

Sustainability Development

Apex Lifts is fully committed to maintaining and improving the environment. Since we are accredited to the Environmental Management System ISO 14001, it naturally ensures our own systematic approach to cooperate fully with Governmental Environmental Issues. In support the London Mayor's target to cut emissions in the capital by 60 per cent by 2025, Apex Lifts have signed up to London's pioneering carbon management scheme; Green 500.

Apex Lifts believes that all companies, irrelevant of their size or function, can reduce their negative environmental impact. Within our business and beyond we reuse, recycle and conserve energy, whilst procedures are continuously reviewed to reduce the impact of our company on the environment.

Apex Lifts understands the importance of establishing an environmental management system to minimise the company's environmental impact. In May 2004 Apex achieved certification to EMS ISO 14001. We maintain this standard through regular audits. The system certifies that we demonstrate environmental responsibility, minimise our impact on the environment and adopt structured methods towards environmental management. By utilising a systematic approach, Apex directors, managers, supervisors and the Health and Safety Officer are able to identify and report sustainable development impacts on the company.

Sustainable development is considered at director level for all decision making, however many staff have their own ideas to help create a resource efficient company. Employees are always encouraged to present practical suggestions and in recent years the email system has created a straight forward and direct service to facilitate this. Any beneficial ideas are simply sent to the relevant individual or department. Often, procedures carried out at Apex have motivated and inspired staff to apply the same approach within their own households.

Significant Impacts on Sustainable Development

The following information illustrates by category major significant impacts on sustainable developments, to each aspect we have stated the various measures employed by Apex Lifts to reduce their effects on the environment.

Lift Installation – Power Consumption Analysis

Apex Lifts can assist in the provision of reducing Lift energy consumption through our Green Strategy Programme comprising of 4 simple stages.

1. Power Analyser to monitor, calculate and provide full data of the energy use of your lifts.

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2. Technical Team will analyse the data and report areas where the adoption of various Eco- Solutions would be advisable
3. Energy efficiency Proposals will be fitted.
4. Power Analyser will monitor and provide full comparative data of the subsequent energy use of the same lifts.

Travel

- Drivers complete SaFed Driving Course, highlighting safe driving and fuel efficient driving skills
- Engineers have been allocated 'walking routes'
- Engineers are organised to both commute and work together to reduce single occupancy of vehicles.
- Directors and management use public transport to travel to meetings and sites.
- Telephone conference calls are organised to minimise unnecessary business travel.
- Apex provide secure, garaged overnight car parking, enabling staff who may be out of the office at the end of their day to travel directly home using public transport.
- Apex provides safe storage for employees' bikes and entered into tax free bikes for work – Cycle Scheme
- All staff are encouraged to use public transport where ever possible.

Utility Efficiency Initiatives

Water

Posters are strategically placed in kitchens and toilet facilities.
For example:

- Only boil in the kettle the required quantity of water.
- Immediately report any dripping taps to the premises manager.
- Water saving device – Water Hippo is placed in the toilet cistern to reduce the quantity of water used during each toilet flush. Impressed by the simplicity of this feature, Apex employees applied the system to their own homes.

Electricity

All windows and doors are kept closed to maintain the temperature.

- Offices are fully fitted with double glazing units.
- Air conditioning is switched off between 6pm and 8am.
- All machinery, kitchen equipment, computers, printers, photocopiers and lights are switched off every night. Directors are the last to vacate the offices and factories at the end of day.
- All IT equipment to standby after 5 minutes.
- All IT equipment is switched off when not in use.

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- New Photocopier/Printer – Ricoh Afriocio 3245C uses Polyester and Polymerisation toner which uses less energy than conventional toners, resulting in 30% less CO2 emissions during the production process.
- All computers are labelled – Ecology Energy and Ergonomics Emissions
- Sub-metering of each department to determine departmental usage.

Gas

Apex only use gas for the boiler system

- Water temperature has been reduced.

Waste Management

Apex Lifts have established methods to regenerate the materials or when recycling is not possible, safely dispose of the waste. All wastes at Apex are controlled, we are subject to a legally bound Duty of Care to ensure proper management and to prevent illegal disposal.

Hazardous (Special) Waste

Special hazardous waste within Apex consists of empty paint and chemical containers, used oils and cutting fluids from various machines, lift installations and services. All hazardous waste is disposed of using a licensed special waste contractor, for example Safety Klean. Consignment notes are held by our Health and Safety Officer.

Apex Lifts promote to our customers the environmental benefits of using synthetic replacement oils or vegetable oil based rape seed. In comparison to low level degradability of Hydraulic Oil, the synthetic oils are 98% biodegradable in just 21 days.

Hydraulic oils are kept in a secure container. All field staff have taken part in spill training and are equipped with spill kits in case of an emergency.

Apex use paints with low volatile organic compounds, ranging from 0.30% to 7.99%.

General Waste

General waste in Apex consists of all other waste materials excluding special waste and recyclable waste. This waste is contained in one 16 yard skip located in the yard outside the main office. This is collected by a licensed waste carrier. Waste created on site is stored in secure locked locations awaiting transfer by Apex Lifts to our main depot in Sidcup.

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Recycling Initiatives

By minimising the impacts of waste, we have initiated several means of reuse, recycling or implementing procedures to initially reduce the effects of waste produced.

Manufacturing and Site

- All waste steel is reused and recycled.
- Wooden pallets are reused or are collected from our main depot and recycled to compost by a licensed contractor, minimising the environmental damaging effect of burning.
- Large recycle bins for aluminium, paper, card, plastic bottles and glass.

Office

- Printer toner cartridges are collected and recycled by our supplier Nico Office Suppliers. All recycling proceeds made by Nico are donated to children wards at local hospitals – Queen Marys and Darenth Valley Hospitals.
- Fluorescent Tubes are returned for recycling.
- CDs, CD cases are reused.
- Folders and dividers are reused.
- Carrier bags and boxes are reused or recycled.
- Recycle bins for aluminium, paper, card, plastic bottles and glass.
- No disposable cups, cutlery and plates are used.
- Evolve 100% recycled paper is used throughout the office.
- Recycled toilet paper.

Paper Conservation

- Adopt the automatic procedure of double sided printing.
- Photocopier/Printer Ricoh Aficio 3245C produces scans to emails, scans to folders and sends fax messages to PCs in email format.
- Apex actively promote the use of emails both internally and externally.
- Faxes are sent and received electronically.
- Where ever possible all waste paper is reused as scrap paper for notes and workings out.
- When possible envelopes are reused with new address labels.
- Instead of sending Christmas cards, staff has chosen to donate monies generally spent on cards to a selected charity.
- To reduce the necessity of printing documents for meetings etc. employees transfer information onto USB flash drives and CD ROMs to relay information from their laptops.
- Promotional literature and reports are produced electronically.

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- Promotional literature and legislation information is available from Apex Lifts website.
- Informative and promotional literature is produced on CDs. For example Disability Discrimination Act and its implications.
- Receive only one copy of trade magazines and journals. For example Elevation and Elevator World Magazines. Important articles are scanned and filed in the Library Folder on the main server which is accessible to all staff.
- Service Full History Reports available from our website.

'Better Quality of Life' Initiatives

Apex offers a flexible approach to working hours. We support workers who wish to work non-standard hours in a flexible working pattern.

For example: Part Time Working
 Home working