

Sustainability in Security



Steve Gardner
Global Head of Security
OCS Group

steven.gardner@ocs.co.uk
ocs.com/uk/services/security/



Whilst other areas of Facilities Management concentrate on sustainability including robotics and technology, security finds itself in a difficult place trying to match the demands of clients for greater protection, with identifying areas to be more sustainable. **So, what can we do to enhance our security operations whilst adapting to a more sustainable future?**

- We have a future forward approach in our electronic and static guarding operations and are providing our teams with the best technologies in order to protect people property and assets.
- Our security teams are moving towards a more sustainable business by reducing our impact on the environment at every opportunity, A recently delivered innovation will reduce the use of paperwork across all of our sites by removing the need for hand written daily occurrence books – for years the staple of the evidence driven operations for our teams.
- With a focus on our Net Zero 2040 programme, our move to electric mobile patrol vehicles will yield a better and healthier environment for our drivers and a reduction in carbon emissions.
- We have been part of the WEEE directive for many years but we are moving at great pace to recycle surplus IT and security equipment.
- As a people business we look to support our local communities through employment initiatives, charitable programmes and community engagement. The recent OCS ESG procurement update highlighted that our mobile phones are now supplied in part as refurbished units, which saves 67% of total life carbon.
- We are accredited to ISO 14001 and have developed programmes within our HSQE Team to deliver sustainable benefits for our security teams as well as the overall business.

Our commitment to a more sustainable future for our security teams will ensure we meet the increasing demand from our clients that suppliers provide footprint transparency in terms of their operations, product sourcing and research and development practices.

Our Security and IT teams constantly review our operations to identify where innovative solutions such as Digital ID's, mobile authentication via mobile telephones, and biometric technologies can be implemented. Biometric technologies represent a major break from more conventional means of access control. Using biometrics as an additional authenticating factor (e.g., biometric scans to verify an individual's physical identity) can help organisations eliminate unauthorized access and fraud.

The importance of this trend is exemplified in a recent survey of electronic and site security companies, which showed that 59% of respondents are currently using, planning to implement, or at least testing biometric technologies in the near future.

Further advances in the field of global artificial intelligence (AI) market is forecast to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 21.4%, from \$81.3 billion in 2022 to \$383.3 billion in 2030, driven by applications such as facial recognition. It is and will be adopted across many areas of security and as we all work towards a sustainable future expect to see and hear more about AI in our developing world.

So far from being a late adopter, the security industry is exploring and introducing relevant systems to demonstrate a commitment to our sustainable future. OCS Group are at the forefront of introducing such systems.