

## Challenges:

Due to the nature of the work Birtley Group undertakes in manufacturing, their goal is to provide products that meet customer requirements while also ensuring a minimal environmental impact at the end of the product's life cycle. Consequently, challenges like sourcing raw materials have posed significant obstacles for the company.

However, by exercising diligent vetting processes, Birtley Group has successfully partnered with a robust supply chain. This supply chain not only furnishes the raw materials but also recycles 100% of the company's off-cuts and surplus materials back into the products they need. This collaboration effectively closes the loop in production and significantly reduces waste disposal. For instance, their UPVC supplier delivers profile materials that Birtley Group uses to manufacture door frames. Any off-cuts and particulates from the cutting and forming processes are collected and returned to the supplier for recycling during subsequent profile deliveries.

## Impact:

**Enhanced Material Sourcing:** The Supply Chain Sustainability School has had a profoundly positive impact on how Birtley Group sources its materials and selects its suppliers. Through the online learning modules, they have been prompted to collaborate with suppliers whose values resonate with their own. By consistently applying the principles acquired from the School's online resources throughout all processes, from purchasing to production, Birtley Group has managed to minimize waste and augment its recycling rates. This approach has also revealed more streamlined processes, consequently reducing lead times for their products.

**Employee Engagement Boost:** Birtley Group has engaged employees at all levels with the Supply Chain Sustainability School's comprehensive online resources and learning pathways. This has significantly enhanced their collective understanding of sustainability matters. The resources provided by the School have instrumentally assisted Birtley Group in fostering an enriched company-wide consciousness about sustainability.

**Invaluable Assessment Impact:** Birtley Group has found the assessments to be invaluable. They have provided clarity on areas that needed bolstering in terms of knowledge. The vast scope of topics readily available has greatly facilitated the enhancement of their understanding of various domains pertinent to the business.

**Strategic Action Planning:** The action plan has served as an effective blueprint for the Group, guiding their journey in embedding sustainability as an intrinsic part of business operations. It has presented a clear and objective roadmap for the company to follow.

## Fact box



**Birtley Group**

STRENGTH THROUGH QUALITY

### Company

Birtley Group

### No of employees

290

### HQ

Mary Avenue, Birtley, Chester le street,

### Website

[www.birtleygroup.co.uk](http://www.birtleygroup.co.uk)

### Main contact

[simon.hogg@birtleygroup.co.uk](mailto:simon.hogg@birtleygroup.co.uk)

### Services

Manufacturing and supply of steel lintels of various configurations, wind posts, Composite doors, and fire doors.

### About

Birtley Group, encompassing Birtley Lintels, Birtley Galvanizing, Bowater Doors, and Expamet, collaboratively offers efficient, eco-friendly manufacturing with established products, ensuring market-leading value and exceptional customer service.

**E-learning Module Benefits:** They appreciate the diversity of topics and the ease of access to the School's e-learning modules. The flexibility of the modules has allowed colleagues to progress at a pace that best suits their schedule. It has also enabled the seamless integration of e-learning into daily work routines and facilitated the dissemination of newfound knowledge throughout the business.

### Value gained:

**Streamlined Sustainability Evolution:** By participating in the Supply Chain Sustainability School, Birtley Group has witnessed the evolution of a more streamlined approach to sustainability, spanning purchasing, production, and the supply of raw materials and finished goods. By holistically examining all facets of their processes, from inbound transportation to the final delivery to end users, Birtley Group has achieved significant advancements. The enriched comprehension gained from the School's online resources enabled Birtley Group to refine its sustainability agenda.

Consequently, this not only better positioned the company to satisfy client prerequisites and broader market demands but also paved the way for discernible cost savings. This was achieved by choosing and collaborating with a diverse supply chain comprising companies with similar values. Birtley Group has leveraged its membership in the Supply Chain Sustainability School as a valuable asset, helping to secure new business opportunities by resonating with clients' sustainability priorities.

### Future proofing:

Birtley Group intends to expand its knowledge base by leveraging the School's online resources and further refine its sustainability itinerary. Over the upcoming twelve months, the company aims to pinpoint and train multiple sustainability champions across various departments. Each will be granted access to the School's portal, where they will commence their exploration of the resources that will support their journey.