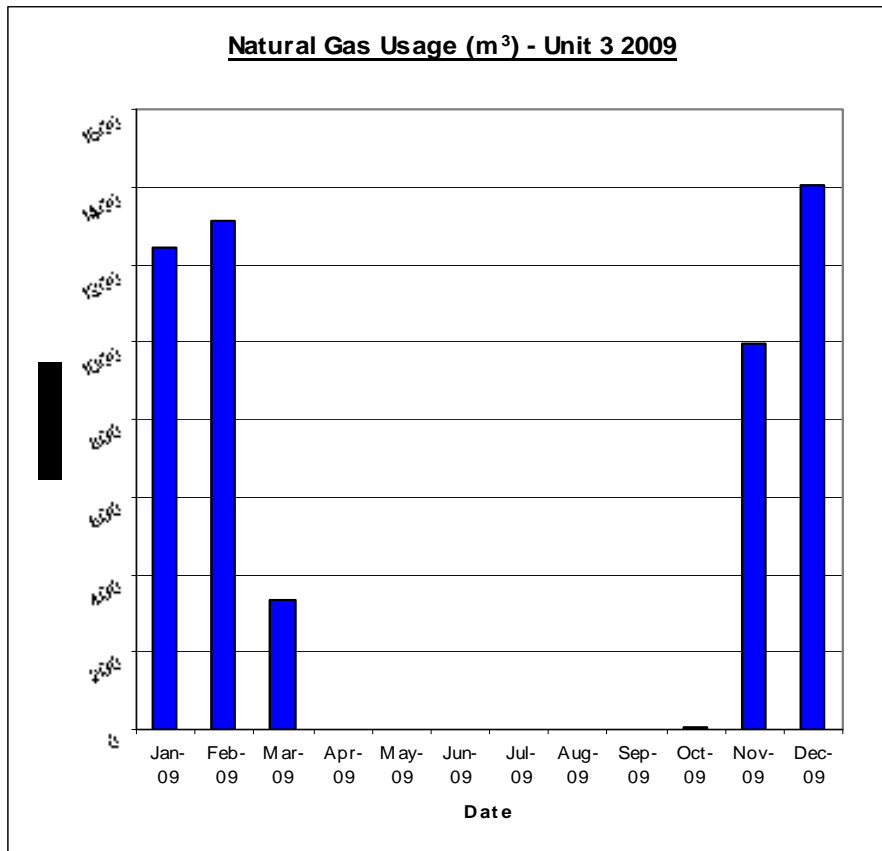
As 2009 is the benchmark there are no real conclusions to be drawn.

9.4.3 Recommendations

It is recommended that measures are put into place to reduce water consumption on the site. This should include, but not be restricted to:

- Cistern/flushing optimisation
- Rainwater butts for feeding pressure washers
- Rainwater harvesting systems to supply a proportion of grey water
- Fit automatic and timed flushes to urinals, so that they only flush when needed, and not at night when no-one's using them
- Fitting water saving devices to taps e.g. TapMagic flow restrictors
- Regular checking of water meters to see if we are leaking any water at night.

9.5 Heating Oil Usage



Month	Usage (m ³)
Jan-09	1245
Feb-09	1310
Mar-09	335
Apr-09	2
May-09	0
Jun-09	0
Jul-09	1
Aug-09	0
Sep-09	0
Oct-09	6
Nov-09	996
Dec-09	1406
Total	5301

Figure 5: Alumet HQ's Total Gas Usage 2009

9.5.1 Methods

2009 is the benchmark year for reporting on oil consumption. The figures are an estimation based upon tank fill levels. Unfortunately our main systems are not gauged and therefore a more accurate picture of oil usage is not available.

9.5.2 Conclusions

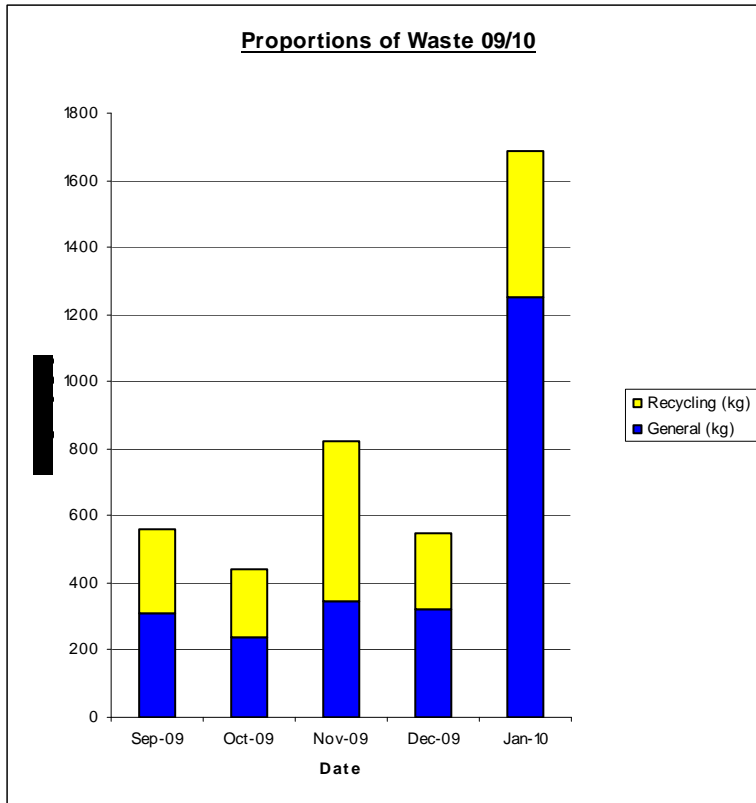
It is fair and accurate to state that oil consumption in 2009 is dramatically decreased from 2008 levels. This is due to the installation of gas fired heating systems in the main factory. The trend is towards greatly increased use in the winter months as oil for heating is used. As with conclusions drawn from natural gas usage potential savings could be made through more efficient insulation of the factory space and more care being taken to keep the warmth in during operations in the day.

9.5.3 Recommendations

Where applicable we should install gauges onto our tanks to give a much more accurate representation of the system's usage. This should enable us to make more informed choices in the future concerning heating systems.

9.6 Waste Management

Figures are only available from September 2009, so a baseline year cannot be set. We are in the process of setting it now. In September 2010 quantifiable targets can be set. Currently only general recommendations can be made which will hopefully improve our performance on sustainable waste management.



Date	General (kg)	Recycling (kg)	Total Waste
Sep-09	310	250	560
Oct-09	238	202	440
Nov-09	347	477	824
Dec-09	321	230	551
Jan-10	1253	434	1687

Figure 6: Alumat HQ's Total Waste 2009/2010

9.6.1 Methods

Fortress, our waste management company, has supplied the figures for the past five months. Each of their waste management vehicles is fitted with a waste sensor that is accurate to the nearest kilogram. Currently we are having weekly pick-ups regardless of whether the bins are full or not.

9.6.2 Conclusions

Waste levels seem to be fairly regular, except for the spike in general waste in Jan 2010. This spike can be attributed to waste generated by the upgrade to the roof on Unit 1. Waste levels will continue to be monitored.

9.6.3 Recommendations

There are external factors which should be guiding our waste management policy. Fortress has recently announced that they are now able to recycle much more than was previously possible. This new capacity will include plastic of all types. As a large proportion of our supply chain use plastic in their packaging there should be great scope for us to improve our recycling rate.

Due in part to market pressures we have recently signed up to Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP)'s Halving Waste to Landfill by 2012 Commitment. The challenge of this voluntary target has been accepted by Bovis, Vinci, BAM, Laing O'Rourke and many notable others.

It is my firm belief that we will be able to better the target and state publicly that we send **zero** waste to landfill by the end of this quarter. It is correct to say now that we send zero waste to landfill as all of our waste currently ends up at Ling Hall, Rugby where all waste is incinerated and the resulting energy is fed into the National Grid.



9.7 Diesel Usage

Figures are available from March 2009 onwards. Our baseline usage will be set in March 2010 when the figures have been collated.

Due to the disproportionately large quantity of data on this subject and the sensitivity of the information, reporting will be carried out via a separate Diesel Usage report. This will be made available to directors in due course.

Although no baseline has been set yet, a target for reduction has been set for 2010/2011 at 10%.

The figures will continue to be monitored and the results published at this time next year.

10. Going forward – Aims and Objectives

As this is the inaugural sustainability report that Alumet has generated, it is necessary at this point to generate some targets going forward. Our aims and objectives for the coming years are detailed as follows.

Aims

1. To become the most sustainable façade company operating in the UK.
2. To generate half of our electricity from renewable sources by 2012 and all of it by 2018.
3. To halve our waste to landfill by 2012 and send zero waste to landfill by 2014.
4. To reduce our carbon footprint by 8% year on year against floor area, until that target is deemed unattainable.

Objectives

1. This aim is an all encompassing ethos and although difficult to quantify will be achieved through a variety of measures. We are committed to continual improvement and see continual improvement as a pre-requisite for survival in an ever-increasingly competitive market place.

Measures

- i. We will be questioning our suppliers on their environmental credentials and working with them to reduce their impact on the environment.
- ii. We will reduce our energy usage by 8% year on year until that target is deemed unattainable.
- iii. We will be reducing, reusing and recycling a growing proportion of our waste.
- iv. We will be looking to take up renewable energy sources and incorporate the into our site energy plans.

2. The cost/benefit relationship of photo voltaic panel installation is currently being considered. The notion that we are going to generate power this way has been nominally agreed by the board, it is now a question of how we go about it.

3. The halving of waste to landfill by 2012 will be achieved by increasing our current recycling rate by sending a larger proportion of our waste to recycling. We are also using our CSR questionnaire as a means of reducing the quantity of packaging that we receive from our suppliers.

4. Carbon reduction will be at the heart of what we are trying to achieve.

We have set out reduction targets over the entire range of our energy-reliant processes. The 8% target will be achieved through a variety of measures including, but not limited to: the installation of Sustainability Champions in key positions within the company, the "Save a Pound a Week" scheme and the installation of renewable electricity and heat generators.