

Challenges:

The term “sustainability” has become synonymous with many activities, including how companies treat their people, support the community, or protect the planet. Due to the broad scope of topics and varying client expectations, knowing where to begin on your sustainability journey can be initially challenging.

Whether it be Ward Security's goal to de-carbonise its fleet, which is the source of 90% of its emissions, talking to its uniform suppliers about packaging options, or supporting and proactively recommending sustainable hoarding over traditional timber fencing to assist clients to clients (some of whom are School Partners) in reducing their own carbon impact, the Supply Chain Sustainability School has taught the company how to address many of these challenges.

Impact:

Strategy: The Supply Chain Sustainability School's catalogue of topics has helped Ward focus on particular areas, whether that be their general strategy and performance, or specific subjects such as carbon, social value, and procurement. Most importantly, the awareness gained has enabled Ward to think and educate more sustainably.

The School has made a significant difference in helping them to better understand their carbon impact, along with a collating and reporting methodology. They have since become carbon neutral against their Scope 1 and 2 emissions through carbon offsets via verified and gold standard community schemes. Ward explains: “while we understand that this is not the solution to the climate crisis, these credits represent a positive intent while we formalise a short, mid, and long-term carbon reduction plan from the education received to support the global transition to a zero-carbon future.”

Communication: In addition, the scope of resources available has helped the company become more confident when discussing sustainability initiatives and expectations, both upstream and downstream in the supply chain.

Bitesize Learning: Engaging Ward's people and supply chain has been made less challenging by accessing the School's resource library.

Although the School is primarily targeted at the construction industry, the sustainability shorts, Lunch' n' Learns and webinars have allowed Ward Security to focus on the areas of education most relevant to their business. In addition, these resources help the company understand the challenges and objectives of their clients in the built environment.

Fact box



Company

Ward Security Limited

No of employees

1060

HQ

Chatham, Kent

Website

<https://www.ward-security.co.uk/>

Main contact

Brian Stroud, SHEQ Director,
 BrianS@ward-security.co.uk

Services

Risk Management, Physical, Technical and Canine security.

About

Ward is a privately-owned award-winning security specialist, established over 20 years ago when David and Kevin Ward took over the reins from their parents. It has continued to thrive and grow, keeping organisations and properties secure across the UK through its range of flexible and integrated security solutions.

The company has also discovered that bitesize animations can be very effective for initial education. The training options offered by the School has meant Ward can engage employees at varying levels of understanding on sustainability topics.

Benchmarking: The assessments provided by the School have helped provide an initial benchmark not only on how much, or how little, Ward knew on topics they were already aware of, but also to gather an understanding of other areas of sustainability that were not yet on their radar and which Ward therefore needed to investigate further.

Flexibility: Ward recognises that the School's e-Learning modules are an effective way of assisting their people in easing themselves into a topic if they are yet to gain prior understanding. The information is pitched comfortably, and assessments can be taken multiple times. Staff can integrate these resources into their work schedules and learn at their own pace. Like the webinars, the varying content also allowed staff to learn about areas of sustainability that they may not have previously thought about, plus to understand the overlap with their working practices, and where they could be more sustainable in their thought processes.

Value gained:

Better placed to meet client requirements: When Ward's Sustainability Steering Group was formed, there was a steep learning curve. The School's resources have become the group's primary source of information for gap analysis and agreeing on objectives. As they have moved further into the technical security solutions market, they have gained more clients in the built environment, some of whom are School Partners.

When Ward's clients required the company to hold a minimum of Bronze membership with the School, it was great for Ward to say that they were already Silver and on the path to Gold membership. To know the company had already reached significant landmarks in their sustainability journey was very rewarding.

Supporting Ward's people: As sustainability continues to gain momentum, Ward acknowledges there are commercial advantages to behaving responsibly. However, the company has made it clear that this is not their main driver. Rather, the quality of their people determines their reputation, so the company strives to look after them. Through the School, Ward understands its impact on communities and wants to give back wherever possible. Ward has also become more aware of how its actions affect the planet, and therefore wants to understand better how to protect it for future generations.

Future proofing:

Ward Security will continue to use the Supply Chain Sustainability School and the resources it provides for information and education. The company aims to embed the ethos in a more comprehensive internal audience by engaging more users.