

Challenges:

The biggest challenge Roman faces with sustainability is communicating Roman's Circular Economy strategy to the marketplace, as there is no clear standard relating to the use of recycled materials – and sustainable materials generally. Roman will see standards emerge based around end-of-life options – most notably, landfill-only products will face increasing scrutiny and ultimately taxation. Being a British manufacturer, Roman has a huge story regarding its carbon footprint and its use of recycled materials within a circular economy model. This is a massive differential in the marketplace where the vast majority of competitor products are imported boxes from China. Also, as a manufacturer, there are so many different platforms to link Roman's sustainability credentials to – it is difficult to keep track of each one, and many have completely different focus areas and require different information and evidence.

Impact:

It is always useful and interesting to see case studies from the industry and related industries around construction. Roman finds peer-based learning invaluable, and the School has been an interesting platform for related case studies and abstracts. The increasing visibility of the School and the information within the platform will only help Roman further – but moreover, it will benefit the construction industry as a whole. There is a huge chasm of misunderstanding still within the supply chain – and inherent inertia. Roman is fully committed to changing perceptions within the industry, and change and evolution into more sustainable building practices and products are both vital and inevitable.

Value gained:

There are many benefits to Roman being part of the School, which has helped Roman develop its sustainability strategy, progress in key areas, and improve on its targets year on year. The School provides key training and useful links to third parties, offering an abundance of information for the Roman team to learn from and implement into their sustainability strategy. The School also provides a peer group understanding, such as case studies of how certain individuals or companies have undertaken and implemented specific sustainability strategies into their business model. Roman can learn from these examples and gain ideas for its own sustainability journey. While Roman is a long way down its sustainability journey, the Roman team fully understands that there is no monopoly of knowledge – and they are in a rapidly evolving environment in so many ways.

Fact box



Company

Roman

No of employees

250

HQ

Newton Aycliffe, County Durham

Website

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Main contact

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Services

UK Manufacturer of Shower Enclosures, Bath Screens, Wet room Panels, Shower Trays, Bathroom Furniture, Basins, Vanity Units, and the Bathroom Structures.

About

Roman has been designing and manufacturing showering solutions for nearly 40 years and is home to the UK's largest shower manufacturing plant. All Roman products are designed and created in Britain, offering the ultimate in quality, precision and craftsmanship. Roman's diverse and versatile collection of products encompasses something for every style and shape bathroom – no matter what the budget.

Future proofing:

Roman will stay engaged with the School and participate in all modules and relevant programs. The School should continue to develop and produce training guides on the most up-to-date sustainability developments for Roman to learn from and know how best to implement them into their business strategy. Hopefully, the school will continue to provide third-party links to useful guidance and information – this is ideal as it is all in one place for Roman to access and refer to as and when necessary. Roman would like to develop much greater engagement and involvement as they have established clear leadership and best practice within the sector.