

Challenges:

Artex faces various challenges around sustainability, including educating and creating awareness among employees about sustainability and the role they play in the business. As more customers demand sustainability in their supply chain and focus on products with minimal environmental impact, Artex has a responsibility to meet their requirements and expectations.

As a manufacturing and supply chain business, Artex faces common sustainability issues. For example, they rely on fossil fuels to run the site, from the warehouse, production, office, transport, and fleet of vehicles. This reliance creates a significant carbon footprint.

As part of the global Saint Gobain business, Artex has net-zero carbon targets. However, the nature of the business model makes this target difficult to achieve as they cannot gain complete control over scope emissions. Despite this, Artex will continuously look for ways to work towards new, more sustainable processes.

Impact:

Improved awareness: Artex has been able to overcome sustainability challenges with the help of the Supply Chain Sustainability School. Engaging with the School has raised awareness across the business and helped Artex identify areas for improvement. It has also strengthened their ability to deliver on their sustainability promise by absorbing best practices through member case studies and learning resources from different industries, including construction and manufacturing.

Up-to-date information: The School provides Artex with the latest information on sustainability via its user-friendly platform. This has made it easier for Artex to stay informed. The e-learning modules and learning resources have been valuable for Artex's supply chain team and other departments, such as product management and marketing, providing them with a deeper understanding of sustainability and how to implement change.

Driving higher standards: Artex has made sure that their EAG (Environmental Action Group) is made up of key staff members from around the business, with representatives from every team/department. The group helps develop broader engagement across the company, drive activity, and with the support of the School, ensure they deliver on their sustainability promises. Communicating and sharing the School's learning has ensured that Artex continues to drive results, support sustainable initiatives and overcome challenges.

Fact box



Company

Artex Ltd

No of employees

78

HQ

Ruddington, Nottingham

Website

www.artextld.com

Main contact

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Services

Procurement, Package, and
distribution of Building
Materials

About

Artex is a national supply chain
provider serving diverse
customers in retail RMI.
Providing easy, direct access to
Saint Gobain building
materials.

Value gained:

Increased sustainability: Artex has achieved significant sustainability improvements by implementing several initiatives inspired by the School. For example, their distribution site at Ruddington will be mostly diesel and gas-free, except for partner vehicles coming to the site. Artex will use biomass to reduce carbon emissions by 150 tonnes per year. Artex is also transitioning their HGV fleet to hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO), which reduces 90% of CO2 compared to diesel and produces cleaner emissions with fewer nitrous oxides to improve air quality for workers, clients, and the local community.

Artex recognises the commercial and ethical benefits of environmentally-friendly processes and practices. They also focus on sustainable marketing, operating responsibly, and investing in on-site initiatives like their biodiversity area. Other sustainable on-site initiatives include sourcing all on-site electricity from wind power, replacing forklift trucks with electric alternatives, switching to LED lighting, and transitioning their company cars to electric/hybrid by 2023.

Increased knowledge: Training and communication have enabled Artex to increase awareness of sustainability issues across the business, and the e-learning modules and other learning resources have increased action around the topic, driving real accountability across the business.

Customer engagement: Embedding environmental promises within their strategy has boosted company advocacy, with a direct impact on customer and employee satisfaction. Artex can better meet customer requirements, with over 75% of their customers prioritising sustainability going into 2023. Being able to communicate the benefits of adopting sustainable practices has strengthened existing client relationships and fostered new ones. Creating ethical environments within Artex demonstrates significant benefits in employee health and well-being and illustrates their direct contribution towards protecting the planet through their reduced carbon footprint.

Community engagement: Artex has embedded 'ACTION DAYS' across the business as part of their strategy, in which staff members take action to support sustainable initiatives. The action days have included litter picking on-site and in the local community, supporting local events with sustainability education, and holding a successful Community Day on-site at Artex Ruddington, where over 500 members of the local community were invited to see how Artex are trying to make a sustainable impact.

Increased efficiency: Developing sustainable business practices has resulted in efficient operations that streamline effort and conserve resources, enabling Artex to enhance employee productivity and reduce costs. Artex's focus on the environment and their employees have helped them attract the talent and funding needed to expand the company.

Benchmarking: The assessments have been essential in identifying Artex's development areas, determining required training, areas for improvement, and where to allocate and focus resources.

Future proofing:

Artex plans to continue engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School to improve their sustainability initiatives, focus, and knowledge across the business. They hope to use the resources available from the School to help them tackle Scope emissions from third parties and further drive progress. The collaboration with the School has been valuable in their sustainability journey, and they look forward to continuing to learn and improve in the future.