

Challenges:

McKelvey Construction has aimed to modify its operations to enhance the company's overall sustainability. However, due to the vast scope of sustainability, acquiring precise information on its key aspects has posed a significant challenge. Prior to identifying sustainability improvement strategies, it was imperative for department managers to gain a comprehensive understanding of sustainability's various facets.

As a small to medium-sized enterprise (SME), allocating the necessary personnel, time, and financial resources to enhance sustainability presents another challenge. Consequently, McKelvey Construction has sought to examine sustainability based on the resources and funding currently at their disposal. Effective education in sustainability was required to analyse the business adequately and determine the most impactful sustainability strategies, yielding the best sustainable return on investment.

Impact:

Appointing a sustainability manager: McKelvey Construction has utilised the Supply Chain Sustainability School as its primary source of information to commence its journey towards sustainability. Upon registration with the School, the board of directors recognised the need for a dedicated individual to oversee the company's sustainability development, leading to the appointment of a Sustainability Manager.

Conducting a School assessment: The Sustainability Manager has conducted an initial School assessment to determine the company's current level of sustainability knowledge. This assessment has revealed areas of strength and weakness in the company's sustainability knowledge. A targeted action plan was subsequently developed for each subject area, based on the level of learning required.

Prioritising environmental sustainability: Environmental sustainability has been identified as a high priority. Hence, the Sustainability Manager has reviewed the School's comprehensive library of resources, identifying additional materials of varying competency levels to fill knowledge gaps.

Implementing e-learning modules: McKelvey's staff have completed numerous e-learning modules, attended online workshops, and participated in Lunch 'n' Learn sessions, focusing on key topics such as carbon footprint, carbon reduction, offsetting & net zero, measuring & managing biodiversity, circular economy, offsite, and Passivhaus in practice.

Developing a sustainability policy: The completion of these learning plans has equipped management with the necessary knowledge to develop a company-specific sustainability policy that

Fact box



Company

McKelvey Construction

No of employees

50

HQ

Northern Ireland

Website

www.mckelveyconstruction.co.uk

Main contact

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Services

Construction services; building & civil engineering

About

McKelvey Construction is an award-winning firm with over 35 years of experience and a distinguished history of delivering projects across the UK and Ireland. As a family-owned entity, they blend traditional values with innovative approaches, ensuring each project aligns with stakeholder vision. McKelvey consistently exhibits professional competence and technical prowess across various sectors, including education, commercial, industrial, leisure, healthcare, and heritage.

spans all business activities. The resources have also enhanced the skills to accurately measure the carbon footprint, including scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, and identify procedures to reduce this footprint.

Reducing carbon footprint: McKelvey's staff have learned how employing circular economy practices, offsite construction and Passivhaus designs could reduce the carbon footprint and applied these practices to enhance the business's sustainability.

Committing to climate pledge: This learning experience has inspired McKelvey Construction to become formally certified in Carbon Literacy and commit to the Climate Action Pledge, aiming to reduce scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 30% - 50% by 2030, while also working towards measuring and reporting scope 3 GHG emissions.

Value gained:

Enhancing sustainability understanding: Engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has brought significant benefits to McKelvey Construction, primarily through an enhanced understanding of sustainability.

Boosting Operational Efficiency: The implementation of sustainability measures has led to increased efficiency across the company, resulting in substantial cost savings.

Gaining Competitive Advantage: This advanced knowledge of sustainability has empowered the company to connect with clients more profoundly, better comprehend their needs, and deliver more accurately according to their requirements. The ability to effectively meet client needs and boost efficiencies has endowed the company with a notable competitive advantage when seeking new contracts.

Future proofing:

McKelvey Construction plans to persist in using the Supply Chain Sustainability School as a crucial educational resource. The company intends to broaden the training to encompass as many employees as feasible. Thus far, they have focused on specific aspects of sustainability as an initial step in their sustainability journey. Going forward, they aim to expand their sustainability efforts into all other key areas available through the School.