

Carbon Reduction Work at NatSol

As a small company we are not currently required to publish a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP). These can be expensive to prepare. However, given that NatSol evolved from a desire to help the environment before CRPs were conceived, we are providing this brief account of our ongoing efforts to keep our company carbon footprint at a light tread.

Since our beginnings in 2005 we have had an annual company mileage of less than 3k. We spend time explaining local, on-site management of our toilets to enquirers. We support all our clients in the local upkeep of their toilets by phone and email free of charge. This modus operandi is always selected over travelling nationwide to manage or service toilets wherever possible. Where a staff member does travel to a site public transport is used if feasible.

We have bought our electricity from Good Energy for many years. We are careful to only heat areas that are in use and when really necessary and have been long accustomed to adding layers of clothing instead of turning up the thermostat. The office and workshops in winter seem fresher this way and colds seem less prevalent as a result.

Daylight is the preferred default lighting at NatSol. For extra visibility when it's necessary we have LED bulbs in most rooms. Last year we acquired a photovoltaic array of 50m². It may take a while to pay for itself but it's good to know we are using and selling that clean energy.

For at least 15 years we have been collecting packaging from local businesses which saves them having to dispose of it. We re-use this to pack our pedestals, urinals, grab rails and other small components. We also try to buy packaging made from recycled paper or card when it is necessary to buy in new packaging.

NatSol premises came with strips of land between us and the road. We were able to gain permission from our landlord to plant a wide variety of flowers; in contrast to neighbouring units where grass is mown short. NatSol staff regularly tend the garden year-round. Birds come to our magnolia tree and bees come to our roses. We are pleased to show that commerce can be married with supporting nature.

Over the next 5 years we aim to have secondary glazing fitted in our newest unit and install an air source heat pump to replace our inherited gas boiler. We are exploring the idea of adding additional insulation to the office ceiling.

As for our products, we do use both concrete and stainless steel. These are high energy materials but both are long life and the stainless can be recycled. We expect our in-ground toilet vaults to last 50 to 100 years and our stainless pedestals at least 20. An estimate of the carbon footprint for a Full Access Composter and building once delivered and installed is around 1 tonne. Spread over many years we feel this is a good outcome.

Our timber buildings are made using either FSC certified timber or timber from local sustainably managed woodlands.

In profitable years we have often supported Size of Wales which works to protect areas of rainforest equal to the size of Wales. The size of Wales is more usually used as a measure of rainforest destruction.

We give a small regular donation to Water Aid.

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