

CASE STUDY: ASTINS

BACKGROUND

Astins is one of the largest drywall specialist contractors in the UK delivering drywall lining, ceilings and specialist fit outs. Established in 1996 they turn over more than £45M p.a. and have 700+ employees. Astins deliver work across the built environment to hospitals and airports such as the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Heathrow T2A, as well as large, specialist projects such as Battersea Power Station and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Astins have long standing relationships with many of the School's Partners, and first joined the School when it launched in 2012.

IMPACT

As a result of engaging with the School, Astins has:



- ✓ **Reviewed their waste reporting system** so that causes of material waste on site can be reported more clearly, leading to better representation of the waste sources within the business.
- ✓ **Committed to secure BES6001 accreditation** for Responsible Sourcing after this was highlighted in a School action plan
- ✓ **Produced a Modern Slavery policy** using the School's bank of resources on this issue, and plan to implement audits against this policy, both for their own workers and within their supply chains
- ✓ **Gained an insight into the importance of supply chain collaboration**; particularly with regards to waste. For example, Astins now encourage clients to ensure that waste minimization is considered at design stage.
- ✓ **Incorporated the School's e-learning modules on Equal Opportunities / Diversity and Ethics / Anti-bribery** into staff training and development programmes, and trained 12 company supervisors on SEATS
- ✓ **Adopted BIM Level 2 to meet client requirements** – Astins is upgrading their internal IT system to accommodate BIM Level 2 and have attended School workshops and completed questionnaires on this topic to assist them with developing appropriate systems.
- ✓ **Conducted analysis into the life cycle costings of the use of 900mm boards** in walling, and identified the effects which using these smaller boards may have across the lifespan of the product.
- ✓ **Updated company policies and strategies** in response to resources highlighted through the self-assessment and action plans, for example the Sustainable Timber Sourcing Policy.
- ✓ **Reflected on their current approach to sustainability**, and used the School's resources to help articulate the business case to senior management to implement positive change within the organisation
- ✓ **Actively promoted the School and their membership** status both internally and at events such as Constructing Excellence Members' Forums.



BENEFITS

Increased exposure as an innovative company "leading the way" in sustainability – Published by Constructing Excellence in March 2017, Astins produced a study on sustainability reducing waste which outlined the steps that they have taken to minimise plasterboard waste resulting in a reduction of waste output by 40% in 5 years. To view the report, please [click here](#).

Increased competitive advantage – Through marketing opportunities such as published reports and studies like the above and through publicising their gold status, Graham Harrison, Head of Work Winning, intends to use Astins' membership of and engagement with the School in their company literature, on their website and in their tenders and discussions with customers.

Reduced Reputation Risk – through their new Modern Slavery policy, Astins is now able to reassure their clients that they are fully compliant with the very latest in Modern Slavery policies

Cost savings – Astins have benefited from 68+ hours of free face to face training, a significant cost saving to the business in terms of staff development

Insight into client priorities - Attendance at events and use of the School's resource library have helped Astins better understand the sustainability drivers of their customers, enabling them to adapt / frame their offerings accordingly, ultimately resulting in a better service, and increased likelihood of repeat work.

