

# ECO<sup>n</sup>nect

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium Ltd



## NWUPC Sustainability News



Oct 2020  
Issue 17

**W**elcome to the Seventeenth edition of ECO<sup>n</sup>nect, the NWUPC's e-newsletter focusing on Sustainable practices and projects from across our member and supplier base. There are some fantastic projects being undertaken by our members and suppliers alike and we are delighted to be able to shine a spotlight on them.

If you would like to feature in our next edition, please contact **David McIntyre**.



For over 25 years, AlphaGraphics has been developing and deploying exciting, innovative and personalised marketing and print campaigns for a variety of high-profile clients across a range of sectors, including education.

The north east based business' lifeblood is print. Using state of the art presses and printing technology, AlphaGraphics' printing solutions have enabled the team to build an impressive portfolio of work, from branded marketing materials such as leaflets and brochures, through to printing on glass, metal and even wooden doors for clients. There is very little AlphaGraphics cannot or will not try when it comes to print.

As a forward-thinking agency, the team is dedicated to reducing its impact on the environment and improving sustainable printing and working practices. The business has actively taken steps to meet the global demand to reduce its carbon footprint through initiatives and partnerships.

### **Carbon balancing**

AlphaGraphics supports the World Land Trust's Carbon Balancing scheme, which aims to preserve high conservation value forests. This initiative works by taking an average of the amount of carbon that would be created when producing printing orders and purchases the equivalent amount in important forests that are in danger of being cleared and preserves them.



### **Carbon offsetting**

As well as preventing the destruction of forests and woodland, AlphaGraphics supports the Forest Carbon Offsetting scheme. This scheme offsets the carbon which is created across products and services – particularly AlphaGraphics' large/wide format print range.

### **Day to day printing operations**

AlphaGraphics is also FSC® Chain of Custody certified, meaning that its paper products used in its print solutions are traceable and originate from sustainable woodland or are recycled where specified.

When it comes to equipment, AlphaGraphics' state of the art litho presses are alcohol-free, reducing the harmful impact on the environment. Its commitment to eliminating harmful toxins in their printing inks and materials extends further by using vegetable-based inks which are less harmful to the environment, as they do not emit harmful toxins when they evaporate. As well as this, they are far safer for the printing staff to handle.

Advanced computer-to-plate technology uses thermal processes instead of harmful chemicals to produce plates for print, which are then recycled responsibly after use. This process not only reduces waste and eliminates the usage of harsh solvents but is also super-efficient.

In a bid to save water and reduce wastage, AlphaGraphics has invested in the latest waterless offset printing technology. This means that there is no water used in the printing process, therefore preserving a precious resource.

You can find out more about AlphaGraphics' sustainability efforts and its print solutions by visiting [www.agnortheast.com](http://www.agnortheast.com).



# Case Study: Durham University

## The Challenge:

Promote the Career Centre's headline event of the academic year using eye-catching print and design solutions.

## The Campaign:

AlphaGraphics designed creatives for a series of striking adverts and brochure covers for the University's Careers Fair. The graphic designs gave the event a vibrant and modern look and feel.

A selection of carefully chosen colour palettes differentiated the separate events, while the designs allowed for sponsor logos and enabled the important event information to take centre stage.

The graphics were eye-catching and engaging and ensured the event looked professional and appealed to each of the client's target audiences: students (of all years, disciplines and levels), university staff and employers.

## Testimonial:

*"We were very happy with the career fair brochures and flyers designed by AlphaGraphics – we were changing the design from quite traditional photo imagery to more colourful, graphic images and it took a little while to find the right design."*

*AlphaGraphics was really helpful and passed the project to their Nottingham design team to create the new images.*

*The designs produced met our brief exactly and are much more eye-catching than the previous designs. This is particularly useful when our brochures are on display in the Careers Centre among a lot of other publications!"*

– Laura Smith,  
Employer Services Manager, Durham University.

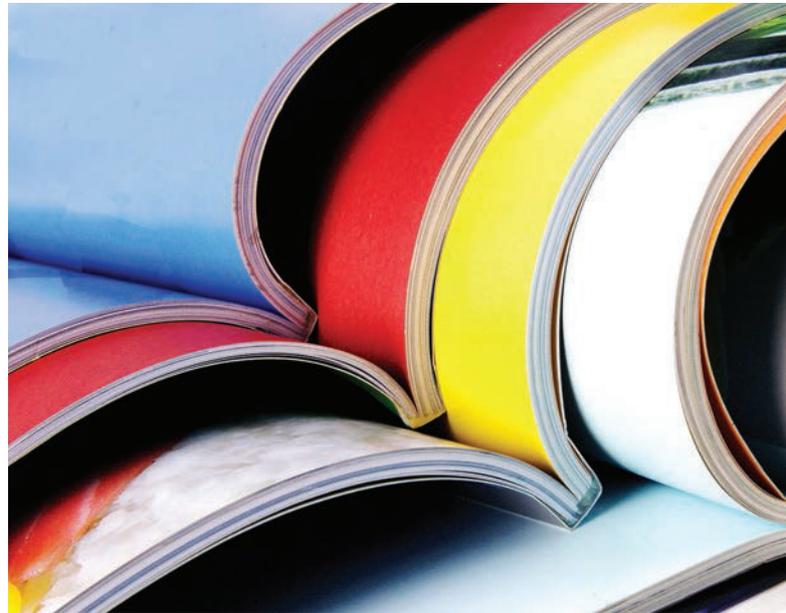
## Adapting to a pandemic

As well as building a strong sustainability status to protect the environment, AlphaGraphics is committed to innovation and helping businesses in troublesome times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team quickly identified a market opportunity for their printing solutions, and over a week, set up an online store and product catalogue for social distancing stickers, banners, posters and signs for businesses operating throughout the pandemic.



# Durham University



Since its launch in April, AlphaGraphics' new venture, aptly named Social Distancing Solutions, has supplied businesses across the UK with signage and solutions to help them maintain social distancing within their workplaces. Its solutions are deployed across a variety of sectors, including education, healthcare, retail, automotive, hospitality and others.

The products effectively communicate official guidelines to help customers and employees maintain a safe distance, encourage regular hand sanitising and washing and plot a safe route around a workplace to reduce the spread of the virus.

Along with a range of off-the-shelf pre-designed products, the team is also able to accept artwork files to print to produce bespoke social distancing materials.

Visit [www.socialdistancingsolutions.co.uk](http://www.socialdistancingsolutions.co.uk) to find out more.

AlphaGraphics are available through the **NWUPC Print Solutions Framework Agreement**, for more information on this Framework please visit our website for **Print Solutions**.



## **BCHS Introduces -** The Cheeky Panda - a Sustainable Paper Solution

Over the last few years, Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies (BCHS) have been continually committed to reducing our impact on the environment. Our sustainability journey has seen us achieve ISO 9001 accreditation, reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions by over 6.5% in the last 3 years and as Gold members of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, we have placed focus on our supply chain and sourcing to increase the number of sustainable products in our product range.

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating more sustainable communities around us, we consider it our responsibility to offer products that make sustainable cleaning solutions accessible.

One product that ticks all sustainable boxes is The Cheeky Panda- a toilet paper that provides a sustainable alternative to traditional toilet paper, made from 100% FSC

certified virgin Bamboo. 27,000 trees are felled every single day as a result of the consumption of traditional toilet tissue causing catastrophic environmental degradation resulting in deforestation, the loss of biodiversity, and significant carbon emissions to name but a few. With rising mental health concerns surrounding eco-anxiety (the chronic fear of environmental doom), toilet paper is only adding to the issues we must include within sustainable procurement.

In 2016, The Cheeky Panda responded to this issue, emerging as a young and innovative company offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional paper-based products. The Cheeky Panda provides Sustainable Soft Service Consumables from 100% FSC Certified Bamboo.

Bamboo is a sustainable alternative and the fastest-growing plant in the world. The crop grows 30 times faster than trees, absorbs up to 35% more carbon and produces 30% more oxygen than trees during its growth. From toilet rolls, flushable hand towels to facial tissues, The Cheeky Panda can offer you a full range of sustainable solutions that are fully cruelty-free, carbon balanced, and free from micro-plastics.

The organisation is leading the industry as the first tissue brand to be Vegan Certified by the Vegan Society as free from animal products and animal testing. From a social justice perspective, Cheeky Panda is leading too - certified by Minority Supplier Development UK (MSDUK) as an Ethnic Minority Business. MSDUK brings together innovative and

high growth ethnic minority businesses (EMBs) with global corporations committed to creating an inclusive and diverse supply chain. Natural bamboo also supports positive and healthy wellbeing - the products are naturally antimicrobial; create less dust which reduces irritation for people who suffer from sensitive skin or hay fever and are free from fragrance.

The Cheeky Panda has conducted many partnerships with universities, for example, a group of master's students from the 2018 cohort at the Homerton College, University of Cambridge led an impact assessment as part of a marketing module. The assignment focused on green consumer behaviour impacting everyday consumer choices and what is driving behaviours.

From 149 respondents, the study found:

**75% agreed or strongly agreed -The Sustainability of the product impacts your purchasing decision**

**72% disagreed or strongly disagreed that 'green' means being quite 'exclusive' and the domain of a certain community (i.e. activists)**

**86% agreed or strongly agreed that consumer habits can have a strong impact on the environment**

**40% agreed or strongly agreed a green brand more important than an extra 20% in price.**

They've even garnered support from Russel Brand, Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield. The Cheeky Panda Sustainable Soft Services Range is available at Bunzl Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies.

Why not find out more about BCHS' sustainable journey and see what we have been doing to reduce our impact on the environment and improve local communities by checking out our new sustainability report here:

**Bunzl Sustainability Report**

**Strength Through Sustainability**

**2019-20**

**BCHS**  
Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies



Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies are available through the **NWUPC Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies** and **NWUPC Cleaning Equipment - Supply and Maintenance** framework agreements on the NWUPC website, please select the link for more information.



# Tudor

GROUP

At Tudor, our vision is to brighten places where people live, work and play. In order to achieve this vision, we demonstrate every day that we care: we care for our clients, our colleagues and our communities. We continuously work on designing cleaning and hygiene solutions that reduce our impact on the environment and support our customers achieve their own sustainability targets.

Through our sustainability programme and by establishing strong partnerships with both our customers and our supply chain suppliers, we are committed to reducing our single use plastic footprint, reducing our energy and water usage and support the voluntary real living wage initiative across our contracts.

One initiative which supports the above ambitions is the introduction of Tersano's Stabilised Aqueous Ozone (SAO™) system on one of our key accounts. This unique system turns tap water into a safe, effective cleaner and sanitiser that works stronger than bleach and hydrogen peroxide – without the hazardous odours or toxic chemical residues that come with traditional cleaning chemicals. In short, the system delivers a simpler, safer, more sustainable way to clean and sanitise everyday hard surfaces.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

At the press of a button, a high voltage electrical current is injected into the water, creating instant Stabilised Aqueous Ozone (SAO™). This is sprayed directly onto the surface, killing 99.999% of harmful bacteria. SAO works by attacking organic matter, breaking it down into smaller particles and suspending it in solution. This reaction is called oxidation — and it's what makes SAO so powerful. In fact, SAO exceeds Green Seal Standards (GS-37 and GS-53) as industrial cleaner.

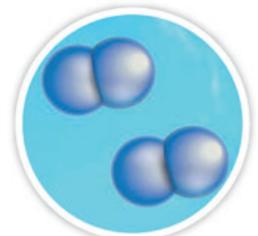
### 3 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAO



**STEP 1**  
Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) from the air is safely turned into O<sub>3</sub>, then infused into ordinary cold tap water.



**STEP 2**  
SAO is attracted to germs, soils, and bacteria and quickly eliminates contaminants.



**STEP 3**  
SAO cleans for days\* and safely reverts back to water and O<sub>2</sub>.

SAO technology is patent-protected and revolutionary. It creates an all-in-one solution, approved for sanitising up to 24 hours and cleaning for six days. And when the job is done, it reverts back to water and oxygen with zero impact to our planet and waterways.

On-site generation eliminates transport, storing and mixing and reduces our single-use plastic footprint when compared to traditional cleaning chemicals.

## SIMPLIFY YOUR **CLEANING** PROGRAM

No more storing, mixing, or disposing of traditional chemicals. No need to worry about the health effects of chemicals on your staff, customers, or guests - or the corrosive effects of chemicals on the surfaces and equipment you clean. The SAO Dispenser is the simplest, safest, most sustainable alternative to traditional cleaning and sanitizing chemicals.

- 1.** Cold tap water enters the cartridge. Once treated, the water is able to expand cleaning time by up to 6 days.
- 2.** As the treated water moves through the 'smart' dispenser, sensors monitor the systems to ensure that the water has been infused with the right amount of O2.
- 3.** The dispenser is ready to fill mop buckets, spray bottles, auto-scrubbers, and more with SAOTM for cleaning, sanitising and deodorising.



## MORE **SUSTAINABLE** FOR THE **ENVIRONMENT**

Converting from traditional chemical cleaners and sanitisers to SAOTM will help save over 10 million litres (2,640,000 gallons) per month of toxic chemicals being dumped with groundwater, streams and rivers. Add to

that the reduction in packaging, transportation fuels and the manufacturing of chemicals and SAOTM is one of the best ways to reduce your carbon footprint.



### **FABIEN CAQUERET** **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Fabien joined the Tudor Group in July 2019, following a 20-year career with some of the largest corporate organisations in the cleaning and facilities management industry. Over the years, Fabien has demonstrated strong commercial leadership acumen through the development and management of successful teams in sales, business improvement and operational environments.

Tudor Contract Cleaning Ltd are available through the **NEUPC Window Cleaning** framework agreement, for more information on this Framework please visit our website for **Window Cleaning Services**

# Portable Appliance Testing:



Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) is the best way to ensure that your organisation's obligations have been met under the Health and Safety at Work Act so far as electrical safety is concerned and more importantly that your staff, visitors, patients, buildings and possessions are safe.

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, Norwood Electrical (UK) Ltd have kept the doors open for business, aiding members with new health and safety procedures whilst maintaining compliance with existing legislation. Norwood Electrical (UK) Ltd have put in place Covid procedures to undertake PAT testing across Universities over the summer months to ensure all appliances are fit for purpose for the new autumn academic term.

Not only undertaking PAT testing, Norwood have implemented a 'sanitisation' system, whereby all appliances tested, have been sanitised using approved clinical wipes, which are proven to kill 99.9% of bacteria which is effective against Norovirus, Influenza A (H1N1) and Hepatitis C virus. Norwood have implemented similar procedures for all services offered from PAT testing to EICR to emergency lighting. Ensuring the workplace equipment is not only electrically fit for purpose but reducing the chance of any infection from potential viruses.

Whilst undertaking sanitisation process, wipes are disposed of via the correct channels to ensure no cross contamination and considering the environmental and sustainable factors. Give us a call today to book your PAT testing or for any advice you may need. We are here to help.

## Testing Reports

A PDF version of your PAT report will be available to download at your leisure from the customer area of our website following the completion of testing. A paper copy of the report can be posted to you if preferred.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:

### Why do I need to carry it out?

The law simply requires you to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that appliances are installed and maintained, to prevent electric shock, burn or fire due to damage, wear or misuse.

“ With our national network of engineers, we can service businesses



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NORWOOD ELECTRICAL

[www.norwooduk.com](http://www.norwooduk.com)

Norwood are available through the **NWUPC Portable Appliance Testing** and **Fixed Wire Testing** framework agreements on the NWUPC website, please select the link for more information.