

Challenges:



Being a provider of specialist engineering services to the UK transport infrastructure network, our operations, by their nature, impact upon the natural environment and the communities in which

we work and present a specific set of challenges for sustainable development. Built infrastructure, for example, represents a major contributor to global carbon emissions through its operational use, but also the embodied carbon associated with material extraction, manufacture, transport and disposal. Owing to engineering design requirements and the specialist nature of our operations, however, there can often be limited scope to procure alternative low-embodied carbon materials and reduce our embodied carbon impacts. Likewise, the scope to reduce our fleet fuel consumption is limited by the transient and geographically spread nature of our projects and the need for a specialist workforce, which has been exacerbated by necessarily limiting vehicle sharing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led us to devise a comprehensive approach to managing our carbon impacts, by driving reduced energy demands alongside improved energy efficiency, including continued fleet upgrades to the highest Euro Emission Standards, to support our aim of becoming net zero by 2040.

Impact:

Dyer & Butler joined the Supply Chain Sustainability School in 2016 and our membership with the School has allowed our people to benchmark their understanding of sustainability within the built environment sector and access individually tailored industry best practice tools and training to improve their competencies. This, in turn, has allowed us to benchmark and compare our sustainability competencies, specific to individual topics, with other School members and within the wider sector and access bespoke training to continually improve our sustainability performance.

Training Workshops – Since joining, we have attended 58 events run by the School, including webinars, supplier training and workshops which we were able to prioritise and target to align with the aims and objectives devised under our Environment Strategy. This includes training on biodiversity net gain, achieving net zero, social value and waste and resource efficiency which has allowed us to drive improved

Fact box



Company

Dyer & Butler

No of employees

600+

HQ

Nursling, Southampton

Website

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Services

Multi-disciplined civil engineering services

About

Since 1979, Dyer & Butler has delivered multi-disciplined civil engineering services in the public and private realm, specialising in essential infrastructure services to the UK transport sector. Dyer & Butler has a turnover of circa £180m and directly employ a workforce of over 600 full time employees who deliver complex projects in safety critical environments.

understanding among our people and engage with industry best practice tools and innovative technology, but also provide a space for shared learning within the sector.

E-learning Modules – Our membership with the School has seen our people access 251 resources and undertake over 162 hours of CPD accredited e-learning resources among a wide range of roles, including Project Managers, Directors, Contracts Managers, SHEQ and Procurement. These provide informative and interactive training that our people can undertake in their own time, filter based on their competency and according to their role and responsibilities, but also gain evidence for CPD that can be used for professional accreditations.

Assessment & Bespoke Training - Assessments have allowed us to assess and benchmark our current understanding of sustainability topics, both at a company and employee level, which has allowed us to identify strengths and weaknesses in our understanding.

From this, we could access a bespoke action plan with tailored resources to focus our learning and re-assess to track our improvements. Undertaking the self-reflective assessments is a collaborative process and provides an opportunity to re-focus our sustainability priorities across our operations.



Value gained:

Dyer & Butler’s membership with the School has brought value to our business through:

Improved Competency: Membership with the School provides access to bespoke learning resources and industry best practice and innovation. This has brought value through measurable increased awareness and understanding of sustainability issues which is translated into our operations through aligning our procedures and policies to best practice and improving our sustainability performance.

Increased Competitive Advantage: Bettering our understanding of sustainable practices play an important role in our long-term competitive advantage by aligning with the increased demand for sustainable development from clients and the public. Practices such as lean and resource efficiency also have direct economic benefits, in addition to the broader economic benefits from creating social value and increasing our resilience to the impacts and risks of climate change. By following industry best practice and engaging with innovations in sustainable practices, we are also able to stay ahead of, and be adaptable, to industry changes.

Improved Reputation: Sustainability and corporate responsibility has increasingly become a priority for our clients, but also within the industry as a whole and the general public. Our sustainability performance and commitment to responsible business practices is therefore subject to increased scrutiny, particularly for our operations within the public sector, and is increasingly important for promoting better commercial outcomes.

Understanding Client Requirements: Our participation in webinars and workshops through the School with our clients and other member organisations provides us with a better understanding of the aims and values of our clients for sustainability and allows us to support and engage collaboratively with our clients accordingly.

Future Proofing:

Going forward, Dyer & Butler hopes to continue its engagement with the School and increase the uptake of its resources by our people across a wider profile of roles, but also promote the use of the School within our supply chain so as to continue to drive sustainability within the wider industry.