

Challenges:

As a manufacturer of stainless-steel structural building components, ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd faces several challenges relating to sustainability within its operations.

One key issue is energy consumption. The significant investment in automation has led to increased energy demands. To address this, the company has implemented on-site renewable energy solutions, including over 1,000 solar panels that now generate approximately one-third of its total energy needs. The company is researching further investments in renewable energy to continue reducing its carbon footprint.

Packaging and distribution also present challenges, particularly due to the need to ensure the safety and stability of its products during transit. Currently, ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd relies on polythene shrink wrap but is actively exploring alternative solutions to eliminate single-use plastics and begin to close the loop.

Impact:

Engagement events:

Attending various webinars has been highly beneficial for ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd in broadening its knowledge beyond its own operations and learning from the solutions presented by peers within the industry. It is encouraging to see so much innovation and collaboration happening in the sustainability space.

Resources:

Assessments – The assessments are a fantastic way for ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd to benchmark its knowledge against the wider industry and identify areas that require more focus and learning. They have been instrumental in highlighting knowledge gaps, such as in biodiversity, an area that has traditionally not been a focus but could present an opportunity to make a tangible difference through collaboration on projects.

Action Plan – The action plan is an excellent tool because it compiles all the most important information for each topic identified during the assessment, making it easy for the company to dive into focused and effective learning. It helps quickly access the resources needed to address specific areas of improvement.

Value gained:

The School provides great value to its members, and for ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd, it enhances the understanding of the sustainability drivers and needs of our clients. The resources available, such as webinars, e-learning modules, and in-person events, help identify the key topics and priorities within our clients' sustainability strategies. The assessment tool further enables

Fact box



Company

ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd

No of employees

120

HQ

Innovation Way, Cross Green, Leeds

Website

<https://acsstainless.co.uk/>

Main contact

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Services

We design and manufacture structural building components for modern day buildings.

About

Grown from a small family business to becoming industry leaders we're proud to work with the UK's biggest developers and leading architectural practices to deliver exceptional buildings all over the country and beyond.

benchmarking our knowledge against industry standards, highlighting areas for improvement and ensuring we are well-equipped to meet our clients' evolving sustainability demands. A recent example of this is Social Value, a topic discovered through the School, which has since become a key focus of our long-term sustainability strategy as we work to measure and continuously improve our impact on people.

Future proofing:

To better support its sustainability journey, ACS Stainless Steel Fixings Ltd suggests that the School continue working to simplify the process of measuring and reporting key metrics, such as carbon footprint, product Life Cycle Assessments, and Social Value. For SMEs like ours, the time and resources required for reporting can often hinder the ability to take immediate action and make a tangible difference.