

Challenges:

CBES understands the potential impact its undertakings and activities have on the environment. Being a sustainable and ethical organisation is fundamental to delivering its services.

At a high level, some of the biggest challenges the company has faced around sustainability are establishing and understanding its roadmap and realising its net-zero ambition.

The company found it challenging to define its sustainability strategy, make meaningful inroads and, in particular, define carbon emissions and footprint from a baseline year. Utilising and establishing this datum have helped the company understand the key areas within their relevant 'scoped' activities. In turn, this has allowed them to prioritise effort where it would be most effective and ensure a targeted carbon reduction policy and strategy for their top 3 emitting areas: fleet fuel usage, on-site fuel usage and business travel.

With the above in mind, the company reports annually on their scope 1, 2 and partial scope 3 emissions. CBES understands that things are at an early stage; however, they believe they are well on the path to reducing their emissions against long and short-term targets.

Impact:

The main impact of tackling these challenges is that CBES now has an improved view of their carbon emissions via carbon reporting, which has helped shape their strategy and develop a coherent carbon reduction plan against their relevant 'in scope' activities.

Increased confidence: CBES believes that access to the School and its numerous resources have helped them shape their thinking, direction, and pathway to achieving net-zero. The company believes that the School has also given them the confidence they need in their approach through the opportunity to listen to other case studies from different organisations and learn how they have faced the same challenges and overcome them.

Networking opportunities: CBES has attended various events, including face-to-face events hosted by partners, webinars and e-learning sessions covering topics ranging from waste management and net-zero to biodiversity. As a business, they have found these events to be immensely valuable. CBES has discovered that the range of topics available to progress individual learning and enhance CPD is considerable, not just concerning sustainability but with helpful materials on wider management, ethics and employment subject areas.

Fact box



Company

CBES Ltd

No of employees

710

HQ

Caledonia House, Glasgow

Website

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

Main contact

Duncan McNicol,
 duncan.mcnicol@city-
 holdings.co.uk

Services

Construction and FM activities
 to various industries

About

CBES offer a wide range of multi-disciplined excellence in construction and engineering services across the UK. The company's approach combines industry expertise and specialisations to deliver an outstanding service to its customers.

CBES has discovered the hosted partner days are a valuable opportunity to benchmark and network with other organisations and get a flavour of what they need to consider in the future to progress their development in sustainability.

Consolidation of knowledge: CBES has undertaken several assessments since becoming a member. The company has found it an excellent resource for both consolidating their thinking and knowledge in given areas and highlighting topics where they need to enhance or progress their knowledge, thus assisting them to focus further on specific topic areas.

Identifying knowledge gaps: As a business, CBES has found the action plans particularly beneficial in closing identified knowledge gaps. The company has seen that the route maps via access to webinars and weblinks are easy to follow and provide a great pathway to building knowledge.

Practical and flexible learning: Accessing the e-learning modules has been highly beneficial for CBES. The company considers the flexibility and quality of the available resources as making the modules particularly practical. The company has found that the e-learning modules help to programme learning time against the level of prior understanding. The company has also noted that categorising the e-learning modules by competency (e.g. beginner, advanced and expert) easily allows the learner to target the resource better.

Value gained:

Better understanding of sustainability: Before becoming members of the School, CBES had a limited perception of sustainability. The same was true of their customer base. However, since joining the School, CBES now has a broader understanding of sustainability and, at every opportunity, promotes the School as a valuable educational resource within its own value chain. This, in turn, enhances its standing as a member. The company does this regularly via their supply chain days, contractor workshops and customer presentations.

Regarding the future value of membership, CBES sees excellent prospects in enhancing collaboration opportunities. CBES believes that there will be chances to both learn from members who are further down the line in their understanding of good sustainability practices and provide similar support or share knowledge with companies who are just starting their journey.

Future proofing:

CBES's plans regarding the School include enhancing its membership standing, further expanding the resource as a knowledge pool within their own business and utilising the School as an educational tool to understand their value chain's carbon emissions whilst realising their net-zero ambitions. They also intend to use the resources to upskill their supply chain to understand environmental and sustainability subject areas further.