

# CME & Sustainability

## What Sustainability Means To CME

We love supplying jewellery at a price that makes it accessible to all but jewellery making has a complicated history when it comes to corporate responsibility and sustainability - particularly in regard to the mining of metals and gemstones.

It can be hard to trace everything back to source, and the task can be daunting, especially for the smaller businesses who exert less influence. However, we are committed to continually reflecting on our practices and taking steps to do what we can to make positive change.

At CME, sustainability means keeping our carbon emissions and impact on our planet to a minimum, from source to client. Our aim is to incorporate sustainability and eco-friendly options into our business philosophy and all business planning, in order to best contribute to saving our planet. After all, it is the only one we have got! We are on a journey to cut out waste and lower emissions and to give back to our communities.



## Small Steps Towards a Sustainable Future

Our journey started with our certification from the Responsible Jewellery Council in 2019 and re-certified November 2023, which we found invaluable in helping us to understand and implement sustainability standards across our supply chain. RJC references key development frameworks, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ILO principles and the UN Global Compact and Sustainable Goals (SDG'S). We ask our suppliers to comply with our Code of Conduct and we audit their practices annually which sets their commitment to responsible sourcing, employment and human rights etc. Visit the [RJC website](#)



## Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

We have started by evaluating our carbon footprint both at home and across the supply chain.

We were delighted when we found the Zellar Platform which has helped us to help plan and execute our sustainability journey. Zellar is a pioneering initiative supported by The Midlands Chamber to help local SMEs. Their software platform is designed to help businesses measure, plan, activate, report and share their business' sustainability journey. Zellar is not just about offsetting carbon emissions but offers many other features, like its green energy switching service, energy checklists, green marketplace and an online community to help companies become net zero. Zellar has a scoring system that offers a 'live look' and quantifies and displays all of our business's sustainability actions and progress, like a credit score for taking positive actions. This is available for anyone to view which holds companies accountable and encourages us to take the next step and promotes transparency.

Follow our progress towards sustainability on the [Zellar Platform](#)



Our carbon policy is to “avoid” and “reduce” wherever possible. We are carbon-neutral through offsetting but we know this is not the solution and need to continually improve our systems. What have we done so far to reduce our carbon emissions on our premises?



Our starting point was in-house. Our business premises are Victorian – not the easiest for energy consumption!

- We replaced our windows with double-glazed units.
- Double insulated our lofts with wool.
- Added solar panels which cover some of our electricity usage.
- We changed to LED lighting.



## Outside

- We have large areas of our premises “wild” to encourage urban wildlife.

## Our vehicles

- We have invested in three electric vehicles, with an electric delivery van being added in 2023 as well as an electric charging point.
- We have reduced our business travel, trying wherever possible to buy online.

## Business Systems

- We’ve changed to more advanced management software and moved to online shared community folders to keep our paper usage to a minimum and increase coworking.
- We no longer print large brochures, but rely on our website, adding brochures for customers to view online.



## Recycling

- Wherever possible we send products out in the packaging that we receive from our suppliers and only repackage where necessary. We use 30% recycled grip plastic bags.
- We also recycle as many of our bags and bubble wrap as possible.
- We use cardboard boxes for dispatch and brown paper bags to pack orders containing multiple items.
- We are doing our part to encourage the use of REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE throughout the office with the use of readily available recycling bins and a plastics waste collection facility.
- We recycle all scrap silver and gold and this is used to manufacture some of our UK-sourced products.
- We donate materials to other local businesses. For instance, any large plastic tub delivery boxes are re-used for storage by our neighbouring business. Unused jewellery boxes are used by a local nursery.

“We have been able to use the old jewellery packaging with the children as treasure boxes for ‘Santa Dust’ and in the many ways the children have devised for themselves’ *JB, Longfield Kindergarten*”



**Leicestershire  
& Rutland**  
Wildlife Trust



## Offsetting and Philanthropy

### Our Plan for 2023/2024

In 2023

- We planted trees in Nottinghamshire.
- Donated to “Saving the Osprey” at Leicester & Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- Supported a “Rewilding Derbyshire” project.
- Donated to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- We give 5% of profits from our ‘Woodland Range’ to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- We donated to ‘Children in Need’

In 2024

- We continue our annual subscription to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- We give 5% of profits from our ‘Woodland Range’ to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- We have engaged in an offsetting project with Switch2Zero

Our Plan for 2024/2025

We are pleased with our ongoing steps, but we know we have a long way to go to achieve the plan for a future that leaves no trace. Our main aims going forward are to:

- Reduce our use of plastic both in-house and across the supply chain.
- To complete three Zellar Missions.
- We are working with our suppliers to establish ranges with recycled silver. We will only advertise this from suppliers who come from a fully audited CoC (Chain of Custody) supplier. This means they can provide evidence and certificates to prove that the silver has come from fully recycled sources.