

Challenges:

One of the foremost challenges facing the sign-making industry in terms of sustainability lies in the materials utilized for signage production. Traditional signage materials like vinyl, acrylic, and PVC pose significant environmental concerns due to their non-biodegradable nature and reliance on fossil fuels. Finding sustainable alternatives that maintain quality and durability while reducing environmental impact remains a constant hurdle. For instance, sourcing eco-friendly substrates such as recycled aluminium for signage can be challenging due to limited availability and higher costs. Additionally, waste management presents a pressing issue, as sign-making often generates considerable waste in the form of excess materials, offcuts, and obsolete signage. Implementing efficient recycling programs and exploring innovative reuse methods are essential strategies to mitigate this challenge. Moreover, energy consumption during production processes, particularly in fabrication and printing, requires careful consideration to minimize carbon emissions. Investing in energy-efficient equipment and adopting renewable energy sources can help alleviate this strain on the environment. Finally, ensuring ethical sourcing practices for raw materials, such as responsibly sourced non-toxic paints and adhesives, is crucial for upholding sustainability standards throughout the supply chain. Addressing these multifaceted sustainability challenges demands a comprehensive approach, integrating eco-conscious design, responsible sourcing, waste reduction strategies, and energy efficiency initiatives into the core business operations.

Impact:

Tackling sustainability in the sign-making industry can yield several impactful outcomes, both internally within the business and externally in the broader context of environmental conservation and social responsibility.

Internally, embracing sustainability initiatives can lead to improved operational efficiency and cost savings. Implementing measures such as reducing waste, optimizing energy usage, and adopting eco-friendly materials can streamline production processes and minimize resource consumption. For example, transitioning to digital printing technologies can significantly reduce ink and material wastage compared to traditional methods, while also allowing for more precise customization and shorter production runs. Moreover, investing in renewable energy sources like solar panels or energy-efficient equipment can lower utility bills and contribute to long-term financial sustainability.

Externally, the environmental and social impacts of the sign-making industry can be significantly reduced through sustainable practices. By minimizing the use of harmful chemicals and toxic materials in signage production, businesses can mitigate pollution and protect

Fact box



Company

TSC Signs Ltd

No of employees

10

HQ

Burton-on-Trent

Website

www.tsc.uk.net

Main contact

Alison Charlton

Alison.charlton@tsc.uk.net

Services

Sign solutions for the construction industry

About

We have been offering bespoke sign solutions to a range of companies within the construction sector and beyond since 1994. Same-day collection and next-day delivery is available on a vast range of signs in our custom sign section. In addition, many bespoke sign solutions are also available the next working day. We manufacture from our Midlands-based premises using a wide variety of sign-making techniques.

ecosystems. Additionally, implementing responsible sourcing policies ensures that raw materials are ethically sourced, preserving biodiversity and supporting local communities.

Engaging with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has facilitated numerous positive changes within our sign-making business. Firstly, participation in the School provides access to valuable resources, tools, and best practices for implementing sustainable initiatives throughout the supply chain. This includes guidance on ethical sourcing, waste reduction strategies, energy efficiency measures, and other key areas of sustainability. By leveraging these resources, we can enhance our knowledge and capabilities in sustainability management, leading to more effective and impactful initiatives.

Engagement events:

The company, TSC Signs Ltd, has not attended any engagement events yet, but it will be utilizing these resources going forward as it progresses on its sustainability journey.

Resources:

Assessments – TSC Signs Ltd found the Supply Chain Sustainability School assessments to be an invaluable process. By evaluating various aspects of sustainability, such as environmental impact, social responsibility, and ethical sourcing, these assessments provided the company with a comprehensive understanding of their benefits and emphasized areas for improvement.

Action plan – TSC Signs Ltd acknowledges that its action plan has proved to be highly useful. Although not necessarily specific to the sign-making industry, it is guiding the company in implementing targeted strategies to improve sustainability practices, reduce environmental impact, and enhance overall operational efficiency.

E-learning modules – TSC Signs Ltd found the e-learning modules to be extremely useful. They provided accessible and comprehensive training on various aspects of sustainability, empowering employees to deepen their understanding, adopt best practices, and contribute to the company's sustainability goals effectively. The certificates gained from these modules will also be beneficial so that customers can see that the company is proactively working towards a more sustainable future.

Value gained:

As a member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, TSC Signs Ltd has reaped numerous benefits, including access to valuable resources, expertise, and networking opportunities that have bolstered its sustainability efforts. By leveraging the School's educational programs and assessments, the company has enhanced its sustainability performance, reduced costs, mitigated risks, and strengthened relationships with stakeholders. Looking ahead, continued membership will position TSC Signs Ltd at the forefront of sustainable practices, ensuring long-term viability, resilience, and competitiveness in an increasingly environmentally conscious marketplace. Moreover, ongoing engagement with the school will enable the company to stay abreast of emerging trends, regulations, and innovations, fostering continuous improvement and future-proofing its business against sustainability challenges.

Future proofing:

TSC Signs Ltd's future plans with the Supply Chain Sustainability School involve deepening its engagement and leveraging additional resources and opportunities offered by the School. To support the company further, the School could develop more tailored resources and tools specific to the sign-making industry, offer advanced training in emerging sustainability topics, facilitate more networking events and collaborations among members, and provide ongoing support and guidance in implementing sustainable practices.

