

## Challenges:

The construction industry is undoubtedly up there as one of the most difficult to navigate. Despite the increasing costs and regulatory challenges, VJ Technology focuses on three main scopes to help them achieve their goals.

Scope 1 covers VJ Technology's direct emissions from everyday operations, such as fuel consumption from their fleet of vehicles. Currently, the majority of their direct emissions come from their fleet, making them a priority. The company has a fleet of Euro 6 Diesel vehicles, which are some of the most efficient available without transitioning to electric. After several enquiries and tests, VJ Technology has determined that the current capabilities of electric vehicles are a fundamental barrier to having an electric fleet. Given the miles their delivery vehicles cover, there are currently no suitable options in the electric vehicle market that can meet their needs.

Scope 2 covers VJ Technology's indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, such as National Grid electricity and gas consumption. The company has investigated solar options, but found adding heavy panels to the warehouse roof carries its own risks and is not cost effective. Additionally, the building is lease-owned, and any significant changes would require the landlord's approval. Despite this, VJ Technology has renewed their energy supply contract and is now supplied with energy from 100% renewable sources. They are still working to reduce their overall energy consumption, which is challenging given the company and industry's rate of growth. VJ Technology regularly reviews their options and will make sustainable choices when they are available.

Scope 3 covers VJ Technology's indirect emissions not owned by the company, such as those generated by their operations with third parties and supply chains. Regular dialogue with these parties is crucial as they all strive to meet their sustainability objectives. The challenge arises in influencing third party suppliers who have their own goals. For some larger suppliers, VJ Technology is too small to influence their current operations, but customer demand and regulatory obligations for FTSE 250 companies will slowly change this over time. Packaging is a challenge for every company. When sourcing sustainable alternatives, factors such as performance, suitability, cost, availability, and reliability must be considered. VJ Technology has made changes to their packaging and shares success stories with their suppliers in order to achieve shared goals. With a broad range of suppliers from across the UK and abroad, it is a logistical challenge for VJ Technology to assess and challenge them to the required level. However, improvements are being seen across the supply chain. The company will continue to help, challenge and change where they can.

## Impact:

## Fact box



### Company

VJ Technology

### No of employees

160

### HQ

Ashford, Kent

### Website

<https://www.vjtechnology.com/>

### Main contact

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### Services

Supplying, manufacturing, and testing fixings/fasteners and building consumables

### About

Founded in 1991, VJ Technology focuses on technical connections to timber, concrete and steel. The company has an in-house UKAS Accredited Laboratory and a qualified technical department offering advice, testing, specification and bespoke calculations to clients.

The wealth of training and materials provided by the Supply Chain Sustainability School has increased VJ Technology's understanding of the three scopes. The School has also given the company access to tools like the carbon calculator. The carbon calculator provides tangible data to measure improvements and allows them to share information with like-minded clients. This has allowed the company to make significant changes regarding the following:

- Dedicated sustainability team
- Massive reduction in waste to landfill
- VJ Technology's electricity and gas supplies are mainly sourced away from fossil fuels
- New technology for intelligent route planning for VJ Technology's fleet of vehicles
- All new company cars and vans will be electric / hybrid where viable
- Papercut technology to help reduce paper waste
- Partnership with dedicated organisations
- Improved employee training and engagement

**New ways of thinking:** Representatives of VJ Technology had the pleasure of attending the School's supply chain enterprise academy program, which was delivered over four days. It covered a wide array of areas and promoted new ways of thinking. Key areas that stood out to VJ Technology were modern slavery, individuals' well-being/resilience, and positive and sustainable legacies. The company looks forward to future engagement events and will encourage other members to attend.

**Benchmarking:** VJ Technology has found the School's assessments to be a valuable way of benchmarking their understanding, allowing them to revisit any areas where they could improve their knowledge. The subsequent action plan has helped them focus on training relevant to their industry.

## Value gained:

**Reduction of cost and enhanced reputation:** VJ Technology believes that membership of the School, and the changes they have made, have helped them to cut costs, enhance its reputation and gain a competitive advantage by taking an industry-leading approach to sustainability.

In January 2022, VJ Technology's CEO decided to direct the company towards a more sustainable future and recognised how membership of the School would help accelerate this. The School has helped VJ Technology to understand and analyse their data professionally. Having progressed to Silver and now aiming to achieve Gold, their membership level helps communicate their dedication and commitment to reducing their environmental impact. Since many of their partners are members, VJ Technology has found that the School puts them all on the same journey and promotes active collaboration.

## Future proofing:

VJ Technology aims to maintain high standards of education and active collaboration, and sees the Supply Chain Sustainability School as key to its future training and development needs. VJ Technology looks forward to attending more events and collaborating closely with the School on its journey towards Partner status.