

## Challenges:

As an electrical switchgear manufacturing company, Armah Switchgear Ltd faces sustainability challenges across the entire lifecycle of its products, from raw materials and production through to use and disposal.

The organisation's biggest challenges fall under several key categories. Supply chain management remains a significant issue, as almost all raw and component materials originate from a global supply chain. Although Armah Switchgear Ltd purchases through local suppliers where possible, the carbon footprint associated with sourcing materials globally is substantial. It is also difficult to obtain reliable sustainability data for the thousands of small components used within products. Transparency across global supply chains can also be limited, particularly regarding the ethical sourcing of mass-produced components from countries such as India, China and Mexico.

Material availability presents further challenges, particularly with scarce resources such as copper, silver and specialist semiconductors. Geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts from mining, finite reserves and global stockpiling continue to affect costs and availability.

Although manufacturing processes produce no toxins into the air, transportation of goods and labour across the UK contributes significantly to CO2 emissions. To reduce this impact, Armah Switchgear Ltd now aims to use shared transport loads wherever possible, both internally and externally.

## Impact:

Although Armah Switchgear Ltd continues to face challenges in embracing sustainability and tackling the issues faced by the business, engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School through webinars, assessments and targeted action plans has supported meaningful progress in reducing environmental impact.

The Supply Chain Sustainability School's resources on supply chain management and modern slavery have greatly assisted conversations with suppliers. This provided up-to-date information on legislation and gave the organisation the confidence to deliver further training to staff on identifying signs of modern slavery. Armah Switchgear Ltd also implemented a whistleblowing policy and introduced guidance on raising concerns, not only within the business itself but also across the wider construction site environment.

## Value gained:

Being a member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School has inspired Armah Switchgear Ltd to become more sustainable across all areas of the business. This commitment begins within the

## Fact box



**ARMAH**  
SWITCHGEAR LTD

### Company

Armah Switchgear Ltd

### No of employees

64

### HQ

Washington, Tyne and Wear

### Website

[www.armah.co.uk](http://www.armah.co.uk)

### Main contact

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### Services

LV/HV electrical switchgear

### About

*Armah Switchgear Ltd specialises in the design, manufacture and provision of electrical switchgear and distribution systems for commercial and industrial applications.*

workplace itself, with the organisation operating from a BREEAM Excellent premises, contributing to reduced CO2 emissions while also improving staff wellbeing and overall happiness at work.

Membership has also placed Armah Switchgear Ltd in a stronger position to meet client sustainability requirements and contractual KPIs. Participation in webinars with multinational contractors and clients has provided valuable insight into the sustainability priorities that are most important across the industry, helping the organisation better align its approach with client expectations.

## **Future proofing:**

Armah Switchgear Ltd intends to continue working closely with the Supply Chain Sustainability School for the benefit of the business, its supply chain and its clients. The organisation aims to become the leading and most sustainable switchgear SME in the Northeast of England and relies on the guidance provided by the Supply Chain Sustainability School to support this ambition. Following participation in a webinar, Armah Switchgear Ltd has recently registered with the SBTi, and its next steps involve defining carbon reduction targets and developing a carbon reduction plan.