

All Green at Trustco Plc

At Trustco Plc we are committed to doing as much as we can to help protect our environment. We are undertaking a number of activities to ensure that the whole business we operate is as 'green' as possible and actively promote a number of green policies as detailed below. We also encourage our staff and visitors to travel car-free.

In January 2008 Trustco Plc launched the "Green Team", a group of employees which meets once a month to initiate and facilitate environmentally friendly policies throughout the business.

What is being done?

All electricity used is generated from wind farms

Light bulbs are gradually replaced by energy saving versions

Recycling as much paper, plastic, aluminium and glass as possible

No paper-based direct mail campaigns will be issued for marketing purposes

Turning down of radiators instead of opening windows

Web Meetings & Professional Profile Pages

Since October 2006 Trustco has encouraged the use of web based meetings to present information on the company and products we promote. Through the use of new technologies we are broadening the capabilities of web based meetings which now include live video conferencing and online presentation with both user and presenter control. To encourage this environment Trustco will now provide 'free of charge' a Trustco Web Cam with built in microphone to any client that would like to conduct a web based meeting with one of our team in place of a face to face visit.

We have also made use of the web to help you get to know your account manager personally and professionally without having to meet them face to face, through their own dedicated Professional Profile page which can be requested at any time.

Paperless office

Through investment in market leading bespoke software, which provides our organisation a competitive advantage over competition, we have been able to create an end to end customer relationship and order processing system which is completely paperless from start to finish.

We accept purchase orders online through our web based InView system or electronic confirmation by email or purchase order attachment which is tagged electronically to your Sales Order within Trustco without the requirement to be printed.

We encourage all of our customers to receive their statements and invoices via email and we also request that statements and communication where possible from our suppliers is carried out electronically.

We use online banking and credit facilities to minimise paper trails and storage.

Trustco AdVantage green bonus

Through our acclaimed AdVantage programme, which is designed to reward our clients for their valued custom, we will in addition to the standard rebate term provide an additional 25% to the fund where the annual accrued sum is to be donated to a green charity organisation.

Green screen video production

In early 2008 Trustco will be bringing together a team of over 10 highly skilled individuals to form a company under the name of Trustco Productions. This team will be delivering very high quality digital video content using the latest in video green screen technologies enabling detailed new age presentation of products, services, information and training. These video's will be available to Trustco's clients and the marketplace reducing the requirement for face to face meetings and events.

Company Car Policy

As of 1st January 2008 Trustco PLC have removed ALL company cars from ALL employees. We have reviewed our options and indeed considered emissions from both diesel and dual fuel alternatives. Following discussions with our staff, we have decided that any type of company car still encourages unnecessary journeys. We are actively encouraging the use of public transport where possible to attend meetings. As an organisation, we are not anti car but we do understand our responsibility to environment and our surroundings. We have reached an agreement with a car rental company for car rental for essential use, and where possible look to drive responsible low emission vehicle.

We would like to thank our employees for their support and ideas in this area.

Monitors

All our monitors and PCs are turned off every night to minimise energy wastage. Statistics vary but the power consumption of combined PC and monitor can be up to 3kWh per week, As in most organisations, we have an assortment of various aged computers, operating systems and monitors. We do not leave any non essential equipment on standby and have installed 7 day time clocks on our vending machines and water heaters to reduce both our electricity consumption and our overall carbon footprint.

Old PCs

In conjunction with our local council, we are actively looking to recycle old but still useable PCs. They need to be of a minimum specification of P3 with Windows 98 as a base operating system. If you do have such equipment about to become available, we can put you directly in touch with organisations that would be only too happy to ensure a happy and gentle retirement for your hard worked computers.

Server Purchase

Trustco will endeavour to utilise all servers to at least 70% before proceeding with a new purchase, except where it is inappropriate from a point of security or fit for purpose. We will also ensure that where appropriate all energy saving services are applied and utilised and to ensure standby or non operational times are powered appropriately. We will install components that require less power, e.g. disks at 10,000 rpm use less power than disk at 15,000 rpm, again assuming fit for purpose. Our purchasing policy will give due consideration to cooling requirements.

We will give due consideration to consolidation or virtualisation of components, e.g. a SAN Solution rather than installing disks in each server.

Desktop Purchase

Where appropriate we will utilise equipment with few moving parts and therefore low power requirements and heat output and to centralise data requirements in order to reduce power input and heat output. To ensure that the power requirement at the desktop is appropriate for the tasks undertaken and have appropriate or zero standby / non operational running costs.

All the above without affecting service standards, performance or growth.

IT Strategy

Trustco are investigating moving from a traditional client server environment to a Server based computing environment. Servers traditionally are constructed with more resilience than standard PCs and are therefore more reliable, but once powered up are left on. They do not however tend to be used that robustly - Gartner say on average utilisation is between 8 and 20%. Furthermore servers dedicated to support (finance, HR etc.) tend to be running idle outside the normal working day. Therefore servers can do something like 3½ - 8 times their workload without additional cost and perhaps more if able to be used for a longer working day.

Trustco will consider the deployment of fewer quad core servers rather than purchasing additional dual core servers. Quad core servers will provide price performance without doubling heat output or running costs and by virtualising those servers we will achieve more use from fewer servers. We will also remove disk from individual servers and look at SAN solutions

We will also reduce the power requirements at the desktop by replacing, where appropriate, power hungry PCs with thin devices. Thin devices have no moving parts so use less power than a PC; they merely link to the existing server and utilise the availability of the server. These units will have appropriate power saving software so that they use little or no power when unattended.

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