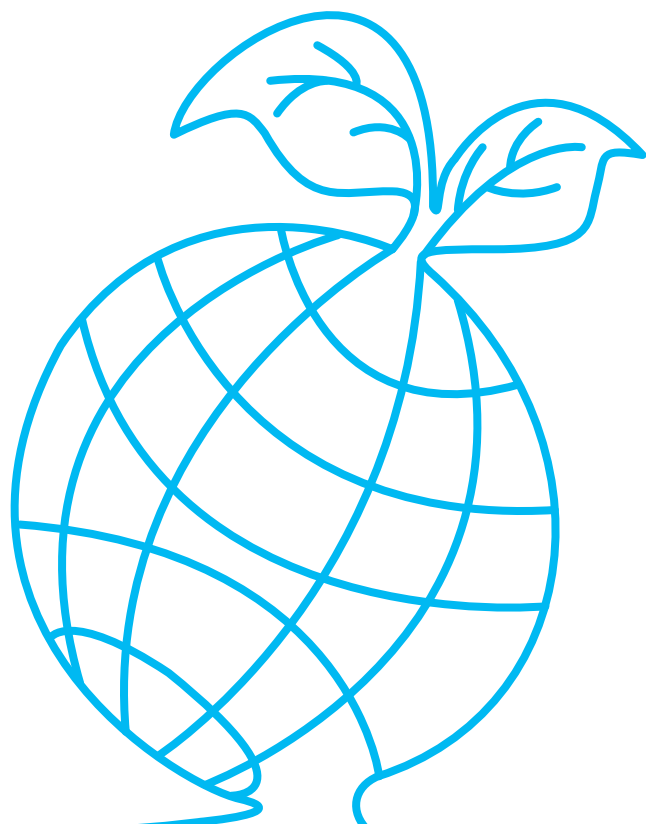




environment

Because we've all got a role to play

Our environmental CR activity is focused on managing and reducing our direct environmental impacts in particular reducing our carbon footprint; we're also looking to have a positive wider impact through our people and suppliers.



Managing and reducing our direct environmental impact

Reducing our environmental impact is vital to our long-term sustainability, cutting costs for our members and ensuring we meet government legislation now and in the future.

That means setting comprehensive targets on energy, water, travel, waste, and paper and then delivering against them. In relation to our carbon footprint, we're working to stabilise our CO₂ emissions and then put in a five year plan to reduce them with our long-term aspiration being to meet the government's own targets of an 80% reduction on existing levels by 2050.

A change in direction

We can never forget that while fulfilling our environmental and community responsibilities, we exist to give our members value for money. So following issues with supply and demand, price changes and changes to the government's framework on carbon legislation, we decided to stop buying electricity from purely renewable sources in October 2008. This has resulted in an increase in our reported carbon footprint. In absolute terms our energy use has only increased by 3%. **And...**

STOP PRESS:

...and we're going to do something perhaps more worthwhile. We're going to take that difference in price between 'green' and 'brown' electricity and invest it in improving the sustainability of our buildings and facilities. Capturing real long-term energy efficiency savings.

Working to have a positive impact on the wider environment through our people and suppliers

Managing suppliers

All our tenders for new contracts include guidelines on our approach to Corporate Responsibility and clarify what we expect of our suppliers.

Dress for Success

We donate our obsolete stock of corporate clothing to Dress for Success, a charity which supports women who have suffered domestic violence to get back into the workplace. Re-use is possible because it is considered at the design stage with company branding kept small and discreet.

Travel

Our new company car scheme gives employees a wide choice but positively rewards those who choose cars with lower emissions. We also promote alternatives such as video and teleconferencing so sometimes people don't need to travel at all.



Since 1 April 2009, we've ensured that all the paper we use in our point-of-sale leaflets and statement inserts is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. 100% of our paper waste is recycled.

Case Study



Energy management

Energy management systems at our branches

During the last year we introduced energy management controls at 30 of our branches. Mini Building Management Systems (BMS) are linked to the branch heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and security systems.

When the security system is armed, the BMS automatically switches off the services that are not required when the building is unoccupied and manages these services effectively when the building is in use.

The energy management equipment and remote control of heating, air conditioning, lighting and ventilation in and out of working hours will generate a 16% reduction in energy use and subsequent cost savings for each branch.

Talking of managing our environmental impact, our internal print and distribution unit has introduced an environmental management system which has been ISO 14001 reaccredited. Over the next year we plan to implement further management control across the rest of the business.



MORE
THAN
JUST
WORK

Coming soon...

Roll out of new Building Management System to 180 branches – saving vital energy

A new Nationwide Education 'Sustainable Living' programme for ages 12-16