

Challenges:

Acceptance: The majority of projects that Grimes Finishings Ltd undertakes have often prioritised commercial interests over sustainability. For the successful implementation of sustainability, it becomes essential for the client, architect, and project team to support and accept this principle. The lack of a unified agreement between these parties has often acted as a barrier to achieving sustainable construction. This is further exacerbated by the prevailing perception within Grimes Finishings Ltd that implementing sustainable practices is more costly and demands more time and effort.

Knowledge: The plethora of available information has frequently hindered the adoption of sustainable initiatives within Grimes Finishings Ltd. This inconsistent information and an absence of knowledge has prevented the adoption of sustainable solutions in projects. This could be a result of an insufficiency of information, technical drawings, specifications, or simply a lack of experience within the team.

Timing: Time has always been a critical factor when initiating projects within Grimes Finishings Ltd. In reality, there is seldom enough time during both preconstruction and construction phases to complete the entire 'to do' list. Sustainability is often perceived as a more time-consuming, resource-intensive undertaking, and procurement is viewed as a longer, drawn-out process. This belief undeniably impacts the team's approach. Largely due to these time constraints, teams often lack the spare capacity to research and implement sustainable solutions and products, even if there is willingness from the team.

Financial matters: As is the case with all projects, cost concerns remain paramount within Grimes Finishings Ltd. There exists a persistent perception that sustainable solutions are more complicated, more time-consuming, and ultimately more expensive. Furthermore, the financial pressures placed on projects often limit the number of resources that can be allocated to the development and implementation of sustainable practices within Grimes Finishings Ltd.

Impact:

Instilling sustainable thought patterns and knowledge: The knowledge that Grimes Finishings Ltd has acquired through engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has instilled a new thought pattern within the organisation, demonstrating that sustainable solutions can be achieved with minimal additional resources or costs. The education provided by the School has empowered the company to acquire the necessary knowledge to implement sustainable changes in their business procurement and enhance the advice they offer to their clients.

Fact box



Company

Grimes Finishings Ltd

No of employees

45

HQ

Solihull, West Midlands,

Website

www.grimesuk.com

Main contact

info@grimesuk.com

Services

Specialist Drylining, Suspended Ceilings, External Render Systems + more

About

Grimes Finishings Ltd is a specialist contractor and consultancy operating in the residential and fit-out sector. They collaborate with leading main contractors and national house builders to deliver exceptional service on both medium and large-scale projects, consistently exceeding client expectations.

Personal assessments conducted by the School have improved Grimes Finishings' understanding of their team's knowledge levels in different areas of sustainability. Through benchmarking, the company can effectively track knowledge gains over time - an invaluable resource to ensure continuous improvement.

Online content as a valuable resource for continuous learning: The extensive range of online content that the School provides has made it remarkably easy for the team at Grimes Finishings Ltd to log in and access specific subjects. This feature has proven beneficial for personal improvement of the team members or when a sustainability-related question arises during a project, enabling them to conduct research through the School's resources and online information

Value gained:

Acquisition & application of knowledge: Although aware of the importance of sustainability in the built environment, Grimes Finishings Ltd had previously found it challenging to fully supporting projects due to a lack of knowledge and expertise. However, their membership with the School has significantly transformed their knowledge base, enabling them to confidently apply the newfound knowledge and emerging expertise to future projects offering sustainable solutions.

Gaining a competitive edge & enhancing reputation: The knowledge and expertise acquired has not only provided Grimes Finishings Ltd with a competitive edge, but also enhanced their reputation among clients. Clients now recognise the tangible benefits of sustainability that the company brings to projects.

Collaboration towards sustainable innovation: Furthermore, Grimes Finishings Ltd has been collaborating with a company that offers a high-tech installation to existing or new buildings. This installation monitors energy performance as well as building and environmental conditions in real time. The knowledge gained from the School has played a significant role in the development of this innovative system, pushing sustainability to a new level.

Future proofing:

As long as the information provided by the School remains up to date with advancements in sustainable solutions, methods, and products, Grimes Finishings Ltd believes that the School has the potential to evolve into a 'one-stop shop' for all necessary sustainable information. As a company, Grimes Finishings Ltd plans to enthusiastically champion and support this continuous evolution over time.