

Challenges:

At Riverside Building Supplies, the most significant sustainability challenges lie in material sourcing, waste management, and transportation emissions. Sourcing sustainable timber without compromising on quality or cost has been particularly difficult, with supply chain disruptions and market fluctuations adding further complexity. While efforts are made to work with certified suppliers, consistency remains an issue.

Waste from milling, such as offcuts, packaging, and damaged goods, continues to contribute to landfill, despite ongoing recycling initiatives. Transport also poses a challenge, with deliveries of heavy materials to distant sites increasing fuel consumption and carbon emissions, especially as diesel vehicles are still in use. Although route optimisation and low-emission options are being explored, infrastructure and cost remain barriers. Balancing operational demands with sustainable practices is an ongoing task that requires continual investment and innovation.

Impact:

Tackling these challenges has resulted in meaningful operational improvements at Riverside Building Supplies. Stronger relationships with certified, responsible suppliers have led to more ethical and consistent procurement. Waste reduction initiatives have lowered disposal costs and improved cleanliness and safety across sites. Although the transition to lower-emission vehicles is ongoing, route optimisation has already reduced fuel usage and delivery times.

Engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has played a key role in these developments. Its training resources and tools have increased sustainability awareness across the team, encouraging staff to take ownership of goals. The School's workshops have provided practical, cost-effective strategies, helping Riverside embed sustainability into procurement and logistics planning for long-term environmental and reputational benefit.

Value gained:

The School's assessment process has proven very useful, offering a structured framework to identify gaps and prioritise action. It has supported benchmarking, informed decision-making, and facilitated targeted action planning, enabling the business to track progress and maintain focus on sustainability objectives.

The action plan has provided clear direction and remains a vital reference point for continuous improvement. It has helped improve efficiency, reduce costs, and strengthen the company's overall sustainability culture.

The e-learning modules have delivered flexible, accessible training for staff at all levels. Covering topics such as responsible sourcing and carbon reduction, the content has been practical and immediately applicable. This has led to better understanding, stronger engagement, and more informed decision-

Fact box



Company

Riverside Building Supplies Ltd

No of employees

22

HQ

Riverside House, Hall Road,
Heybridge, CM9 4NF

Website

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Main contact

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Services

Sales of Timber & Sheets Materials,
supplying trade and retail
customers.

About

Riverside Building Supplies is a medium sized business that primarily sells timber and sheet materials. Founded in 2001, Riverside has become a main supplier for many home construction companies, and is committed to sustainable, safe and effective practices.

making throughout the business. The modules continue to support the company's commitment to embedding sustainability into day-to-day operations.

Future proofing:

Riverside Building Supplies plans to continue using the Supply Chain Sustainability School's resources to upskill the team and embed sustainability across all areas of the business. With a clear goal of achieving Gold membership and becoming an ambassador for the School, the company is committed to leading by example within the sector.

Continued membership will help Riverside stay informed on industry developments, meet evolving compliance requirements, and strengthen its reputation as a responsible and forward-thinking supplier. The School's tools will remain central to the company's long-term sustainability strategy—supporting continuous improvement, enhancing competitiveness in tenders, and embedding a culture of sustainability throughout the organisation.