



Sustainability Policy

Statement

The team at Robin Appel Ltd are committed to a Sustainability Policy that sets out to minimise and continuously reduce the environmental impact of the business.

Principles

Comply with, if not exceed, all applicable legislation, regulation, and codes of practice.
Ensure sustainability is a feature within all business decisions.
The policy is available on the website, the team implement and continuously try to improve the principles set.
Suppliers and customers are aware of the policy and encouraged to pursue similar disciplines.
We continuously review and amend the sustainability policy where required.

Sustainable within the supply chain

The company prides itself on collaborating, working with farmers, manufactures and end users to promote efficiency and sustainability. The company was an early promoter of targeted grower groups, allowing farmers to grow for local markets and brands within a set radius. This increases traceability and reduces food miles, leading to more sustainable production.

A similar model is being adopted for regenerative farming, with work being done to provide growers with grain contracts which reward them for sustainable practises such as measuring carbon emissions (with programs such as the Cool Farm Tool & Farm Carbon Toolkit), direct drilling, use of cover crops, bi-cropping, restricting input use etc to align with the requirements of our customers. This is an area of the company which is expected to grow significantly in the future.

Environmental

This aspect of the policy centres around the offices at Church Court, Waltham Chase, the only premises controlled by the company. These spacious, light and well-furnished offices are occupied by trading, administrators, and laboratory team.

For the most part the team are recruited locally, with the majority staff who attend every day travelling less than 10 miles from home. Some of the trading team, who live further away from the office, work from home and only attend the office when required, reducing the use of transport.

The offices are well endowed with natural light, and natural ventilation (open windows/doors) is always resorted to in warmer weather before the higher temperatures necessitate the air conditioning units being brought into use. Outside area's are well kept with many plants, trees and a picnic area for the team to use.

Office supplies are sourced locally (Bishops Waltham) where possible, with stock maintained at one month's supply to ensure minimal use/wastage. Whenever the quality is suitable, recycled paper is sourced.

Electronic communication has superseded the need for paper documents, we have significantly reduced our use of paper by 90% in the last 5 years. The company continues to explore ways of reducing the use of paper, all waste paper and paper related packaging is recycled locally.

We now source our sample bags from a local company, they use 30% recycled plastic and the grain samples are recycled as wild bird food (they are not allowed to re-enter the human food chain), and all plastic sample bags are recycled.





Transport

Those supplied with company vehicles are restricted to fuel efficient powered cars/vans, which, in rotation, are being converted from petrol to electric/hybrid to reduce our fossil fuel emissions. The company has invested in electric car charges at the office, encouraging employees to use electric.

The company also runs a fleet of six HGV's which have been updated to the Euro 6 engine specification. The vehicles, which are renewed every 3 years, are monitored day-by-day for fuel, tyres and driver performance, and corrective action taken whenever necessary. These vehicles are based at commercial sites (not the property of RA Ltd) in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

People

Robin Appel Ltd is focused on the wellbeing, health and safety, development and inclusion of the team, our objective is to provide a safe and comfortable working environment. Events are offered to the team regularly, this encourages wellbeing and team inclusion.

We actively support and encourage employees to get involved in community projects and fundraising opportunities.

Some of the charities we support below,

- Sophie's Legacy, handing out pizzas to families with children in local hospitals on the weekend,
- Hampshire Air Ambulance, new for 2025, supporting the new base move to Southampton,
- Food banks and homeless shelters,
- Sponsoring local youth football teams,
- Alresford and Berkshire show,
- British Heart Foundation, CALM, Francis House Children's Hospice,
- Sponsoring members of the team for charity runs and events,
- Jamie's Computers, Naomi House & Jacksplace, Pancreatic Cancer UK,
- Parkinson's UK and The Farming Community Network.

Governance

Since the late 18th century, farming and the cultivation of crops in particular, has been based on sustainable rotations, and despite frequent initiatives based on "new research", agriculture always falls back onto first principles. The company has always been mindful of the importance of the latter, and the crops it promotes have, for the most part, encouraged both diversity and sustainability.

The company is signed up to the relevant industry Quality Assurance Scheme, TASCC and to continuous professional development e.g. FACTS, and it respects and supports the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme, as well as complying with customer protocols based on, for example, Assured UK Malt (MAGB). The company also holds a Soil Association Organic Licence where the emphasis on sustainability is even more pronounced.

As a member of the Agricultural Industries Federation (AIC), the company is kept abreast of a whole raft of other sustainability initiatives, such as "Sustainable Farming Incentive". The last few years has seen a significant shift in the industry towards 'Regenerative Agriculture' and this is something that Robin Appel Ltd are embracing as a business. The company is a main sponsor of the Environmental Farmers Group which works with over 400 farmers covering 226,000 hectares, focussed on delivering environmental improvement and sustainable farming systems.





Our Commitments

We are on a journey of reviewing our impact on the environment, continuously reviewing and assessing our commitments.

- Carbon foot print results by Q4 2025,
- Continued reduction in paper waste, currently using 90% less than in 2020, committed to be down to 95% less by 2030
- Reduced use of plastic, working with suppliers to increase recycled plastic used in bags,
- Convert 90% of cars to hybrid within 3 years, by 2028, currently at 70%,
- Main lights converted to LED, completed 2024,
- Continued use of local suppliers for events and shows,

Signed

Position Managing Director

Date 20th June 2025

Last Reviewed : 20/06/2025

Next Review : 20/06/26

