

Challenges:

A big part of MKM Building Supplies' impact as a business is in the goods supplied and through the supply chain. One major challenge is ensuring that the procurement team has the awareness, skills, and knowledge to understand this impact and take steps to reduce it. Additionally, there is a need to ensure that the relevant teams across the branch network can meet and exceed the needs of customers.

MKM Building Supplies is also addressing the impact of its own operations, aiming to reduce energy and fuel use along with associated carbon emissions. The company is actively working on reducing and effectively dealing with waste. To secure the future workforce, strategies have been developed to attract the next generation of employees. This includes ensuring that business practices and culture evolve to meet the expectations of these recruits.

Impact:

Engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has helped MKM Building Supplies tackle these challenges in several ways. In sustainability assessments completed, the results for the procurement element have been materially better than sector averages. The Supply Chain Sustainability School has been instrumental in identifying gaps in teams' knowledge, allowing for the allocation, tracking, and reporting of progress along defined learning pathways, particularly for areas such as Modern Slavery or Carbon Reduction.

This approach extends to teams in branches, ensuring they continue to meet customer needs and stay abreast of changing legislation, industry trends, or customer requirements, such as Social Impact. The content within the school covering Diversity, Equity & Inclusion has been particularly relevant to MKM's ongoing journey to ensure 'everyone's welcome.'

MKM Building Supplies has been able to use its budget effectively, prioritizing spending on training and development that is more bespoke where needed. For example, utilizing content or modules within the Supply Chain Sustainability School as a first port of call before looking to create or commission its own content.

Fact box



Company

MKM Building Supplies

No of employees

3000+

HQ

Stoneferry Road, Hull

Website

www.mkm.com

Main contact

Rachel Constable

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Services

MKM supplies building materials to the trade and public. From bricks, blocks and cement, timber & joinery, right through to kitchens, bathrooms, landscaping. Plus, plumbing and heating, sustainable building options, and tool hire. Everything the trade needs to get the job done.

About

MKM is the UK's leading independent builders' merchant, offering an extensive range of products and services for trade and retail customers. With a network of over 125 branches right across the UK from Redruth in Cornwall to Inverness in the Scottish Highlands, Llandudno in Wales to Norwich in East Anglia.

Value gained:

By engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School, MKM Building Supplies has enriched its approach to sustainability. The company has accessed and signposted credible and well-researched content, improving knowledge and understanding within its teams and allowing them to meet evolving customer needs. One key benefit is the depth and breadth of the content available. With diverse people, branches, and customers, the varied content and delivery methods provided by the School enable MKM to meet these needs effectively.

Looking ahead, continued involvement with the school promises further insights into emerging sustainability trends, ensuring MKM remains at the forefront of the industry. This proactive stance on sustainability serves as a critical driver for new business opportunities, cost savings through efficient processes, and reduced operational risks, all contributing to MKM Building Supplies' long-term success.

Future proofing:

We hope that the School continues to provide high-quality education, training courses and opportunities to raise industry sustainability standards and educate our teams to ensure we all continue to do the right thing. Merchanting is a specific sector within the supply chain employing tens of thousands of people, and more content aimed at Merchants would be very useful and something MKM Building Supplies would be happy to collaborate on.