

## Corporate Responsibility Report 2016-17

In line with the commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) outlined in our CSR Policy, Ethical Screening is pleased to report on the progress that we have made over the last 12 months.

### Environment

#### Green Energy

As reported last year, [Ecotricity](#) is now the electricity supplier for us and a number of other businesses in Formal House, the office complex in which we are based. Since Ecotricity derives 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources, this has allowed us to make carbon savings of 14.59 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in the year to May 2017.

Although not connected to the building's gas supply ourselves, in autumn 2016, we liaised with the owners of Formal House and energy suppliers to enable them to switch to a provider offering a 'green gas' option.

#### Carbon Offsetting

All of our employees typically walk, cycle, or use public transport to get to our office, but business travel outside Cheltenham is also necessary from time to time. Where public transport is not a practical option, we use cars. On the rare occasions when we need to fly to business locations, to mitigate the carbon impact of such trips, we use [Carbon Footprint](#) (provider of Carbon Offsets to the UK Government) to calculate our emissions and select a Quality Assurance Standard approved provider of carbon offsets. In the 12 months to May 2017, we have offset 0.529 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with flights taken by employees, using projects [fully verified to Kyoto/United Nations standards](#).

#### Waste Reduction & Management

At our instigation, recycling bins have been installed in the communal areas on each floor of Formal House so that recyclable waste can be separated from non-recyclable waste at point of use. Recycling boxes to collect used printer cartridges will also be installed in the near future.

Last year, with the generous assistance of local sustainability charity [Vision21 Gloucestershire](#), we installed cable recycling boxes in the building in order to collect unwanted cables, phone chargers and other metal waste. To date, four boxes (1.2m x 0.5m) have been filled!

### Supporting Our Local Community

In the past 12 months, our members of staff have been involved in raising awareness and fundraising for local organisations working in our area including:

- Food collection for [Cheltenham Open Door](#), which helps vulnerable and disadvantaged people including the homeless.
- [SARA \(Severn Area Rescue Association\)](#), a specialist marine and land search rescue service for Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcestershire, and Gwent.

In 2017, Ethical Screening introduced a policy which will allow employees to take one day per year as paid volunteering leave.

## Charitable Giving

In the year to May 2017, Ethical Screening donated a total of £2,400 to the following charities and not-for-profits:

- **BookAid International** - UK-based library development charity working in sub-Saharan Africa to help more people discover the joy and value of reading. [www.bookaid.org/](http://www.bookaid.org/)
- **British Red Cross** - the UK body of the worldwide neutral and impartial humanitarian network the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. [www.redcross.org.uk/](http://www.redcross.org.uk/)
- **Cheltenham Foodbank** - part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. <https://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk>
- **Earth Restoration Service** - provides a service to both community and the environment by helping school children to learn about the environment and to plant trees and create wildflower meadows in order to restore their local degraded habitats. [www.earthrestorationservice.org](http://www.earthrestorationservice.org)
- **Ellen McArthur Foundation** - works with business, government and academia to build a framework for an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design. [www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/](http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/)
- **Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** - offers support to those seeking asylum in Gloucestershire, welcoming them when they arrive, advocating for them in their daily struggles, supporting them if they face being sent back as well as helping them adjust to their long-term future if they are recognised as refugees. [www.garas.org.uk/](http://www.garas.org.uk/)
- **Malala Fund** - supports girls' education projects in the most vulnerable communities around the world. [www.malala.org/about](http://www.malala.org/about)
- **Médecins Sans Frontières** - an international, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. [www.msf.org/en/about-msf](http://www.msf.org/en/about-msf)
- **Migrant Offshore Aid Station** - provides professional search and rescue assistance to refugees and migrants in distress at sea. [www.moas.eu/](http://www.moas.eu/)
- **Vision21 Glos** - a sustainability charity that operates throughout Gloucestershire, running local environmental projects including a furniture re-use scheme for low income families. [www.vision21.org.uk/who-we-are/](http://www.vision21.org.uk/who-we-are/)
- **War Child** - provides assistance to children in areas experiencing conflict and the aftermath of conflict. [www.warchild.org.uk/](http://www.warchild.org.uk/)
- **The Wikimedia Foundation** - a non-profit charitable organisation dedicated to the development and distribution of free, multilingual, educational content, and to providing the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge. The Wikimedia Foundation operates some of the largest collaboratively edited reference projects in the world, including Wikipedia. <https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Home>

Also in 2017, we adopted a Matched Giving policy whereby Ethical Screening will match employees' charitable donations - we believe that this is a great way to help our team to support the causes that they care about.

## Responsible Investment Community Engagement

Ethical Screening operates within a wider responsible investment community and, where possible, welcomes the opportunity to support initiatives which promote or advance its cause. In 2016/17, our participation included:

- **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** - Ethical Screening is a Professional Services Partner signatory to the [UN-backed PRI](#). Its goal is to understand the implications of sustainability for investors and support its incorporation into investment decision making and ownership practices. This year, we attended several PRI events including those on the future of responsible investment and regulation, forced labour and responsible recruitment, and environmental and social risk management in palm oil, amongst others.
- **UKSSD Annual Conference** - the [UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development](#) conference focused on how the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be translated into transformational action for the UK.
- **Good Money Talks** - as part of [Good Money Week](#), co-ordinated by the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF), we took part in this annual event.
- **UK launch of the [Corporate Human Rights Benchmark](#)**, the first public ranking of 98 of the world's largest listed companies on their human rights performance, funded by the governments of the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Aviva Investors and others.
- **Current Trends in the Pharmaceutical Sector - Access to Medicine & ESG risks**, an event organised by [ShareAction](#), a charity that promotes responsible investment practices by pension providers and fund managers, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign.

## Objectives for 2017/18

### Ethical & Sustainable Sourcing

In the next 12 months, we aim to expand our approach to responsible procurement by compiling a statement which meets the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act (2015). As a small business, we are exempt from the legislation but believe that this exercise will enable us to identify and address any risks within our supply chain.

### Solar Power

The owners of Formal House have expressed an interest in installing solar panels on the building in future, and we will continue to offer our assistance and encouragement towards realising this goal.