

Challenges:

Steel sustainability hurdles: Steel is inherently useful because it is strong, durable, flexible, and reusable, and is the most easily recycled material - perfect for a circular economy. However, William Haley Engineering (WHE) faces the question of how to heat their paint shop, power their factory, and transport steel to sites across the country.

Furthermore, the production process and related emissions in steel making pose a very real challenge through air emissions (CO, SO_x, NO_x, PM_{2.5}), wastewater contaminants, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes. As a steel fabricator and user of steel as their primary material, these environmental issues around emission and hazardous waste, although scope 3, fall onto their laps. Transportation of raw materials to the factory and fabricated materials to site is one of their most challenging scope 3 emissions to tackle; with suitable stockholders generally located in the North of England, their factory in the South West and their customers/sites located nationally delivery mileage is an unavoidable issue. Due to the weight of the steel, they are unable to use any electric vehicles within their fleet yet.

Impact:

Sustainable strategy launch: The Supply Chain Sustainability School provides invaluable resources in the form of live webinars, informative videos, and relevant workshops. These have been instrumental in informing the management team about issues surrounding sustainability in the built environment. The team looks forward to launching their sustainability strategy this autumn, utilising resources from the site. The 'Decarbonising Steel: Shaping a Cleaner, Greener Industry – Virtual Conference' was particularly useful as a beginner's guide to how the industry can start decarbonising through technology and innovation.

Engaging workforce sustainability: Engaging with the School has helped place sustainability at the forefront of the company's considerations and enabled them to engage the workforce. It has prompted a survey of staff on their understanding of environmental issues, which aids in forming a plan to further support and educate the team. Staff have provided many valuable ideas for moving the business forward. Thanks to the resources from the Supply Chain Sustainability School, plans are in place to reduce the carbon footprint, such as investing in a biomass boiler to reuse waste wood for heating the paint shop, installing solar panels for on-site electricity, and improving waste segregation.

Benchmarking progress tracking: Being able to benchmark the company's knowledge and capabilities has been useful for tracking progress.

Fact box



Company

William Haley Engineering

No of employees

62

HQ

Bellcombe Works, East Brent.

Website

www.haleyengineering.co.uk

Main contact

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Services

Steel-to-steel connection design and fabrication of steel structures, such as schools, prisons, and hospitals.

About

William Haley Engineering was founded in 1986 and is part of the Haley group, a family-owned business. Employing over 60 people, WHE is one of the largest steel fabricators in the UK, allowing it to take on any job, and its prime location next to the M5 allows it to work all over the country.

User-friendly e-learning: WHE has found the School's e-learning modules to be user-friendly and supportive. The ability to search by keyword and to view the level of difficulty and completion time before starting a module is highly beneficial.

Value gained:

Strategic carbon reduction: As a sub-contractor, William Haley Engineering's clients expect them to understand the impact of carbon and climate change on society and the industry, and to commit to a reduction journey towards net zero. The Supply Chain Sustainability School helps them identify ways their organisation can reduce carbon, in line with their carbon reduction priorities, and increase awareness of their impact on carbon.

All members of the management team at WHE are now members of the School, with specific members working on projects to reduce the company's carbon footprint. They hope to have solar panels installed and generating electricity by the end of the year. Without seriously investing in their pledge to reduce emissions, they risk losing their competitive advantage in the marketplace. Membership of the School has positioned them better to meet client requirements and leave a positive legacy, both in the factory and on each project.

Future proofing:

Going forward, William Haley Engineering plans to introduce the School and its learning resources to the wider workforce, enabling them to access training and skills. The company hopes to see the School broaden their range of general education resources on sustainability, so that companies like William Haley Engineering could use the School as a general training tool for staff.