

Environmental, Ethical and Sustainability Statement

We are very aware at Burland of the phenomenal waste, that occurs in the construction and fit out/refurbishment industries, where we mainly operate. Whilst climate change is a huge and significant issue that requires global collaboration to decelerate its onslaught, and mitigate the inevitable impact on communities, we cannot allow ourselves to be distracted from the other environmental catastrophe, which is the poisoning of our planet. Overdependence on plastic and a poor re-use/re-cycling infrastructure is leading to oceanic pollution on a massive scale. The other major contributor to this poisoning is the over-use of raw materials in product manufacture and built in obsolescence in many products. We simply cannot afford to replace electronics and white goods at the frequency we do now. Raw materials are becoming scarcer, and waste recycling infrastructure falls way short of demand.

The 'Circular Economy' is a movement that is trying to change behaviours so that we can move away from a linear economy where goods are produced, used for a short period and then discarded, to a circular economy where products are built to last, can be revitalised by replacing consumable parts rather than discarding a whole product. Burland fully adopt and support the goals of this movement. To 'do our bit' we have been producing a range of products used in offices worldwide where the life expectancy is 20-30 years, whereas similar products from other [larger, multi-national] suppliers may be only 5-7 years. These products are marketed under our Electropatent brand and include underfloor power track busbar systems, floor boxes and desk power modules. To promote the goals of the circular economy we offered up to a 25-year warranty on these products in 2018. This length of warranty is unprecedented in our industry.

We have three good examples of the circular economy in action at Burland. We supplied Toyota (GB) with several hundred high-quality desk modules approximately 17 years ago. These units are built to last, using steel casings and solid copper bus bars. Recently, and in compliance with the latest wiring regulations, Toyota wished to upgrade these modules, removing a switch and fuse and replacing with an RCBO, to provide greater protection for equipment and personnel. We were able to do this simply, with the only waste being a small metal cover which was recycled. The only additional consumable was a replacement metal cover and the RCBO itself. Units were re-tested and sent back out for another 20 or so years' service. This enlightened approach by Toyota, to buy the best at the outset and not be driven by lowest cost, has saved them a fortune. In contrast, most businesses would have replaced these products every 5-7 years as they would not have stood up to the rigours of the inevitable moves and changes taking place in a large corporation.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) recently relocated to a new, purpose-built HQ in Stratford, East London. We provided all the power infrastructure to their old building some 12 years ago. All the underfloor track was left in-situ for the next tenant to use as it was still in good shape, but more importantly it was still current! Our competitors have changed designs 3 times since the 90's, with products that are not backwards compatible. This results in serviceable products being ripped out and sent to landfill, despite containing valuable materials (e.g. copper & steel). CRUK also took all their desk modules to the new HQ saving them a six-figure sum and reducing their waste significantly. This is proof, if ever it was needed, that investing in

quality [at higher price] at the outset saves significant cost in the longer term. Being a charitable organisation, every penny saved can have an impact on us all.

The Radio Communications Agency, based in London's Docklands, suffered a terrorist bomb attack destroying most of the building and its contents. The building was demolished, but all the Electropatent desk modules were removed, returned to the factory for testing and 95% were re-delivered to the new location for continued service. These three examples may appear insignificant on a global basis, but we see it as a duty to 'nudge' people towards a better way of doing things.

All three clients mentioned would have had the opportunity to buy cheaper products using cheaper, shorter life materials and designs. They decided to pay a little more, which saved significant sums of money over time, and massively reduced their environmental impact by reducing waste and consumption of raw materials. These are all examples of the circular economy which we believe needs to be adopted by corporations and governments. They may not have used the term at the time, but they are perfect examples.

At Burland, we need to practice what we preach and do so wherever possible. We are net energy generators with over 60kW of solar PV fitted to our roof. We drive full electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. We recycle all waste, including the smallest copper off cuts. Wherever possible we purchase high quality used office furniture ensuring long service life for manufactured products.

Burland are founder members of the Slave Free Alliance, sitting alongside businesses far larger than us such as Aviva, Arriva and Dixons Carphone as founder members. We do not let our small size prevent us from being involved in such fantastic work helping to reduce and eventually eliminate modern slavery in the supply chains. In July 2019, they successfully prosecuted 15 Eastern European slave masters working in the UK who were sentenced to between 5 and 15 years! Hopefully bigger businesses than ours will take our lead and join! UN Goals: 1, 9, 12.

In 2024, Burland Technology transferred a controlling ownership share to an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT), making all employees owners of the business. This ensures that the team benefits from the company's success and provides customers with the reassurance that they are always interacting with an owner.



Richard Vass – Managing Director
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