

Challenges:

Within this sector, there is a growing demand for measured emissions alongside clear strategies for reduction. This presents a significant challenge when combined with skills shortages and economic pressures in a challenging market.

Key sustainability challenges for Wade Building Services Limited include the measurement of carbon emissions, setting realistic reduction targets, managing investment and upfront costs against return on investment, and addressing skills gaps. Financial constraints remain a major barrier to change. Planned investments such as solar photovoltaic installation, battery electric vehicles and upgrades to plant and vans are often difficult to justify due to high capital costs and longer payback periods. In a low margin market with shorter planning horizons, these investments can present considerable risk, making it challenging to build a strong business case.

Impact:

Wade Building Services Limited has already taken several early steps to improve sustainability performance, including the installation of LED lighting across site, implementation of route planning and optimisation software, adoption of a sign on glass proof of delivery system to reduce paper usage, transition of company cars to battery electric vehicles, optimisation of waste management processes and increased use of remote working. Operating with a small team and limited capacity means that complex sustainability initiatives often compete with day to day operational priorities. Additionally, some of the required skills to measure and manage sustainability projects are not always available internally.

Engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has helped address these gaps by providing accessible learning resources, supporting knowledge development and enabling the organisation to better understand and manage sustainability challenges.

Value gained:

Membership of the Supply Chain Sustainability School has helped Wade Building Services Limited recognise that many sustainability challenges are shared across the SME sector, providing confidence to continue progressing with Net Zero planning. Access to the School's resources has improved understanding of key challenges, potential solutions and the wider business benefits of reducing carbon emissions.

There is increasing uptake of the Supply Chain Sustainability School across the industry, and

Fact box



Company

Wade Building Services Limited

No of employees

53

HQ

Groveland Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7TN

Website

<https://www.wadebuildingsupplies.co.uk/>

Main contact

Gerard Dickinson

Services

Supply of lintels, temporary site fencing and site supplies

About

Founded in 1908, Wade Building Services Limited has evolved into a leading national supplier of lintels, temporary site fencing and site supplies. Operating from a three acre site in Tipton, the organisation runs a fleet of 20 delivery vehicles, supplying national and regional housebuilders, developers, builders merchants, independent tradespeople and the general public.

engagement is becoming a growing requirement within client expectations. As a result, membership supports both compliance and competitiveness, positioning the organisation more effectively within the market.

Future proofing:

Wade Building Services Limited plans to continue using the Supply Chain Sustainability School to raise awareness and educate colleagues on sustainability topics. The resources provide valuable learning opportunities to broaden understanding and explore new areas. The organisation is likely to incorporate the School into staff personal development plans to support ongoing knowledge growth.