

PRESS RELEASE

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SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL CONTINUES TO POSITIVELY IMPACT A SUSTAINABLE UK BUILT ENVIRONMENT, REPORT FINDS

- COVID-19 forced the Supply Chain Sustainability School to move all learning online, resulting in a year-on-year increase of 269% of members partaking in free training sessions; +101% utilising learning resources and +84% downloading e-learning.
- The School helped 76% of members gain a better understanding of their organisations' sustainability impacts: two thirds confirmed they had reduced their carbon emissions, over half reduced their waste, 44% improved air quality and 37% reduced their water consumption
- Members are changing their business processes to embed sustainability thinking: over two thirds reported the School enabled this change
- Three quarters of members admitted the School helped them gain a clearer understanding of their own business sustainability objectives, as well as client's sustainability objectives
- Findings also show the School helped companies be more collaborative, with 58% confirming they developed a better relationship with their suppliers

The full Impact Report can be found on the Supply Chain Sustainability School's website
<https://bit.ly/3deJfwS>



31st March, London, UK — The [Supply Chain Sustainability School](https://bit.ly/3deJfwS), a multi-award-winning initiative which represents a common approach to addressing sustainability within supply chains, has today released its Impact Report, which surveyed over one thousand of its members across the country, to get their thoughts on what is important to their organisation and supply chain.

This report also offers insights on how the School has continued to positively impact organisations and supply chains, reinforcing the School's mission to be *the* world-class collaboration enabling a sustainable built environment.

With nearly forty thousand registered users, the School provides free practical learning and support for the UK built environment, through: sustainability training, networking, e-learning modules, tailored assessments and online resources.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating socially and economically in many ways; however the UK's built environment industry, after an initial closure of sites, has largely been encouraged to continue working and sustainability has sharply risen on the agenda.

COVID-19 forced the Supply Chain Sustainability School to move all learning online, resulting in a year-on-year increase of 269% of members partaking in free training sessions; +101% utilising learning resources and +84% downloading e-learning.

Organisations are becoming more environmentally conscious, with many more concerned about how to embed sustainability into their business practices. The School has been identified as being a powerful tool to help them do this. Over two thirds of members (68%) stated that the School enabled them to embed sustainability into their business processes and monitor and report on sustainability impacts (59%).

Furthermore, three in four members (76%) reported that by engaging with the School, they gained a better understanding of their organisations' sustainability impacts. Two thirds (63%) confirmed they had reduced their carbon emissions and half reduced their waste (57%). In addition, 44% improved their air quality and 37% reduced their water consumption year on year.

Findings from the report also show that the School helped organisations be more collaborative, with 58% confirming they developed a better relationship with their suppliers.

The School is part-funded by CITB and industry Partners, with the direction of the School being led by over 121 Partners – working in collaboration, they share knowledge and free resources to inspire the UK built environment to drive positive change.

Shaun McCarthy OBE, Chair of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, said: "2020 has been a year like no other. In addition to needing to convert all our 250+ training sessions to virtual delivery almost overnight, we faced a financial future that was far from certain. I would like to thank our amazing team for pulling us through and to our loyal Partners who continue to support the School in growing numbers, helping to mitigate the financial shock from the temporary suspension of CITB funding. The School has emerged stronger from the crisis and we look forward to supporting the industry towards a sustainable future."

Richard Bayliss, Sustainability and Innovation Policy Lead at CITB, said: "The School has turned the pandemic crisis into an opportunity to transform its service, far surpassing expectations and targets as a result. The dramatic increase in the numbers of learners also underlines industry's increasing commitment to sustainability issues as we start to take bold steps towards Net Zero. Together we will continue to support the use of flexible learning resources that embed sustainability in work practice, deliver the skills needs of the future and underpin the transition to Net Zero."

The Supply Chain Sustainability School provides free practical learning and support in the form of sustainability training, networking, e-learning modules, tailored assessments, action plans and a library of over 2,900 online resources. Sign up for free this spring: <https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/>

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About Supply Chain Sustainability School:

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is a multi-award-winning initiative which represents a common approach to addressing sustainability within supply chains. With more than 39,000 registered users, the School provides free practical learning and support in the form of sustainability training, events and networking, e-learning modules, tailored assessment and a library of over 2,900 online resources.

The School is part-funded by CITB and industry Partners. It is delivered by an independent third-party consultancy, Action Sustainability. Leadership is provided by a School Board comprising elected representatives of Partners, responsible for fiscal governance and strategic direction. A Code of Ethics is signed by all Partners as part of the School Constitution and Partners lead the direction of the School content and activities through leadership groups. <https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/>

About CITB:

CITB is an arm's-length body of the Department for Education and works to research the sector's skills needs, fund training, and improve standards. It is paid for by a levy on the construction industry itself. <https://www.citb.co.uk/>