



# The Archwood effect

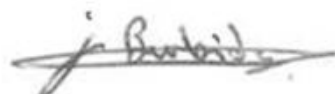
Sustainability Statement  
2021



ARCHWOOD  
GROUP

# Every little action we make locally, can have a big impact globally.

“A trusted family business with people at its heart, we are committed to developing a business culture that is socially just, ecologically sound and economically viable – helping create a sustainable society for future generations.”



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**JOSH BURBIDGE**

Managing Director



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# Working with wood.

Wood, the only renewable building material. Wood has been used in construction for thousands of years and still remains one of the most commonly used building materials. The versatile characteristics of this raw material are what have enabled Archwood to develop a broad range of quality products for the building sector.

MATURE TREES ABSORB  
APPROXIMATELY  
**30% of**  
**ANNUAL**  
**CO<sub>2</sub>**  
EMISSIONS



## DURABLE

Timber products can last a lifetime with proper maintenance and care. The longer they last, the less often they'll need to be replaced, using less energy on the production of new products.

## ABSORBS CO<sub>2</sub>

Trees absorb the carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere that are driving global warming. Mature trees absorb 22kg of CO<sub>2</sub> each year [1], with approximately 30% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions being absorbed by trees. [2] When the tree is felled, the wood acts as a 'carbon store', locking in the CO<sub>2</sub> when used in construction.

## BIODEGRADABLE

There is very little waste when crafting timber products, offcuts and chippings can be repurposed and recycled into new products, like sawdust and panel boards. Wood is a natural material meaning that timber waste is 100% biodegradable, under the right conditions, timber will break down and decompose back into the earth.

## RENEWABLE

Timber is a renewable and natural resource. Opt for FSC® or PEFC certified products as the timber is harvested as part of responsible and sustainable forest management.



[1] [www.eea.europa.eu/articles/forests-health-and-climate-change/key-facts/trees-help-tackle-climate-change](http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/forests-health-and-climate-change/key-facts/trees-help-tackle-climate-change)

[2] [www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/forests-absorb-more-of-our-co2-emissions-but-hardly-enough/](http://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/forests-absorb-more-of-our-co2-emissions-but-hardly-enough/)

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

# Together we can make it happen

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed an Environmental Action Group to drive our sustainability agenda with the aim of reducing carbon emissions and continuing to push for environmental change.

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the most pressing issues facing businesses across the globe and a total review of operations is critical to ensure businesses are operating as sustainably as possible. The impact of climate change combined with the pandemic and Brexit has had a huge impact on the timber industry, and we all must ensure we adapt and evolve.

Archwood Group is a family-run business that has always pushed for transparency, leading the way back in 1980s working with FSC® certification process for sustainable forest management. The Environmental Action Group has been formed to develop a strategy for wider environmental action across all areas of the business.

Forming the group is not about compliance and ticking boxes but about doing the right thing and ensuring we are prioritising sustainability across both of our brands, Richard Burbidge and Atkinson & Kirby.

We believe that every business has a responsibility to drive change and that together, it will be these changes that have the potential to have a big impact globally. Here at Archwood we pledge to make our contribution towards a more sustainable future.

The Environmental Action Group is currently reviewing our environmental impact. From this, we can ascertain a baseline and develop a carbon footprint management plan which sets clear measurable objectives, targets and timescales.

We will be sharing these with you throughout the next year. We have created this report to fill you in on the improvements and achievements we at Archwood Group have made so far.



**OUR PEOPLE**

# Making a difference

People are at the heart of what we do. At Archwood we actively support the wellbeing of our people and the local community.

## FARESHARE

A great way to reduce food waste



FareShare are our chosen charity partner of the year for 2021. FareShare redistribute surplus food from the food industry to thousands of charities across the U.K. Food waste is a major source of carbon emissions which FareShare works to combat. Thanks to our internal Charity Committee, we have supported FareShare throughout the year by hosting various internal fundraisers from a team step challenge to the build a nature habitat challenge. We have raised a total of £555 which equates to 2,220 meals provided to those in need.

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**2,220 MEALS**  
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IN NEED



## WATER COOLERS

We're all talking about them



Water coolers have been installed throughout the workplace to ensure everyone stays hydrated and has easy access to water.

As we are committed to reducing our waste, we do not use disposable water cups. Each member of staff received a refillable and recyclable water bottle.

## WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Help yourself to a healthy treat



This year we have formed a Wellbeing committee with the purpose of promoting health and wellbeing throughout the business. At Archwood Group we are committed to ensuring our team feel happy and healthy.

The Wellbeing Committee have already started a positive change in the workplace, with free fresh fruit available throughout the business, which also supports the local greengrocer. As well as an internal wellbeing newsletter to help raise awareness and provide helpful and factual resources on improving wellbeing. The committee are working on management training for all areas of wellbeing and the refurbishment of indoor and outdoor rest areas.

## SPONSORING CHIRK AAA'S

Our team is helping theirs



Supporting the local community that has helped our business grow is extremely important to Archwood Group, which is why we are sponsoring the local football club, Chirk AAA's FC. The funding provided helps them run the club, maintain the facilities and encourage children to participate in the sport.

**OUR PRODUCT**

# Wood is good

With a legacy of more than 150 years in the timber business we know the importance of sustainably managing the resources we depend on. Trees are of course one of the key factors to maintaining the health of the whole planet, so it's vitally important that we take every measure possible in ensuring an environmentally sustainable supply of this special product.

## FSC® AND PEFC AUDIT

Renewing our certificates



We are proud to be both FSC® and PEFC certified. These certifications promote responsible, ethical and sustainable management of the world's forests.

Our annual FSC® and PEFC chain of custody certification audit was conducted this August by BM TRADA, our certification body. The audit was extremely positive with no non-conformances raised. We are delighted with this result.

By choosing FSC® or PEFC certified products, you are contributing to a better future by supporting sustainable forestry practices. These certifications promote responsible, ethical and sustainable management of the world's forests.



## PACKAGING

Where we need plastic it will be recycled



Our team is up to date on the plastic tax legislation that is being introduced in April 2022. We are pushing for 100% recycled content on all packaging purchased where possible, instead of just meeting the minimum 30% recycled content requirement.

We will be replacing a selection of our plastic packaging to contain at least 30% recycled plastic from December. As this is an ongoing review, we don't have all of the solutions yet, so will continue to keep you updated.

## FSC® AWARENESS TRAINING

Understanding our actions



FSC® awareness training has been arranged for all team members of the Environmental Action Group to help the team better understand the importance of sustainable timber and the part it plays in our overall objectives moving forward.



BY CHOOSING  
**CERTIFIED PRODUCTS**  
YOU ARE CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER FUTURE BY SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PRACTICES.

**OUR PLANET**

# Our future is green

We can all do more to help reduce harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and damaging plastics in the environment. Sometimes it's the small changes that act as a catalyst to make a real difference in our day to day attitudes and behaviour. Here are just a few of the initiatives we have taken on this journey to a cleaner, greener planet.

**ROAD TO NET ZERO**

The road to becoming net zero by 2050



We're proud to announce that we've made a net zero commitment, joining the United Nations Race to Zero campaign. Race to Zero is the UN-backed global campaign rallying businesses to tackle carbon emissions. We are taking rigorous and immediate action to halve emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, safer and cleaner world by achieving net zero emissions before 2050. Together we are creating a brighter future, you can too.

**RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY**

We've switched to green power



We have made the switch to 100% renewable electricity. This is a change that has occurred throughout the business, including offices, operations, manufacturing and the warehouse. Every department is now powered exclusively by renewable electricity. This switchover will reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> impact by 427 tonnes which is the equivalent to over 200 cars being taken off the road.

**SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT POLICY**

For when travel is essential

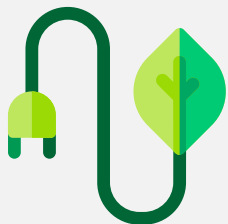


We've installed an electric vehicle charging point at our HQ carpark. This is free to use for all employees, visitors and contractors. Moving forwards we will be exploring ways to support employees make the transition over to electric vehicles.

We encourage UK business travel to be done by train where ever possible. When dealing with our international partners, our preference is to take advantage of emerging IT technology that facilitates online meetings, however occasionally a flight is necessary. Our policy for all company air travel is to carbon off-set with approved schemes.

SWITCHING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY REDUCES OUR CO<sub>2</sub> IMPACT BY 427 TONNES THE EQUIVALENT TO TAKING OVER

**200 CARS OFF THE ROAD.**



**RACE TO ZERO**

**OUR PLANET** CONTINUED

**ENERGY SAVING FILTERS**

More efficient, more effective



We've invested in new bags for our extraction plant filters. The upgraded extraction system has resulted in a 18% efficiency gain reducing our overall site consumption of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**SUSTAINABLE STATIONERY**

Where we still need paper we're using recycled



All of our office stationery and consumables are currently being reviewed. We have already begun the switch to environmentally friendly options, like recycled paper and notepads. We're also aiming to reduce the total amount of stationery used, by encouraging less printing and making use of digital messaging to reduce any paper wastage. We also successfully trialled digital business cards which we are rolling out across our sales teams.

**ZERO TO LANDFILL POLICY**

Efficient re-use of waste products



We have a zero to landfill policy for all general waste. Wood waste represents 96.7% of the total wastage at our North Wales HQ. All of our wood waste is recycled and repurposed into material for animal bedding, cat litter and panel board. This also fuels our sites boilers providing hot water and heating in the winter months.

**MILK BOTTLES**

Bottles are making a comeback



To reduce the plastic waste coming from our HQ, we have switched from plastic milk bottles to reusable glass milk bottles. This has also allowed us to support our local dairy business.

**100%**  
OF OUR WOOD WASTE  
IS RECYCLED AND  
REPURPOSED.







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