

Sustainability at Search Press

At Search Press, we recognise that we have responsibilities to perform our core business – which is publishing inspirational and instructional printed art and craft books – in as sustainable a way as we possibly can. Through continued evaluation and improvement, we strive to integrate working practices into our daily activities to minimise our environmental impact in all areas of the business that we have direct control over.

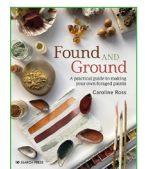
Publishing illustrated books that people value and want to buy and own, is a complex business. At Search Press virtually every function necessary to bring a book to market, from concept, acquisition, design, sales and marketing, customer services and warehouse/dispatch, takes place at our UK Head Office. The major exception to this is the printers we work with, most of whom are in Asia.

We have appointed an employee-led sustainability committee tasked with ensuring the business minimises its environmental footprint across all departments.

Our Publishing Output and the Sustainability Message

We have been at the forefront in bringing books to the market that encourage crafters both to use sustainable new materials and to reuse existing materials to produce exciting innovative projects. This cuts down on materials ending up in landfill and also on the environmental impact of using some traditional products. Bestselling titles in this area include:

- *Restyle & Restitch for Little Ones*
- *Refashion, Restyle, Restitch*
- *The Re:Fashion Wardrobe*
- *Modern Mending*
- *Found and Ground*
- *Forage & Stitch*
- *Eco-Christmas Craft Book*
- *The Mending Directory*
- *The Handmade Spa: Natural Soaps*
- *The Handmade Spa: Natural Cosmetics*



Warehouse & Distribution

We send our books to customers all over the world from our onsite warehouse. We have introduced a number of working practices to ensure that this activity is as clean and as green as possible. These include:

1. We use recyclable packaging materials wherever possible when sending out books. This includes cardboard that has been shredded in a bespoke shredder recently purchased by the business. We reuse printer cartons to send out our books, and have recently begun to use environmentally friendly tape. When we do have an excess of cardboard, it is religiously recycled. We encourage the reuse of packaging materials such as old Jiffy bags and bubble wrap, reducing the need for new resources.
2. We use the minimum amount of materials to safely send out our books, by using expert operatives, not computers, to make that decision for us.
3. Our excess pallets are always reused, recycled or preferably given away for reuse. We destroy very few as policy, preferring to recondition and reuse them.
4. We only pulp unsold books as a last resort, and when we do so we ensure the waste will be recycled. Before making that decision, we'll lower the retail price to make a book more affordable and accessible, or offer titles to the Book Aid Charitable Trust gratis, for distribution around the world.
5. Over ten years ago we made a substantial investment in installing a 30KW solar power system on the spare space on our warehouse roof. Since then we have largely generated all the energy for our office and warehouse needs from this solar power. When we do need topping up we use suppliers who provide their energy from sustainable sources. Since we only use power during working hours we feed back to the National Grid everything we generate outside of these hours.

Our Offices

1. We have recycling points throughout the building for glass, soft and rigid plastics, cardboard and metal. Additionally, we recycle batteries, pens, and stamps, contributing to the reduction of e-waste and hazardous materials.
2. Organic waste is composted, diverting it from landfills and contributing to soil health. This compost is used extensively in our vibrant cottage garden which provides green outdoor space for all employees to use.
3. Wherever feasible, we discourage non-essential business travel. Our main meeting room has audio-visual equipment set up to ensure meeting with authors and customers can take place without the need to travel. Where travel is essential, the first option is always to use the rail network.
4. We provide an electric car charging point in our staff car park. We partake in the cycle to work scheme and encourage our local staff to cycle into work rather than use cars.
5. Hybrid working is available to staff members offering the opportunity to work from home when it is practical for them to do so, ensuring a reduction of commuting miles.
6. All our inhouse printer/copier consumables are recycled back to the manufacturer for reuse using their own recycling schemes.
7. Our office lighting is about to go through a change from fluorescent tubes to LED tubes.

Print Sourcing

Most of the printing we do for our own publications is sourced from the Far East in order for us to offer our customers competitive pricing. We are rigorous in ensuring we only source print from ethical suppliers and this involves:

1. All our suppliers are ISO certified and hold certifications in Environmental, Health & Safety and Management policies, covering labour, wages, anti-slavery, working conditions, etc. Our suppliers conform to very strict industry policies and guidelines with regards to water waste, paper waste, all forms of recycling, single use plastics, etc. Supplier certification is available on application – please email marketing@searchpress.com if you wish to view this certification.
2. Suppliers in China follow strict rules regarding single-use plastic, and have stopped its usage. Any packaging materials we receive are reusable including bubble wrap, paper wraps, packing noodles, etc. All pallet wraps are of reusable plastic.
3. All our papers are responsibly sourced. All new Search Press printed books are Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC). Titles printed prior to 2022 have PEFC (Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification). Inks are soy-based, lamination and glue are both water-based.
4. We wholesale and distribute titles from third-party publishers and insist that their environmental, health and safety, employment and management policies are as rigorous as our own.
5. Promotional trade catalogues are now printed on a print-on-demand basis ensuring that no copies go to waste. We only print what we need and can use.
6. Wherever possible, digital editions of our books (e-books) are made available.

While we have made strides in our sustainability efforts, we recognise the need for ongoing improvement. Part of our future plans include the following initiatives:

1. **E-waste Management:** We are in the process of organising the collection and responsible disposal of old monitors and PC towers, further reducing our electronic waste footprint.
2. **Energy Efficiency:** We are exploring options to enhance energy efficiency in our facilities, including the installation of blinds for insulation and outside LED lights in our new warehouse.
3. **Enhanced Security Lighting:** We are planning to install additional security lights near our photography area to improve safety and security while minimising energy consumption through the use of LED technology.
4. **Community Engagement:** We are investigating a donation to organisations such as The Woodland Trust to support reforestation efforts and biodiversity conservation.

If you have any questions about, or thoughts on this policy document please do not hesitate to contact us at marketing@searchpress.com

The Search Press Team