

Challenges:

Cavity Trays Ltd acknowledges the importance of sustainability and believes it forms an essential part of any company framework. It must be embraced throughout all areas of a business. The challenges for them as a business are to encourage and engage their own supply chain, many members of which have limited workers and resources, and struggle with embracing sustainability and other issues affecting businesses today. They will continue to encourage companies with whom they work to join them on their sustainability journey.

Impact:

Technological advancements in manufacturing: At their manufacturing plant in Yeovil, Somerset, Cavity Trays has introduced improvements to their CAD/CAM software program, which enhances efficiency. Cutting jobs can now be configured with more precision, optimizing the cutting processes to save time and reduce material wastage. Machine operating times and energy use have decreased as cutting jobs now operate more efficiently. These optimised cutting processes have also directly reduced scrap and wastage by approximately 17% as a direct result of the improvements.

Sustainable infrastructure & energy management: On the factory roof, Cavity Trays has installed photovoltaic panels. These panels produce electricity that illuminates their buildings and provides power to some of their equipment. The company has also switched much of their electric lighting to energy-efficient LEDs with auto sensors, ensuring they do not operate in areas that are unoccupied. These lights are not only more efficient but also offer better illumination, enhancing work areas.

Water conservation initiatives: Cavity Trays maintains that water should not be wasted, so they have installed water taps that activate automatically when someone washes their hands. These taps have prevented water wastage from taps inadvertently left running. These measures are just a few examples of where they have addressed and improved efficiency and resource wastage.

Long-term engagement with the School: Cavity Trays Ltd has been engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School for several years, seeing it as a valuable resource. Their philosophy revolves around striving for improvement in every area of the business and ensuring a safe working environment where the business, employees, and suppliers can flourish and develop for everyone's mutual benefit. They believe the School is an invaluable source of information that promotes understanding, good working practices, and ethical morals. The company urges its employees to engage with the School to expand their knowledge. Staff have attended School workshops and Barratt/David Wilson supplier days. These sessions have proven

Fact box



Company

Cavity Trays Ltd

No of employees

40

HQ

Yeovil, Somerset

Website

www.cavitytrays.co.uk

Main contact

Simon Dwyer –
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Services

Manufacture and supply of damp-proofing products, cavity trays, roof and wall ventilation, cavity closers and contaminated land products.

About

Cavity Trays Ltd now managed by Cavity Trays (Management) Ltd has approved systems and are the market leaders in this specialized field. The company are the only tray manufacturer awarded European Technical Approval. Cavity Trays Ltd are the longest established specialist in this field.

invaluable, offering significant learning experiences and opportunities to demonstrate commitment to sustainability and other vital areas.

Digital learning & reflective practices: School assessments have allowed Cavity Trays' staff to gauge their level of comprehension and to determine their progress in understanding and personal growth, with the action plans ensuring they remain updated with the latest information and guidelines.

They have found the School's e-learning modules to be engaging and informative. Crucially, they encourage reflection on their practices and highlight areas for potential improvement.

Value gained:

Deeper understanding of sustainability: Since joining and engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School, Cavity Trays has gained a much better understanding of sustainability and how it affects the day-to-day operation of their business. They have recognised the benefits and savings possible when staff engage positively with the School. This is very much an ongoing process, and they hope that by continuing to engage with the School, they will further enhance their understanding, allowing them to make even more positive changes.

Addressing client challenges with advanced technology: In 2022, a new client, Conservation Builders, approached them to inquire about manufacturing and supplying bespoke DPC cavity trays for their innovative, environmentally-friendly timber frame houses. Conservation Builders faced numerous challenges, including waste, inaccuracy, and damages, and found manufacturing their own damp-proofing products to be a very labour-intensive process on site. Aware of Cavity Trays Ltd's capability to design and manufacture bespoke specialist products using the latest CAD/CAM technology, they sought their help. Cavity Trays Ltd was able to design the required products in CAD, ensuring accurate, optimized manufacturing techniques were employed, almost entirely eliminating waste. Conservation Builders were thrilled with the results, and Cavity Trays Ltd continues to supply products to their sites in Dorset and Gloucestershire.

Future proofing:

Cavity Trays Ltd plans to continue its collaboration with the Supply Chain Sustainability School and will actively encourage its suppliers to join the School. These suppliers can also benefit from the resources provided by the school and realise both short and long-term advantages.