

ESTD 1842



TANNERS
WINE MERCHANTS

Environmental Management System
& *Social Responsibility Plan*



Tanners Action Group
for Sustainability

Letter from the Chairman

The climate is changing. When speaking to our growers abroad, I regularly hear first-hand that the summers are getting hotter and consequently the harvests are earlier than those experienced by their parents and grandparents. Rain now falls as deluges leading to serious soil erosion. Back in Shrewsbury, the River Severn now floods our yard and bottom cellar regularly rather than once in a generation.

Climate change is a worrying reality, and I am determined that we at Tanners should do something about it. With a long history, the company has seen tougher and more frugal times so we are not given to waste however, more can be done. Tanners Action Group for Sustainability has therefore examined all areas of the business leading to an Environmental Management System and Social Responsibility Plan.

On the larger scale we are already in the process of bringing our buildings up to modern standards and offsetting our carbon emissions with tree planting. In terms of buying, we are re-doubling our efforts to work closely with our suppliers to become certified as sustainable, organic or biodynamic. There is a myriad of other smaller initiatives, and you can help too, especially in our campaign to reduce waste from secondary packaging. Together we can build a better company that is fit for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Tanner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

James Tanner
Tanners Wines Merchants
August 2022

Introduction

As a 180-year-old company with deep links to our suppliers and in the community, we care passionately about building a sustainable future. It sounds clichéd but we really do want to ensure the decisions we make as a company have a positive effect on the future rather than being detrimental. We know that customers come back to us time and again for quality of service and the quality of the product we sell. To keep pushing forward we have Tanners Action Group for Sustainability (TAGS), a working group which consists of team members from all levels and departments throughout Tanners who have developed Tanners Environmental Management System and Social Responsibility Plan.



“We need to ensure the decisions we make as a company have a positive effect on the future, for all of us.”

– Christina Albon, Sustainability Lead



Solar Panels atop the Wyle Cop warehouse

Our Commitments

Tanners Wines is committed to providing quality, value and service; safeguarding the wellbeing of employees; being an integral part of the community; and reducing its impact on the environment at all stages from vine to customer. We will abide by, and exceed where practicable, all relevant legislation, rules and codes of practice.



Our bee friendly courtyard in Shrewsbury

Our Principles

Engage fully with the local community

Work with suppliers to ensure that they are using best practices

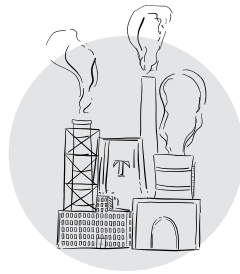
Ensure that the welfare of our staff is considered and that opportunities exist for them

Minimise the impact on the environment at all stages of our activities

Tanners Action Group for Sustainability will review this policy annually, report on its performance and set goals.

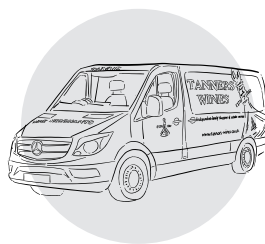
Environmental Impacts

As a shipper of wine from around the world our largest environmental impacts are transport and the energy use within our buildings. Once the wine reaches Tanners warehouses it is imperative it is stored in ideal conditions which involves energy – heating, lighting and cooling are all required at various points. Along with the energy required to maintain the condition of the wine in the warehouses it might first have been transported around the world, and then onwards to our customers, involving large amounts of CO2. We must act now to minimise our impacts.



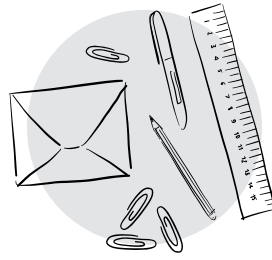
WAREHOUSING AND DISTRIBUTION

- Two new roofs provide additional insulation to reduce the need for external heat and cooling.
- LED lighting and timed lights are fitted throughout.
- Cardboard, paper, poly wrap, glass and pallets are recycled.
- Water butts are used to catch rainwater, which is then converted to screen wash for the fleet.
- Wine boxes are reused to repack orders.
- Drivers are trained to drive in a fuel-efficient manner using vehicle tracking.
- Software is used to ensure goods are delivered in an efficient way by route planning and load scheduling.
- Vehicles carry only as much fuel as required to reduce weight and prevent unnecessary fuel burn.
- Fleet is kept 'up to date' with two new vehicles every year to ensure clean and efficient engines.



SHIPPING

- Stock is ordered in amounts which make transport viable and efficient and so reduce unnecessary journeys thereby cutting emissions.
- Work with forwarders and transporters to operate in an environmentally responsible way for example by using rail freight where possible.
- Combine orders from specific areas to reduce unnecessary journeys.



OFFICES, EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

- Paper, plastic, glass, cardboard and cans are all recycled or reused.
- In turn we use recycled goods where possible.
- Paper usage is discouraged as much as possible with invoices and statements being emailed.
- Where paper mailings are sent, these are 100% recyclable and printed on recycled paper.
- Old office equipment is disposed of in a responsible way and given to charity.
- Solar panels provide energy to run the offices.
- Computers and electrical equipment are turned off overnight to reduce energy usage.



OUTDOOR AREAS

- In Shrewsbury we contribute to the hanging basket scheme, have our own courtyard garden with bee-encouraging flowers and have a wildlife reserve on the bank above our warehouse.
- In Hereford we have a large bluebell and vegetable bed at the rear of our premises.
- In Welshpool we have a grove of rowan trees and expansive lawns outside our warehouses.
- In Bridgnorth we grow flowers and creepers in the passageway between our shop and car park.
- We support the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and are looking to offset emissions by matching customer donations to a tree planting scheme.

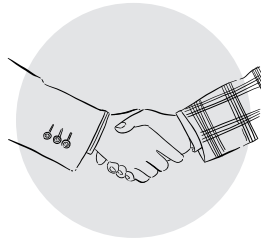
Social Responsibility

As a family-owned and run business, we believe it is the people that make us different and are key to it's continued success. The past 24 months have been very challenging for employees, communities and our supply chain alike. In light of this we have focussed on supporting the health and wellbeing throughout this time. We support in excess of 200 local causes each year ranging up from raffle prizes at village fêtes to large arts festivals and sporting events. In addition to this, we make donations to charities operating in the UK and overseas supporting hospitals, hospices, the homeless and humanitarian emergencies.



TEAM

- Ensure that the health and well-being needs of our staff are always considered.
- An Employee Assistance Programme is available for all employees.
- Tanners has four qualified Mental Health First Aiders.
- Employees can take part in a lunchtime yoga session to encourage wellbeing.
- Flexible working is available where the role allows it.
- Training opportunities are available to improve abilities and performance.
- Tanners is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, as stated in our handbook.
- Modern Slavery & Trafficking Statement is available on request.



SUPPLIERS

- Many of our suppliers are at the forefront of the organic and biodynamic movement, furthermore we actively encourage wine growers to use sustainable practices where possible and support those that do.

For example, long standing grower Churton Wines have led the way in promoting organic and biodynamic practices in New Zealand. They are even the first NZ winery to use horsepower to work the vineyards. Tanners has worked with Churton since their first vintage in 1994.

- We support smaller family-owned concerns who actively engage and give back to their local communities.

For example, Journey's End winery in South Africa is fully solar-powered and Fairtrade certified, and recently received recognition for its commitment to this with an Ethical Company of the Year Award. In 2020 The Journey's End Foundation was set up to provide meals to, and support.

- Ensure that suppliers are using accepted labour practices, adhering to our Modern Slavery and Trafficking Statement.
- Suppliers and brand owners are encouraged to use lighter glass and reduce excess packaging.



COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS

- Tanners supports and integrates with the local community through time given, sponsorship and donations.
- Customers are engaged in sustainable practices such as carrier bag use, recycling of card and bottles. Plastic bag usage has reduced by 70% over the past 24 months.
- We are committed to supporting local and national causes and over the past 12 months have supported over 200 different charities and events.
- We have been sponsoring one particular event consistently since 1961.

Targets

- Eliminate plastic bag usage within our branches by 2024.
- Build a carbon zero warehouse by 2028.
- Be carbon neutral by the end of 2023.
- Keenly investigate new ways of packaging wine that is more sustainable than glass.
- Install cork recycling stations in our branches to collect corks which will be donated to the Street Allotment Project for composting, in order to support this local produce growing initiative.
- Introduce a 'plant a tree' initiative at check out which will see Tanners match the contribution of the customer.



Casper Macindoe, founder of the Street Allotment Project

Reporting System

- Environmental Management System & Social Responsibility Plan is to be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.
- Progress report is to be issued by the Director in charge annually.
- New targets are to be set annually.



Join the *Conversation*

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