

Challenges:



As a manufacturer of environmental products, Viridian Solar believes it is crucial to 'walk the talk.' The company strives to lead by example, ensuring its operations minimise environmental impact.

Viridian Solar recently released two world-first Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for solar panels and solar mounting kits. These EPDs detail the environmental performance of their products from a lifecycle perspective, a concept they grasped more thoroughly after completing an e-module provided by the Supply Chain Sustainability School.

In addition to serving UK customers, Viridian Solar ensures efficient deliveries by dispatching full lorries.

Packaging has been a significant focus for Viridian Solar. The company has eradicated plastic packaging from their roofing kit boxes, substituting a plastic foam protection sheet with a paper-based alternative. This change ensures all packaging enters a single recycling waste stream (paper and cardboard), eliminating the need for waste segregation on-site.

Electricity consumption, especially in their office, posed another challenge. To address this, Viridian Solar installed motion sensor lights and solar panels on their building's roof. They also achieved ISO 450001 certification.

Lastly, Viridian Solar launched the Fusion Forest Programme. For every solar panel purchased, the company commits to planting a tree through their forest restoration charity partners. This initiative has been a source of pride for employees, with over 400,000 trees planted to date.

Impact:



Strategic environmental impact:

Thanks to the School, Viridian Solar has been able to better identify and understand the challenges it faces, recognising the true value of its internal environmental strategy and its impact on current and future operations.

Showcasing sustainability insights: Viridian Solar has been able to actively highlight these sustainability insights to its network of

Fact box



Company

Viridian Solar

No of employees

30-40

HQ

Papworth, Cambridge

Website

www.viridiansolar.com

Main contact

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Services

Manufacturer of roof integrated solar panels.

About

Viridian Solar is a UK-based manufacturer of roof integrated solar panels. Their Clearline Fusion range of photovoltaic (electric) solar panels fit in the roof and take building integration of solar to the next level. The company also have a range of other products which include solar inverters, EV charger and a solar safety product - ArcBox.

customers and suppliers, promoting the exchange of best practices. Environmental Product Declarations and ISO certificates have become pivotal tools for the company, allowing them to track their sustainability progress and present it to potential clients, such as housebuilders.

Assessments: The School's assessments have been instrumental in determining Viridian Solar's starting point, both at the individual employee level and as a collective company, highlighting areas where knowledge enhancement is needed.

Guided learning journey: The action plan generated by the School has been a guiding force for Viridian Solar, enabling them to distribute their learning over several months.

Flexible knowledge modules: The e-learning modules have proven invaluable, offering flexibility around tight schedules. The high-quality content has provided trustworthy knowledge, igniting further interest in the covered subjects.

Value gained:

Employee awareness boost: Viridian Solar's team has enriched their sustainability knowledge through the School, fostering heightened awareness and accountability at the individual employee level. This is evident in initiatives like increased car-sharing participation and a growing sense of pride in their reforestation schemes.

Enhanced customer engagement: Membership with the School has also enhanced the company's customer engagement. More housebuilders are now inquiring about Viridian Solar's environmental and ethical commitments, prompting the company to uphold greater accountability.

Bridging knowledge gaps: Furthermore, recognising challenges, especially with a significant portion of their supply chain based in China, engaging with the School ensures that Viridian Solar remains informed about current practices. This awareness empowers Viridian Solar to bridge knowledge gaps and continually enhance its operations.

Future proofing:

Viridian Solar intends to motivate all employees to engage with the Supply Chain Sustainability School. This involvement encompasses viewing the videos and exploring the online resources on the website. The aim is to deepen their understanding and adaptability regarding sustainable procurement, carbon emission reduction, and enhanced resource efficiency.