



Peel back the layers at NViro and you'll discover a cleaning company with a profound commitment to the environment and sustainability. As well as reducing its own carbon footprint, the company now helps many of its clients to lessen their own impact on the environment.

The practical implementation of greener cleaning

Three and a half years after achieving ISO 14001 accreditation, NViro has chalked up in excess of forty different initiatives designed to reduce its impact on the environment. According to Stephen MacDonald, NViro's Sales and Marketing Director, "phase one was very much about putting our own house in order and establishing the good practices at our own offices that many environmentally friendly organisations now follow, such as removing individual bins, covering the office with 'Switch it off' stickers to save electricity, maximising use of the company's intranet to disseminate information and making the environment a standing agenda item on every board meeting. This culminated in May of this year with a visit from a BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste) consultant to establish a formal three year action plan to reduce NViro's carbon footprint. This help was solicited through The Carbon Trust, of which NViro is a member via its parent company The Quarr Group."

Helping clients to be green

Phase two has been about working alongside clients to help them achieve their own

environmental objectives. In the office sector this usually takes the form of involvement in cost-neutral, centralised binning schemes whereby time saved by not needing to empty hundreds of individual under desk bins is switched to the provision of day time cleaners patrolling through the offices and removing the contents of waste recycling stations to external skips ready for collection by waste removal companies.

In the education sector, NViro's 'Make a Tree Smile' campaign supports schools' recycling schemes by providing paper recycling boxes as well as promotional material to encourage children to take part in the initiative.

All NViro tenders now contain environmental proposals, with most accompanied by a costed recycling scheme.

A breakthrough in green cleaning products

July 2008 saw the implementation of the final stages of the REACH Agreement (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances), which was introduced by the EU to determine and control hazards associated with chemicals coming into, or manufactured in, the EU. This legislation will see the majority of chemicals currently used

in cleaning products either being banned or strictly monitored.

As part of its strategy of remaining at the cutting edge of developments in technology and materials, NViro is working with Green Planet Solutions, a company whose products comply completely with the new legislation.

Using micelle technology (meaning 'cell that emulsifies') Green Planet's cleaning products reduce the surface tension between the soil and the surface, making it easier to clean, removing the need for harmful, aggressive cleaning products. The range is based on environmentally-friendly ingredients, making them extremely user-friendly and bio degradable. They are non-toxic, non-harmful to aquatic life, non-carcinogenic, compliant with environmental legislation and non-comedogenic to skin. They are accredited with the European Eco-Label, also known as The Flower which is the premier accreditation for products that satisfy stringent controls with respect to their environmental effects, as well as confirming that they are as powerful as, and in most cases better than conventional cleaning products.

The Flower is endorsed at the highest level. It is sponsored by the European Commission and backed by the Governments of all 27 EU countries. In the UK, the Ecolabel is awarded by Defra, which runs the scheme as part of its responsibilities for safeguarding the environment.

"We are delighted to be working with Green Planet Solutions to investigate the unique benefits of their products," says Stephen MacDonald. "For NViro it is the most important stage so far in our environmental journey."



Contract Cleaning Specialists

Contact details

For information on how NViro can help you meet your environmental objectives, please contact Stephen MacDonald at NViro Limited on 02392 370044 or smacdonald@nviro.co.uk