



Communications on Progress

United Nations Global Compact – 2nd update

WHERE ARE WE?

From our first Communications on Progress, Article 13 has been moving forward with leaps and bounds. We've progressed forward in the following areas

Policies

We have developed a new Sustainable Development Policy along with changes to our Equal Opportunity and our Community and Social Policy.

Paper

We have changed our paper suppliers and now purchase paper from sustainable sources. We've also just purchased a new photocopier/printer, enabling us to reduce our paper consumption by one third.

Stationery

We now receive our stationery from a select group of suppliers chosen on the basis of their labour rights, human rights policies and environmental policies. We always purchase products made from recycled materials or sustainable sources, and if they aren't available we chose products made in the United Kingdom to reduce air miles travelled.

Food

We buy all our tea, coffee and biscuits from Traidcraft to ensure it is coming from Fairtrade sources. We also employ the services of a local milk man. Our water cooler has been investigated to be as environmentally friendly as possible and where possible we purchase organic and Fairtrade fruit.

Recycling

All our paper products are recycled. We now recycle all tin, plastic bottles and glass bi-products through the London Borough of Lambeth.

Energy

We held a consultation with the tenants of our building to gauge their interest in changing to Green Energy. Not all tenants attended the consultation out of choice however, the response from the attendees was positive. Quotes are currently being sourced from energy companies on the possible switch to Green Energy.

Banking and Finance

An investigation into the conduct of our current banking institutions was conducted to ensure that their dealings are in compliance with the UNGC principles and we were happy with the findings.

Consumption and tracking systems

We have developed tracking systems to monitor our energy consumption, air and vehicle travel which we have used to determine the cost of our Carbon Dioxide emission to the environment and contribute this cost to a Carbon Dioxide offset programme. We are also actively promoting public transport use where possible.

Unfortunately, our Stationery tracking system was not adopted with vigour by the office so measures have now been taken to ensure all stationery use is recorded correctly.

Incentive Systems

At our 2 monthly status meetings each member of staff is to bring a brief anecdote on how they have contributed to improve our work towards the UNGC principles. The group is rewarded with social activities upon continued work towards the 10 principles.

Charities/Societal Contributions

We continue to collect postage stamps and donate them to a local charity. Many of our staff donated their time to help the Asian Tsunami disaster relief programmes around London by packing shipping containers of clothes and food for the needy. At Christmas we sponsored the production of Christmas Decorations made from recycled materials through London Remade. We also donated money to Oxfam purchasing much needed goats and mosquito nets for families in Africa.

Advocacy

Our website has been updated and redesigned to incorporate our work with the UNGC principles. Visitors to the website can now view the Communication on Progress on our website as well as additional information. Our email signatures now incorporate the UNGC website address, and our recent e-Christmas card send out also noted down our commitment to the UNGC principles.

WHAT IS STILL TO COME?

With the addition of the 10th principle on Anti-corruption Article 13 will be holding a brainstorming session on how best we can move forward on this issue and how we can incorporate this into our business dealings and operations.

WHERE WE HOPE TO BE?

Through our change internally we aim to be more focused in becoming a true advocate for the UNGC and its 10 principles. Upon implementation of all of our actions we strive to continually look for ways to improve our contribution to the UNGC and its members by becoming a strong role model for SME's alike.

Our aim is to become our own best practice case study where we can share our experiences with other organisations to prove that change on a small scale really can help. We will also continue to advocate and push for the implementation of practices that promote the UNGC principles through our work with our clients.