

Corporate Responsibility Report 2017-18

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.

Environmental Responsibility

Green Energy

[Ecotricity](#) continues to supply electricity to 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 approximately 22 tonnes CO_{2e} in the two-year period to 30/04/18 (using the Carbon Trust SME Carbon Footprint Calculator).

We are pleased to report that in 2018, the owners of Formal House installed solar panels on the roof of the building, which will be commissioned into service in the coming months. Over the course of the year, we have also had double glazing and extra roof insulation installed in our office, which will increase the overall level of energy efficiency.

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 last 12 months, we have not taken any flights for business purposes.

Waste Reduction & Management

We are pleased to report that Formal House plans to switch its waste management supplier to the building in the near future. This will allow both us and other tenants to recycle a wider range of waste products such as used printer ink and toner cartridges, light bulbs and foil.

Ethical Sourcing

One of our CSR objectives for 2017/18 was 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 recognise and address any risks within our supply chain. To date, we have identified our suppliers, checked which have already published information about their supply chains and contacted those where such information is absent. This is an ongoing process and we plan to publish a Modern Slavery Statement in due course.

Ethical Screening's CSR policy states that the company will always buy Fairtrade products where possible. We have requested that the owners of Formal House make the switch to supplying only Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar in the communal kitchens throughout the building and are currently awaiting their response.

Charitable Giving

Staff Fundraising

In the past 12 months, members of the Ethical Screening team have been involved in raising awareness and fundraising for the following organisations:

- Food collection for [Cheltenham Food Bank](#), and [Cheltenham Open Door](#), which helps vulnerable and disadvantaged people including the homeless.
- [Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity](#) - Our colleagues Davide and Matt will take part in the Prudential Ride London on the 29th July 2018 in aid of the hospital. It's the first 100 mile-ride for both! This is a cause that is close to home as Matt's nephew was born prematurely in 2016 and spent time undergoing treatment for hydrocephalus at Great Ormond Street (he is now 2 and meeting all expected milestones). Any and all donations are welcome via the team's [Virgin Money Giving page](#)

Charitable Donations

In the year to May 2018, Ethical Screening donated a total of £2,400 to the following charities:

- [Bhopal Medical Appeal](#) - aims to alleviate the suffering of people who have been directly or indirectly affected by chemical disasters, in particular those in the Indian city of Bhopal in the aftermath of the Union Carbide disaster of 1984
- [Cheltenham Food Bank](#) - provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. Cheltenham Food Bank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.
- [Client Earth](#) - working to promote and protect the environment for public benefit by providing advocacy and litigation assistance, promoting education on environmental rights and responsibilities, and conducting research.
- [Community Connexions](#) - provides community transportation services for vulnerable and isolated groups of people in Gloucestershire, helping elderly and disabled people who are less mobile to get to places like GP surgeries, shops and work.
- [Gloucestershire Breastfeeding Support Network](#) - supports mothers who want to breastfeed their babies and toddlers, by providing a safe environment and giving them relevant information on breastfeeding. The Network is run through local groups with the support of trained volunteers.
- [Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity](#) - aims to enhance The Hospital's ability to transform the health and wellbeing of children and young people, giving them the best chance to fulfil their potential by helping to modernise and redevelop clinical facilities and accommodation; funding support projects to improve the experience of patients and their families; funding research to pioneer new and kinder treatments for rare and complex conditions; and ensure that the hospital can harness the latest technologies by investing in new equipment and capital projects.
- [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) - an international, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare.

We also have a Matched Giving policy in place, through which Ethical Screening matches employees' charitable donations.

Engagement with the Responsible Investment Community

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 2017/18, our participation included:

- **edie Live** - an exhibition connecting energy, sustainability and resource professionals with the information, ideas and suppliers they need to make their businesses more sustainable.
- **Law, Finance and Sustainability Conference** - held by Sheffield Institute of Corporate and Commercial Law (SICCL), in collaboration with the project Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade (SMART).
- **RI Europe 2017 Conference: 10-Year Anniversary** - 'Good business - sustainable capital: investing in companies for long-term financial and societal value'.
- **'The Hidden Costs of Sugar'** - an event hosted by Rathbone Greenbank in London
- **'The role of the private sector in fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions'** - British Institute of International and Comparative Law.
- **UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)** annual conferences in London (2017) and Edinburgh (2018).

Fair Tax

We are very pleased to report that in June 2018, Ethical Screening was awarded the [Fair Tax Mark](#). Our [Fair Tax Statement](#), which was compiled in partnership with the Fair Tax Mark, certifies that Ethical and Environmental Screening Services Limited ("Ethical Screening") meets the standards and requirements of the Fair Tax Mark's small business standard.

Objectives for 2017/18

We are currently expanding the scope of our research in order to assess whether company activities are aligned with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). In the coming year, we plan to further the aims of the Goals ourselves through more active engagement with the SRI community and partnerships with relevant organisations such as [UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development \(UKSSD\)](#).