

Environmental Policy

At James Burleigh Limited we design and manufacture contemporary furniture from our workshop in London. We have been making responsible choices since the start of our journey, from the sourcing of timber, adhesives and finishes to manufacture of furniture, waste and energy consumed. It is now time for us to document what we have been doing, and what we intend to do for others to see our progress. We recognise our environmental and social responsibility as a commercial concern and are committed to the protection of the world's resources.

James Burleigh Limited is committed to

- Meeting all environmental legislation.
- Complying with all legal and other requirements related to our environmental aspects.
- Setting achievable short term goals and aspirational long term goals
- Continual improvement and evolution of the Environmental Management System.
- Involving all staff members in sustainable and wellness aspects of the business

This environmental policy notes key topics covering **Sustainable and Regenerative design, Production, Distribution & Packaging, Suppliers, Energy , Waste, Indoor air quality, Carbon, Innovation and Transparency**. Within these topics there's information on what we're doing now and what we're looking to do in the future. There's also a summary at the end of **Our main objectives of 2023 and what we achieved, Our main objectives of 2024, Our ongoing objectives and Future objectives**

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Sustainable and Regenerative design

We always consider the below statement when we design new furniture pieces. inspired by circular design but tailored to carbon capture.

“Be inspired by Circularity, Regenerative Design and Carbon Farming; Design and Manufacture with hierarchy of up-keep, flexibility, adaptability and ease of repair or deconstruction and reusability with an aesthetic that’ll stand the test of time.”

By this what we’re trying to remove is this idea that furniture can be made quicker, cheaper and of poor quality as long as it can be recycled. This isn’t true circularity... This is capturing carbon from the atmosphere, and within a few years, either putting that carbon back, or adding additional ‘carbon miles’ to that product via recycling and re-distribution. We’re trying to design so that one of our tables could be positioned in an office collaboration space opening and brightening the environment and then 20 years later sold second hand in a home collaboration space around family and good food while still looking as good as the day it left the workshop. We always need a backup plan though, and all our furniture (apart from the Waldo/45) is designed to break down into component parts for easier recycling.

Our aim is to head towards regenerative design, pioneered by Bill Reed. Rather than ‘just’ sustaining the environment, this is putting more back into the environment than you’re taking out. This is generally known at the moment as carbon negative. This would mean a collaboration of further improved product design, improved material sourcing, optimisation of waste and transport, optimisation and generation of energy and improved internal and worldwide innovation. We understand we are a long way off but have our sights set on it.

James Burleigh Limited holds FISP (Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme) membership. FISP is an independently certified sustainability programme tailored to the needs of the furniture Industry supply chain, which identifies best practise to drive social, economic and environmental change, via continual improvement of our business operations.

We empower our employees to lead the way in achieving our sustainability goals and are committed to maintaining a safe and happy working environment.

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James Burleigh Limited has a sustainable procurement policy to purchase FSC® timber wherever possible. We are certified to FSC® Chain of Custody. FSC® certified projects are available on request. Suppliers are selected based on their ability to meet the environmental and quality standards of James Burleigh Limited.

To this end we source:

- Compact laminate from two companies with a demonstrable commitment to conserving and preserving the environment. Both have been granted an Environmental Management System with ISO14001: 2015 accreditation. They each hold comparable Green Building Air Quality certification, GREENGUARD Gold and Indoor Advantage Gold™. Both certificates ensure that a product has met the rigorous and comprehensive standards for low emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including Formaldehyde into indoor air.
- Water based adhesive and lacquer, to minimise the VOC levels in our production as well as off-gassing on site.
- Timber only from sustainable sources where possible
- All other purchasing is made from UK suppliers and manufacturers where possible and practicable.

Production

Every table is made bespoke by our talented makers but we're only human! We make mistakes, even the best of us. We apply our internal quality management system from Directors to Makers to ensure that mistakes are spotted before they get to a point of no return. This includes multiple employees signing off the same work to allow the next process to continue. Since this introduction we rarely ever see mistakes and re-makes which would be costing a company additional 'secret' carbon miles on their products and late deliveries. The production manager also checks all furniture along with the paperwork before it gets wrapped ready for delivery.

Distribution & Packaging

99% recycled and recyclable products are used in our table packaging. Suppliers are hand picked and conform to 14001 environmental standards, have sustainable accreditation, manufacture to our specification and some even produce their own energy which they run from. The other 1% is bio-degradable bubble wrap and single use plastic bags for screws and bolts. We've managed to source a company who produces plastic bags from sugar cane and are carbon neutral. This is in trial now. Updates to follow. Our leg, Magnus and Shug boxes are made from corrugated board. This is on average 75-80% recycled material and 100% recyclable.

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We have a keen eye for detail and even focus on our packaging tape. Not all brown paper tape can be easily recycled due to the adhesive used. We only purchase brown paper tape with a natural rubber adhesive which can be recycled with the box and cause no issues to machinery at recycling plants.

Delivery and installations are consolidated where possible. We seek to minimise the packaging we use in **(2021) decreased our packaging by 10%** whilst ensuring we kept the strength we require.

We have had no reported (non-malicious) damages in transit since we changed our packaging in 2017. Even when transporting to USA (and having our crates turned upside down).

Now that's a good record to have.

It is our aim to reuse packaging using local trusted installers who return it to us.

Suppliers

Having all our furniture manufactured here in London we know the importance of shopping local. Our seat pads are produced by an upholstery company based in London and our bespoke metal fixing plates are produced by a metal fabricator based in the UK.

Energy

All the electricity which supplies James Burleigh Ltd is now 100% renewable. We burn offcuts which are too small to be reused in our products in our biomass boiler to help heat the workshop and lessen the pressure of gas central heating. We aim to reduce energy in all aspects of the business and recently moved over from fluorescent lighting to LED in 2020. We haven't yet set up any major ways to generate our own electricity but have had site visits and energy reports created on the basis of installing solar panels. In 2023 we turned our biggest waste stream (saw dust) into briquettes to heat our workshop. Lessening the pressure on gas central heating. Our aim in 2024 is to monitor and reduce a major aspect of our electrical energy use. We have an idea on what this could be and are currently in progress.

Waste

We work with one licensed local carrier to remove waste from our site. We have a landfill bin, recycling bin and hazardous waste bin. We endeavour always to reduce the amount of waste we produce and spend time converting off cuts to usable parts. As stated above we recently installed a briquette machine to turn waste sawdust into usable wood fuel to heat our

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workshop. We're committed to removing single use plastics from our operations and minimising hazardous substances. All of our cleaning products for our tables and communal areas are produced by Bio-D. providing UK produced cleaning products made from ethically sourced ingredients and B Corp certified for sustainability.

Indoor air quality

As we have noted previously we have been using water based lacquers and glues since inception. We always aim for the lowest VOC alternative of anything we do as long as we can achieve that quality and longevity. From looking at our individual components we believed our furniture was low VOC. In early 2023 we proved this by sending our components to a testing laboratory then had the results third party verified. This scientifically proved that the Formaldehyde and VOC levels being emitted from our products are very low and beat all of the highest standards set for low emitting products.

Carbon

Enough hasn't been done yet on carbon tracking, we're working on it and we've started the conversation. We know our responsibility here and have a plan to achieve our goals with 2024 being a major turning point. We have a strong position with our furniture being more than 50% on average of solid timber. Once we've ascertained our carbon footprint we then have the ability to put a timeline in place to reduce that.

Innovation

The key to moving forward with our sustainability goals lies in innovation. By ourselves and others. As laminate continues to be improved lignin based resins are starting to be used in production. This is a bio-based resin to replace phenol bit by bit. We will be working closely with laminate manufacturers to implement these products into our furniture.

We have been asked many times to make a black edged table. Since we never use plastic lipping and only solid timber, plastic wasn't an option. We trialled water based stains instead of solvent based stains to get a dark black finish on oak which had a low VOC content but struggled with consistency and quality of finish. In the end we went with an age old process of ebonising. This is a non-toxic, natural chemical reaction with the tannins naturally found in oak. This solution gives us great dark black results but allows the grain to shine through. Come and see us at the workshop and we'll show you how it works!

We showcased our first bench product with natural filling materials at Clerkenwell design week in London and at ICFF furniture fair in New York in 2023.

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Transparency

We're looking to make everything we do as transparent as possible. This would include a library of materials we use in our furniture, where they are manufactured, sourced, their recyclability, conformity to REACH and Red List etc. This will hopefully be completed in 2024.

Our main objectives of 2023 (and what we achieved)

- Continue progress with Carbon tracking. Attend events and seminars and work closely with our London borough to ascertain our carbon impact and how we can reduce this.

Brent has declared a climate and ecological emergency and “pledged to do all in our gift to achieve carbon neutrality in the borough by 2030.” We have been working closely with Brent helping to reduce our waste but also taking help and guidance to track and reduce our scope 1,2 and 3 emissions. This is currently being calculated and reports to come

- To show more transparency by creating a library of materials statement
- Produce a Red list statement for each individual product to determine if they are Free of red list chemicals

In 2023 we produced product passports for all of our products. This includes information on recycled content, recyclability, product material breakdown and accreditations. Giving suppliers a quick understanding of the make up of our furniture and showing transparency in the materials. These can be downloaded from our website

- Be a leader in providing furniture for healthcare projects by following the healthy Hospitals Initiative on safer Chemicals. This challenge strives for the elimination of formaldehyde, DEHP, perfluorinated compounds, PVC, antimicrobials, or flame retardants, and requires testing of new furniture in accordance with ANSI/BIFMA Standard Method M7.1-2011. We will create a statement for each product which clearly states conformation

We had all our products tested by a lab for VOC emissions and formaldehyde levels. All our results were then analysed by a third party and proved they conform to the ANSI/BIFMA

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Furniture Emissions Standard (M7.1/X7.1-2011 R2021) and ANSI/BIFMA e.3-2019 (Credits 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3) for the open plan and private office workstation parameters.1

Also confirming to the CDPH/EHLB Standard Method (CA 01350) v1.2-2017 for the open plan and school classroom parameters.1

1 Modeled as Individual Furniture Components

Our products have been checked and don't contain DEHP, perfluorinated compounds, PVC or antimicrobials. Flame retardants aren't found in any of our unfabricated products. For a truly flame retardant free upholstered product choose our EYOT made with natural fillings.

- Our largest waste product is saw dust. In 2023 we will find a solution of how we can use this for heating our workshop and reducing pressure on gas central heating

Our local council made contact with us in 2023 to see if we needed any help reducing our carbon footprint. We discussed a need for a briquette machine and purchased this with some help from them. Following our FISP accreditation where we manage our waste we tracked that we could reduce over 95% of our waste leaving site. We did exactly this. Turning it into a fuel we could use to heat our workshop.

- We have been researching how to remove foams from our furniture for quite a while now. We have finally brought in a professional that can push this forward and hope to have our first furniture piece without foam to showcase at Clerkenwell design week and ICFF furniture fair in New York.

In 2023 we produced our EYOT. This is our first upholstered piece to remove petrochemicals and flame retardants. The internal fillings are made of natural materials sourced from as close as practicable and manufactured here in the UK. We had these tested to UK and American fire standards and passed both.

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Our main objectives of 2024

As you can see above, we worked hard last year to get ahead. The pace is moving fast and we're onboard. Our focus was VOC, Waste, chemical research, petrochemicals and fire retardants. How we could track, build information, manage and if need be improve. 2024 will see much more of a push on carbon. See below;

- Track, analyse and reduce our carbon emissions. Working closely with a carbon tracking company to set goals and targets. We've already started some of this work in 2023 and hope to really bring out some results this year.
- Our aim is to create some more official information following our product passports. We've collated the data, we've analysed, we've written it down into a readable format. How can we prove this work and go further? Lots of research to do and hopefully some action at the end of 2024
- Reduce energy usage – We will analyse our whole production process, linking up our smart electricity meter to specific machines, looking at where our largest source of energy comes from and how to reduce this.

Our ongoing objectives are:

- Continual improvement in design and production processes. This is aimed at minimising wastage and preventing pollution, whilst maximising use of off-cuts.
- Continually improve the production processes, increasing the overall sustainability and longevity of our products.
- Reduce energy consumption through continual analysis of equipment and utilities. A Biomass heater enables us to use up our timber off-cuts decreasing our demand on gas heating.
- Working with local schools and organisations to further reduce the amount going to recycling.
- To reuse packaging using local contractors as much as practicable.
- Maintain a safe and happy working environment, with fair, even pay and a minimum of London living wage for new employees in training.

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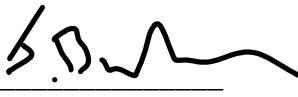
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james burleigh




The mark of
responsible forestry



Signed 

James Burleigh
Director

Signed 

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Dated: 19/01/2024

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