

Challenges:

Paul McConnell, HSEQ Manager at Border Steelwork Structures, is responsible for driving the sustainability programme within the company.



When the company reviewed all areas, it decided that its greatest sustainability challenges were the ISO14001, supply chain reviews and waste from construction sites.

ISO14001: In showing that Border Steelwork Structures is serious about

its environmental improvement commitments, Paul McConnell, the HSEQ Manager, was tasked to deliver the ISO14001, alongside ISO9001 and ISO45001. This would give the company a framework to implement, ensure continual improvements and show compliance through external auditing of the system(s).

Supply chain: Gathering insightful data that the company could use to review performance was a crucial part of reviewing Border Steelwork Structures' supply chain. Although standard supplier questionnaires were available, the company wanted to ensure the information was valuable to both parties and led to future improvements.

Waste from sites: Excess waste from sites was being transported back to the Head Office for storage or disposal, resulting in waste goods being moved hundreds of miles for disposal.

Impact:

ISO14001: Due to Border Steelwork Structures utilising the "How ISO14001 can help your business grow" and other training resources from the Supply Chain Sustainability School, it was possible for the company to roll out independent information and training on how this could help the business and teams grow. With the help of the training and guidance offered by the School, it was possible to gain buy-in from all areas of the company and progress to the external audit(s).

Supply chain: By using the School's training modules, videos and experience, Paul McConnell and the BSS team have created a new supplier evaluation focused on essential information that is more relevant to the aims of both parties and keeps information gathering as efficient as possible. This has led to a new evaluation system which highlights any red flags, areas for improvement, and information-sharing opportunities.

Site Waste: The School's modules on lean, construction and waste have assisted Border Steelwork Structures in thoroughly reviewing its current process on how waste is recycled and has helped the company become more streamlined with its approach. Lists were created of items to be brought back and others to be recycled on-

Fact box



Steelwork & Cladding Contractors

Company

Border Steelwork Structures Ltd

No of employees

47

HQ

Carlisle, Cumbria

Website

www.bordersteelwork.co.uk

Main contact

Paul McConnell,
Paul@bordersteelwork.co.uk

Services

Design, fabrication, and construction of steel framed buildings, cladding and rainwater systems.

About

Founded in 1978, Border Steelwork Structures are focused on the high-specification designing, fabricating and construction of steel-framed buildings. The company has recently moved premises to a more efficient facility that can enable growth, which aligns with the company's growth plans of nearly doubling turnover over the next 3-5 years.

site. This resulted in recycling more items locally and not transporting them throughout the UK to then be disposed of.

Clear and well-run training: Staff from Border Steelwork Structures have attended School webinars such as 'Demystifying BIM'. The company found these to be very well run, with clear messages which stayed on track and were relevant to the subject.

Benchmarking: Border Steelwork Structures considers the action plans to be one of the best parts of the School. The company has liked having the ability to benchmark results against the rest of the School and specific industries easily. Border Steelwork Structures has also reported that the School action plans give more weight to the improvements needed or good work already done within the business.

Upskilling team members: With Border Steelwork Structures being a construction company with team members throughout the UK, training has long been an issue for the company. Using the School e-learning modules, the company can now efficiently complete training and easily pass on relevant information. This has meant that team members throughout the UK are up to date with current issues and can assist with any improvements needed.

Value gained:

More efficient processes & enhanced reputation: Border Steelwork Structures has reported that being a part of the School has benefitted the company by allowing them to score their current processes and get tailored improvement plans to increase knowledge and process efficiency throughout the company. Border Steelwork Structures has increased its reputation by advertising its status through social media and other specific communications to its clients.

Increased competitive advantage: As issues pertaining to the environment steadily gain more importance, carbon footprinting and tracking are becoming more prominent. Border Steelwork Structures are seeing a shift in Pre-Qualifying Questionnaires in that more questions are being asked about what the company is doing to help. Being able to say Border Steelwork Structures is part of the Supply Chain Sustainability School gives the company a clear edge over other suppliers, which provides the company with prime positions to win more tenders.

Future proofing:

Border Steelwork Structures' plan for their future membership of the School is to utilise the School in its current areas of focus, and once plans are implemented, the company will move on to other areas of focus.