

Challenges:

STEICO SE has, since its foundation, endorsed an ecological policy of forest preservation and sustainable use of timber, excluding supply from controversial sources. For the UK market, STEICO sources timber exclusively from Polish state-controlled FSC/PEFC certified forests. The demand for Polish timber has increased significantly due to heightened interest from global buyers, sparked by the war in Ukraine and the ban on timber sourcing from Russia. STEICO maintains strict oversight within its supply chain to ensure that the timber supplied aligns with its environmental commitments.

Given the recent rise in gas and electricity costs, STEICO's investments in energy-saving initiatives, solar PV electricity generation, and combined-heat-and-power plants have reduced the company's dependency on external energy supply and lowered its carbon footprint. The fluctuating costs and reliable supply of materials and energy are among the biggest challenges faced by manufacturers across all sectors today.

For the past few years, STEICO has produced in-house sustainability reports that are published on its website [Available to download here: <https://www.steico.com/en/about-steico/sustainability>]. These reports have been instrumental in identifying areas within the company where improvements can be made. The data has also facilitated the creation of comprehensive lifecycle Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for STEICO's products.

Sustainability at STEICO now encompasses more than just the environmental impacts of production and use; it also includes considerations of social justice and governance within the company's procedures. Customers increasingly demand detailed information and in-depth analysis of STEICO's company structure, supply chains, packaging, energy use, employee demographics, and ethical policies.

Impact:

The resources available from the School will help STEICO SE understand and meet customer expectations regarding its policies on social, economic, and environmental topics. The company also aims to gain insights into the decisions being made by the construction industry to address climate change and meet responsible sourcing obligations. Ideally, this knowledge will enable STEICO to identify trends and new business opportunities.

As the content of the School expands, it will become a valuable CPD (Continuing Professional Development) tool, enhancing the knowledge base of STEICO's staff.

Engagement events:

Fact box



Company

STEICO SE

No of employees

As of 2021, 2008 throughout the UK & EU

HQ

Feldkirchen, Germany

Website

www.steico.com

Main contact

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Services

STEICO is a global leader in natural wood fibre insulation and ecological construction products, including I-joists and LVL for residential and commercial markets. We actively promote sustainable, carbon-reducing solutions among architects and specifiers, supporting initiatives for healthier buildings and collaborating with organizations like the School to advance sustainability in construction.

About

During its 35 years of production, STEICO has positioned itself as a system provider for ecological house building and innovation. We have production facilities in Poland and France and all our timber is sourced from within the EU via PEFC & FSC certified forests. We also offer an integrated timber construction system that complements our natural insulation materials and structural components.

As an example, STEICO SE attended a School webinar titled 'Challenges in the Retrofit Materials Supply Chain'. The session was well-presented and informative, featuring contributions from a guest speaker from STARK Building Materials UK Ltd. SCSS webinars utilize a real-time voting system from Menti.com, which enhances engagement and provides an overview of the thoughts and motives of other attendees. This interactive approach has been successfully implemented in several webinars and has proven effective.

Sessions like these, which allow attendees to share experiences and advice via the chat function, are highly valuable for STEICO. They provide insights into the direction of retrofitting efforts, which is an important potential market for their products. STEICO hopes that webinar recordings can be posted on the website for those unable to attend live.

For STEICO, the inclusion of retrofitting topics in the School's webinars represents a significant advancement. The company looks forward to more discussions on Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and materials selection, increased dissemination of information on less conventional construction products, and practical advice for companies exploring innovative approaches to construction and renovation. STEICO is eager to contribute to these discussions in the future.

Resources:

Assessments – The assessments are straightforward, easy to understand and complete.

Action Plan – Too soon to say, but STEICO SE are hoping to tailor this to our needs

E-learning modules - STEICO SE has primarily covered familiar ground in its exploration of resources. Currently, the available resources are biased towards construction and building companies rather than manufacturing and sales. As a result, STEICO is actively seeking subjects that can help address knowledge gaps specific to its areas of involvement. The company has found information on modern slavery and retrofit to be particularly useful so far.

Value gained:

By joining the School, STEICO SE will be better positioned to meet customer requirements, understand future challenges, and maintain its leadership in environmental and social awareness. Customers increasingly seek detailed information about the company's environmental and social practices, and membership in SCSS signifies a commitment to improving responses and enhancing reputation within the construction sector.

On the commercial front, STEICO aims to gain insights into the materials and construction choices being made by other companies. Looking ahead, the company intends to provide information on modern, sustainable alternatives that may have been previously overlooked due to misconceptions about higher costs. Properly utilized, these alternatives can streamline construction processes, enhance build quality, and reduce points of failure compared to traditional methods—a critical consideration amid the current UK construction skills shortage.

Joining the School reflects STEICO's intent and dedication to staying informed about environmental, social, and legislative challenges that will shape its future direction.

Future proofing:

STEICO SE aims to achieve gold membership to meet customer requirements. Over time, the company also seeks to contribute information and materials that educate others about modern, natural building components and construction methods.

