



Sustainability Bulletin 2024



A message from our Managing Director

"Covers Timber and Builders' Merchant are committed to conducting our business, whilst reducing our impact on the environment, community and society. We recognise there are many challenges within the construction sector, from our supply chain to reducing the carbon footprint of delivering materials.

Nevertheless, throughout this bulletin, we outline to our stakeholders the strategies we have undertaken and the work done to improve and reduce our impact. Lots has been achieved, but there is more to be done."

Henry Green ~ Managing Director



What some of our suppliers are doing...

Although not entirely under our control, we actively support and collaborate with our suppliers to foster a more sustainable supply chain. Below are a few initiatives our suppliers have done.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY FOR TIMBER



At Covers we continue to increase our stocks of Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C006044), and PEFC™ certified BMT-PEFC-0086, timber based products sourced from independently audited forests. Covers is externally audited annually by BM TRADA to ensure compliance with the above certifications. All our softwood is sold as a minimum of 70% FSC® or PEFC certified and all of our global timber and timber based material suppliers are required to only provide us with legal material in accordance with United Kingdom Timber Regulations (UKTR) 2021.

TIMBER SOURCING

We avoid purchasing timber from species which are threatened by extinction (CITES listed) and from countries where there is a high risk of illegal harvesting.

We collect supplier and product information to satisfy UKTR (UK Timber Regulations) and reduce the risk of illegal timber entering our supply.

We are increasing our stocks of certified material (PEFC™ & FSC®), where suppliers can prove the timber is from well managed forests.



At A Glance



#1 NEW DEPOTS
All new depots are fitted with high specification insulation to achieve a greater level of thermal performance.



#2 ENERGY EFFICIENT
Our kitchen showroom at our Head Office in Chichester is heated using air-source heat pumps, an extremely efficient heating method.



#3 STAFF
We actively encourage our staff to identify areas where energy is being used inefficiently and to work together to identify the most beneficial solution.



#4 NET ZERO
We are committed to working towards a Net Zero Carbon future. However, rather than producing pages and pages of ESG strategies and documents, we get on and do the things that we can do, invest where we can and get some traction to reduce our output.

CARBON STORING

We have started sharing the details of the carbon embedded in our timber products. Building with timber can help capture carbon in the structure of the building and with so many new timbers to choose from that can only be a good thing.

Our new timber products include thermo modified timber to a whole new level of stability and durability!

Carbon-emitting +	
Aluminium	+ 29 396 kg CO ₂
Steel	+ 17 964 kg CO ₂
Hard plastics	+ 5 444 kg CO ₂
Concrete	+ 436 kg CO ₂

Per m³ equivalent

- Carbon-storing	
- 607 kg CO ₂	ayous
- 684 kg CO ₂	poplar
- 715 kg CO ₂	spruce
- 824 kg CO ₂	pine
- 871 kg CO ₂	fraké
- 1 073 kg CO ₂	ash

Per m³ equivalent

Covers Eco Energy Centre

Situated at our Head Office in Chichester, West Sussex

OPENED IN 2007
South-East's first Eco centre

LATEST TECHNOLOGY
For your home & garden



ECO ADVISORS
Our staff have been trained to help the trade & public

100'S
Of eco-products from leading suppliers

"We are committed to continuing the growth seen in this sector. Through increased advertising and education, we hope to have a significant impact on the energy efficiency of the housing stock in our region"

Graeme Clements ~ Sustainable Product Manager

BULK BAGS & MINI BAGS



Made with 30% recycled plastic

CEMENT BAGS



96% less plastic content (86g less) per bag than 5 years ago

CEMENT SUPPLIER



Hanson are committed to becoming carbon zero by 2050 and is currently working towards capturing 800,000 tonne of CO₂ annually by 2030.

WASTE MANAGEMENT



91% RECYCLED.
DIRECT CARBON SAVING OVER 400 TONS PA.
Working with our partner Biffapack we are both registered members and fully compliant with our obligations in relation to packaging waste regulation

Towards 2025 and Beyond...

INTERCOMPANY HAULAGE

We are reliant on local electricity network providers enhancing capacity to our Quarry Lane, Chichester HQ site. The truck industry is fast producing electric HGV articulated trucks that go from A to B and can maintain an acceptable payload.

Covers hope, with ample charging capability, to be able to invest in our inter depot trucks to be electrified by 2030.



SOLAR

We continue to invest in solar solutions but are in some locations, restricted by the local networks ability to take feed in from solar power.

A further 476kW system of solar panels were installed during 2023/24 across the group

717 TONNES OF CO₂ SAVED!
Due to generating on average 1.315Mwh per annum



COMPANY CARS

Whilst all cars are already EV and Hybrid, with improved charging software, we aim to reduce the Hybrid fleet.

49 ELECTRIC MODELS IN OPERATION

OUR CAR FLEET WILL BE 100% EV BY 2029

25 HYBRID MODELS IN OPERATION



ONSITE MECHANICAL HANDLING

We continue to invest in the electric handling plant for the group and are confident that by 2030, the entire fleet of forklifts will be fully electric.

36% OF OUR HANDLING PLANT IS ELECTRIC



Challenges we face...

SOLAR

While we are actively investing in additional solar generation, our efforts are hindered by the limitations of the local power network infrastructure. Until upgrade works are undertaken in the area, we are limited in our ability to generate more sustainable energy.



HGV FLEET

Our delivery fleet, including LGVs, intercompany vehicles, and small delivery vehicles, will face challenges in transitioning to low carbon solutions, such as electric or hydrogen. This is due to limitations in battery powered vehicles carrying sufficient payload and the necessary infrastructure.

We are actively investigating alternative diesel options and will switch to alternatives when feasible, but this may not be possible until the government target of 2040.

