

Sustainability audit of National Association of Funeral Directors' National Office

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Background

The National Association of Funeral Directors has made a commitment to lead by example in environmental good practice. By demonstrating a systematic approach to sustainability, the trade Association hopes to encourage members and suppliers to use environmentally preferable materials and solutions.

The objective of carrying out a sustainability audit of the NAFD National Office was to gather information and to identify activities where sustainability can be significantly improved without adding to costs. The survey looked at environmental issues, in particular energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling arrangements.

Energy Efficiency

The central heating is set to be on only when necessary and the radiators are controlled by individual thermostats. The method of lighting is practical and reasonably efficient - also natural daylight is used where possible. Most of the office equipment has power-

saving features and energy efficiency is considered when purchasing new items. Arrangements to move towards a paperless office are being investigated.

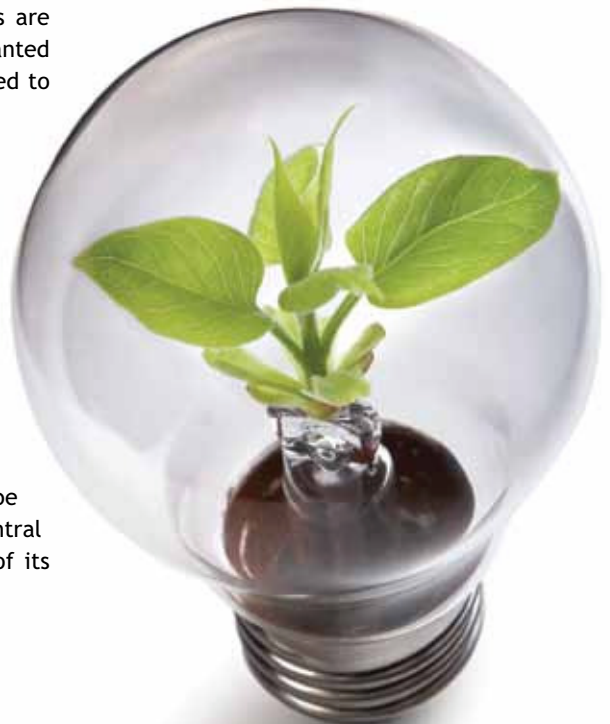
Waste and Recycling

Several measures are already in place to reduce the amount of office waste. Cardboard and paper are separated from general rubbish, printer cartridges are returned to the supplier and unwanted items of office furniture are offered to charity.

Areas for improvement

The supply of energy from sustainable sources can be looked at when the arrangement with the current supplier comes up for renewal. Also, the use of an alternative method of heating such as a condensing boiler/heat exchanger and/or solar water heating can be considered when the existing central heating boiler comes to the end of its useful life.

A water saving device such as a hippo can be fitted into each of the toilets and a practical alternative to the current automatic and constant flushing arrangement for the urinals can be investigated. A water butt to harvest rainwater from the roof can be installed and used to water the garden.



The waste contractor can confirm whether there are opportunities for further separation of general waste, such as plastic, paper towels and organic matter. If appropriate, staff can be provided with split bins and the office cleaning contractor can be encouraged to use more eco-friendly cleaning products.

Good practice

The review concluded that NAFD management and staff have a good general awareness and understanding of environmental matters. Significant sustainable arrangements and environmental good practice already exist, particularly with regard to minimising energy usage, recycling and reducing general office waste. The next stage is to formulate and agree an action plan to progress achievable improvements in a timely fashion.

National Funeral Exhibition

A similar review is being carried out looking at the arrangements for the forthcoming National Funeral Exhibition. This will

ensure that the organiser's commitment to sustainability is extended to any area where it can be applied.

FAQ – Why do I need to save water?

Water is a valuable resource that is likely to become more expensive in the future. Nowadays in the UK each of us uses around 150 litres of water every day and this amount is likely to increase. Climate change experts predict warmer winters and drier summers which will mean less rainfall and less water available for everyone to use. By using water wisely and avoiding unnecessary wastage you can make sure that you don't end up paying more than you need to for this precious resource.

The National Association of Funeral Directors' Environmental Advisory Group will encourage and support members of the trade association in developing good practice within the funeral industry in matters relating to the environment.



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