



Shortlist and Voting for the UKUPC Procurement Awards 2023

Three organisations have been shortlisted for the following UKUPC procurement awards to be presented at the UKUPC Conference and Procurement Awards Dinner on Wednesday 6 September 2023:

- Outstanding Procurement Initiative by a UKUPC member
- Outstanding Responsible Procurement Initiative by a UKUPC member
- Outstanding Collaborative project by a framework supplier

UKUPC Conference 2023 Delegates can choose who they wish to vote for on the Whova Conference App before 6 September 4pm.

Full information on the shortlisted submissions can be found below. These have been anonymised to eliminate bias and all will be revealed during the UKUPC Procurement Awards.

Outstanding Procurement Initiative by a UKUPC member

A – Campus Security: Insource V Outsource project providing social value

Summary

This project was to determine whether to insource or outsource campus security, to deliver a comprehensive, safe and supportive service to staff and students. The chosen contractor now has a strong visible presence on-site. Students have taken up the opportunity for part-time work through them at our local sports stadium and security staff are receiving significantly improved employee benefits.

Short Description

Our Staffed Security Services contract was approaching expiration, so we conducted a procurement exercise involving a cross-functional team of both staff and students. We looked at the requirement and how it could be best provided. It was previously outsourced, but the service had deteriorated over time. We explored the local marketplace, looked at frameworks and costed bringing the service in house.

The investigative work allowed key stakeholders of the University: Estates, Finance, Professional Services, Wellbeing, Health and Safety and Student Union to jointly map out the provisions they would expect of a security service.

We wanted this to be more than a transactional relationship, but to be an improvement in service quality and a provision that would add value to people on campus, whether staff, students, or visitors. The project looked at more than just the security provision itself but at wellbeing, estate management, safety education, social and environmental value.

Long Description

With the previous outsourced services contract coming to an end, we were aware that the post-pandemic campus was a very different place to how it was before. We mapped out the existing provision and then engaged other areas of the University that may not have been asked in the past, what they wanted from a future service. The previous tender was completed 6 years ago, and the service scope, the security industry and stakeholder needs had all moved on.

A stakeholder team with representatives from Estates, Finance, Professional Services, Wellbeing, Health and Safety and students worked together to detail what was wanted, which the procurement team then drafted into a formal specification and tender pack. Having consulted with stakeholders and met with the incumbent provider it became clear the supplier was not performing at the level required or completing all the services needed. Eventually, they declared they would not bid – increasing the pressure on the procurement team to source a new provider.

A parallel scoping exercise was undertaken to evaluate what the financial cost and human resource requirement would be if the University chose to in-source the service. Procurement costed any supplementary elements that were included within the offering of the outgoing provider - such as uniforms, CCTV, equipment, licences, training, pensions, etc. It became clear very quickly there would be no cost advantages to bringing this service in-house, and that we did not have the economies of scale or expertise. As a smaller institution it would not be practical to take this route, but nonetheless we had explored the potential of this option.

Site visits were held for potential bidders to receive a presentation about the University and then be shown around the campus. The tender detailed all our requirements including staff, tasks, resources, training, social and environmental values and we were expecting a moderate response as we are a small university, but we were delighted to receive 18 bids. We also collated all questions raised by potential bidders and anonymously shared answers amongst them to aid maximum transparency.

The cross-functional evaluation team reviewed all the bid documents and through a process of weighted scoring awarded to a supplier who not only meets all our service requirements, but their social and environmental values mirror the University's. They will work with us to educate our students around personal safety, look to bring more women and underrepresented groups into the industry, as well as employing former military veterans. They will also attend our Welcome Week fairs to recruit students requiring casual employment to integrate with their time studying.

Though cost cutting was not the driving force behind this tender, it was still a cost-conscious exercise (£1.4m vs. £1.1m anticipated over 3 years). This procurement was led by a need to improve quality and to improve the standard of work offered to those securing our campus. Furthermore, by engaging a small, local business we have been able to create unique employment opportunities for our students, aligning with our commitment to nurturing their personal growth and work development. Such a partnership has presented international students with part-time job prospects, allowing them to gain practical experience of working in the UK and supplementing their academic journey with relevant, hands-on skills. In turn, this bolsters their employability upon graduation, equipping them with real-world insights that transcend traditional classroom learning. By collaborating with a local enterprise, we have contributed to the local economy and had the opportunity to foster a reciprocal relationship within our direct community.

Students and staff now have a safer place to work and study. Security staff have TUPE transferred to a new employer, with better training opportunities, access to extensive employee assistance, wellbeing check ins, access to quality-of-life apps to help them manage their shifts, and career development opportunities. The local community have access to more jobs as the number of roles available has increased. The supplier, despite being a SME also frees up employee's time to participate in voluntary work in the local community. This has been for us an excellent example of procurement bringing together two likeminded parties to work together for mutual benefit

B - Revolutionising the Procurement Function from transactional to strategic partner

Summary

The project was aimed to revolutionise our Procurement Function, shifting it from a reactive, transactional, and operational discipline to a proactive Strategic Partner, while also fostering a culture of forward planning throughout the University.

Short Description

The transformation of the University's Procurement function from a reactive, transactional, and operational discipline to a proactive strategic partner has been a significant endeavour, employing a comprehensive and systematic approach. Our project adopted a three-pronged strategy: Full Spend Analysis: A comprehensive spend analysis provided a holistic view of procurement activities, identifying synergies and opportunities for consolidating contracts and implementing term agreements. Strategic Plan Development: A strategic plan was devised to align the procurement function with the University's overall strategic objectives. Operational Plan Creation: A detailed operational plan ensured the day-to-day implementation of strategic initiatives, aligning procurement activities with the University's long-term goals. This transformation is an ongoing journey, with the team continuously learning and adapting to new challenges. By embracing a proactive, strategic mindset, the University's Procurement function is now well-equipped to meet future challenges, drive cost savings, and support the institution's overall success.

Long Description

The primary objective was to shift X's University Procurement function from a reactive stance to a pro-active approach while also fostering a culture of forward planning and recognising Procurement as a strategic partner for the University. Upon joining X in 2021, it was evident that the procurement function predominantly operated reactively, with most local contracts being awarded annually with minimal tendering activity, and most purchases handled in silo. The approach taken to transform the function was as follows:

- Undertake a full spend analysis,
- Develop a strategic plan,
- Develop an Operational Plan.

During expenditure reviews, we took a holistic approach, analysing the context to identify any potential synergies amongst the products purchased. We identified influenceable versus non-influenceable. Categorising spend into standard groups, to help identify opportunities for term contracts or to alignment with existing frameworks. Furthermore, we assess the specific procurement requirements of each school/directorate and cross-referenced them with the current contracts register. This process enabled us to identify gaps and recognise opportunities which informed the development of our Operational Plan. The development of the strategic plan, started by addressing the areas identified in a recent audit and other assessment. Combining both reports with a comprehensive review of the processes, procedures, and policies, we established 36 strategic actions. These included the Development of a new Procurement Strategy and Guidance Manual; Embedding Procurement Reports into each

School/Directorate and Executive Board to elevate procurement's profile and establish it as a strategic partner, showing the wider university Procurement's value; Enhancing the current procurement resources and skill levels; along with embedding robust procurement processes and procedures to maximise the full use of tools and resources available. Developing an operational plan was aided by the comprehensive spend analysis conducted, providing valuable insights. This analysis informed the creation of school/directorate reports advising each Dean/Director of their current contractual portfolio along with future projects. Initially, the quarterly discussions were predominantly one sided, but through time, the university's mindset has entirely shifted, and there is now a prevalent culture of forward planning throughout the institution.

Two years from the initial assessment, the Procurement Function has:

- successfully transitioned from a reactive to pro-active one
- Delivered all 36 Strategic workstreams
- boasts a thriving procurement team that continually enhances their procurement expertise
- Team structure prioritises succession planning, ensuring a sustainable and competent workforce for the future.
- Procurement Function, is now a Strategic Partner to all Schools and Directorates.
- Hold seat on various strategy boards including Estates lead strategic group, ICT lead strategic group, Digital Transformation Board, Sustainability Steer Group, Project and Business Change Steering Group, Finance Infrastructure and Corporate Services Management Board, among others.
- Actively engage with external Procurement Groups, solidifying our position as a valued strategic partner. Holds quarterly meeting with all School/Directorate. Fostering a robust forward planning process for the University's future expenditures.
- Presents Quarterly infographs and market insights at the University's Executive Board. Focusing on operational and strategic workstreams, highlighting the realised benefits and their impact on X.

A recent Procurement Assessment saw significantly improved of our score from 61% to an outstanding 94%. This achievement marks the highest score awarded to a university of our size. · Savings benefits on new/renewed contracts have increased substantially, from 1.4% across 2021 to 13% across 2023. This achievement is testament to the team's dedication and success in transforming the function from reactive to proactive, in an environment that has seen an unprecedented rise in inflation and cost of living crisis. The process of embedding change takes time, and it requires the commitment and buy-in from everyone involved. Engaging early with incremental changes has proven to yield the most significant impact. The wider University now appreciates that tendering is only 20% of our efforts, with the remaining 80% being the critical differentiator. As we now stand at the outset of our next venture, we proudly take the helm of the local authority Regional Procurement Team, a collaborative procurement service between X University and a local College. With great enthusiasm, we embark on this journey of transformation and the exchange of best practices to enhance our procurement endeavours.

C – Procurement Involvement in project to Transform a World-Leading Science Education Centre

Summary

X procurement team was engaged at the outset to feed into specifications and identify solutions to deliver a project that transformed a World leading Science Education Centre. Used by students and the wider community to educate, raise the profile of science and aim to inspire the next generation of science and healthcare professionals.

The project outcome was futuristic and innovative and achieved within a challenging budget through commercial negotiations, which was not thought possible, and delivered significant social value for students and communities.

Short Description

The STEM Pod provides an immersive interactive science experience inclusive to all ages.

It features state of the art films, gaming, and learning. Visitors can enjoy using microscopes, seeing specimens from the Pathology Museum including a real human brain, as well as learning about careers in cell biology.

It has recently been through an extensive refurbishment to update the facilities.

Requirement:

This facility needed a full refurbishment including:

- brand-new IT infrastructure and hardware
- updated film technology
- refresh of activities and film to reflect the latest in biomedical research from scientists.

Challenge:

An 8-month window to procure and carry out works and reopen facility before September.

A challenging budget with no scope or flexibility for additional funding.

Outcome:

Procurement was a key member on the board to drive the successful delivery of the project.

Project delivered on time and to specification with significant efficiencies. This allowed further added value enhancements to maximise user experience and satisfaction.

Long Description

The STEM Pod Experience



Purpose:

STEM Pod was in semi-working order with multiple number of issues, including one full nucleus bay out of action.

Procurement requirements included:

- **Automatic door mechanisms to open The Neuron Pod** – enabling a futuristic opening which dramatically reveals the interactive games.
- **Refresh of all IT equipment** – high tech Computers and a full upgrade of Audio-Visual equipment and sounds.
- **Updated Film technology** for opening and closing videos with cinematic sound and video.
- **Development of activities and film** - The experience includes KS2 – KS5 curriculum-linked interactive games grounded in cell biology and the research happening in the labs below and around the world. Many of these games are based on research from scientists and feature them describing their work. The show also involves films projected onto the ceiling of the STEM Pod, which introduce the concepts of cell biology and medical research.

Approach:

Procurement approached this work by engaging with stakeholders to understand the background, vision, and the desired outcome.

Procurement was a key member of the project board to drive this initiative forward.

A visit to the facility facilitated discussions around the complexities and challenges surrounding the project including budget, timelines, and potential supply chain impacts. This was fundamental to understand the requirements and ensure a streamlined process.

Once requirements were finalised, procurement undertook market analysis and sought suppliers that could meet the strict timelines and deliver the works/ services to high standards whilst delivering value for money.

A number of SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) were identified and engaged to submit proposals with clear details of how they can assist us by meeting our requirements.

A competitive exercise was carried out together with commercial negotiations led by Procurement to deliver contracts to 4 suppliers. As part of the negotiations Procurement ensured that all 4 suppliers were working in an aligned and collaborative way as the different provisions were significantly dependent and interlinked.

The smooth running between the University and the suppliers was fundamental to deliver the project successfully within the already challenging timelines. This was managed by Procurement through regular communication with the supplier, internal stakeholders, and the project board. Risk analysis was undertaken and continuously monitored for any new risks or changes in risk status of identified risks and managed appropriately.

This project delivered several benefits including a social value:

- Educational enhancement for local students and community
- Enable an interactive facility which highlights cell research.
- Inspire the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals.
- Stimulate interest, excitement, and dialogue about biomedical research.
- Raise aspirations, especially in our local community.
- Widen participation in further and higher education.
- Improve health and wellbeing in our local communities.
- Create a local, national, and global centre of excellence in Public Engagement
- Revenue generation for the facility

Outcome:

Despite facing challenges such as shortage of labour, supply chain impacts of equipment, parts and material, and significant inflationary pressures, a collaborative relationship with the suppliers enabled procurement to discuss problems pragmatically and have open discussions on problems and work together on efficient and effective solutions.

This ensured we delivered all requirements within the budget and timeline. The savings achieved were utilised to incorporate further added value developments (including additional interactive games) to enhance user experience and satisfaction.

Learning:

The resource required was significant due to the level of complexity, various stakeholders (internal and external), supply chain issues. A longer project timeframe to deliver would have enabled a contingency.

Some aspects were specialist works meaning that we were limited to the number of suppliers who could deliver.

Outstanding Responsible Procurement Initiative by a UKUPC member

A – Procurement & Travel Carbon Dashboard empowering informed purchasing & business travel decisions.

Summary

The University's Procurement and Travel Carbon Dashboard is an effective reporting tool that utilises the HESCET data along with expenditure information to provide staff with a view of their account code or department's Scope 3 Emissions. This initiative provides staff with deeper insight into higher-emitting activities and empowers them to make more informed purchasing and business travel decisions.

Short Description

The University has declared a climate emergency and set a target to become Carbon net-zero by 2035. This includes Scope 3 activities, Procurement and Business Travel. Whilst the University has made excellent progress in tackling Scopes 1 and 2 and continues to invest in decarbonisation projects; addressing Scope 3 is more difficult.

X University's Procurement and Travel Carbon Dashboard is an effective reporting tool that utilises the HESCET data along with expenditure information from our Finance System to provide staff with a view of their account code or department's Scope 3 Emissions. This initiative provides staff with deeper insight into higher-emitting activities and empowers them to make more informed purchasing and travel decisions.

The dashboard is supported by Decision Trees, Sustainability Impact Analyses for major areas of expenditure and other sustainable procurement-related information. It underpins the Procurement team's drive to promote suppliers operating in a more sustainable way.

Long Description

The sector faces the huge challenge of influencing the purchasing and business travel decisions of staff whilst simultaneously working with suppliers to progress their own carbon reduction journeys.

The Higher Education Supply Chain Emissions Tool (HESCET) has been used for several years in the sector and, at X, this information was historically kept in spreadsheets within the Procurement and Sustainability teams. This initiative has widened access to decision-makers across the University by the creation of an easy-to-use, real-time reporting dashboard.

The emissions estimates in HESCET are sometimes criticised for their accuracy. We are always transparent about the data and its limitations and we work closely with suppliers to get improved emissions data. The tool has the ability to take in more accurate data from suppliers, for example from Key Travel our Travel Management Company.

Scope 3 emissions cannot be tackled by Procurement alone, we need buy-in from our colleagues. The Carbon Dashboard has given us a tangible way of demonstrating the impact of purchasing and travel decisions which, particularly at lower values, are far from the influence of central procurement. The tool is only one part of our approach and works in conjunction with many other activities.

Approach

Scope 3 Emissions Visibility: By combining the emissions factors with spend data we have created a Tableau dashboard report linked to a user's Finance System access that provides a view of the estimated Scope 3 emissions for their relevant account codes or departments. The data can be sorted by supplier, category of spend and cost code to provide an in-depth breakdown of Scope 3 carbon emissions, enabling departments to identify and analyse their highest-emitting activities. The data is 'real time' and automated, compared to before when there was a lag while spreadsheets were updated manually.

Better Purchasing and Travel awareness: With this data, staff are more aware of their impact, and be helped to make more responsible choices regarding procurement and travel, aligning their activities with the university's commitment to net-zero.

Business Travel Decision Tree: Developed by academic colleagues, the Business Travel Decision Tree offers a structured approach for departments to assess and select more sustainable travel options.

Sustainability Impact Analyses: We have completed guides to our major spend areas to help staff sourcing goods and services below tender thresholds. For anything above tender thresholds there is a mandatory Sustainability Impact Assessment carried out by the Procurement lead and built into the tender process.

Promotion of 'more sustainable' suppliers: We have a parallel work stream engaging with major suppliers. This includes collating supplier sustainability activities in the Net Positives Futures Supplier Engagement Tool and via our own contract management plans. We are part of the pilot group for the new Net Positives Futures Net Zero Carbon tool.

The Carbon Dashboard has been live since spring 2022. It was launched via a series of webinars and face to face meetings throughout spring and summer 2022 attended by over 300 staff. It now forms part of our regular Procurement and Finance training sessions.

Outcomes

Since its implementation the dashboard has promoted awareness and discussion.

Buy-in from colleagues: Leveraging the dashboard, we are in the process of undertaking studies with several departments keen to understand more about their Scope 3 impact and how to reduce it. Colleagues from the 5 pilot departments have engaged positively and we plan to roll out this model of engagement across the University.

Supplier Engagement: The data is presented more easily for the procurement team to identify high-emitting suppliers and work with them to obtain more accurate data and to develop carbon reduction plans.

Purchasing Portal Improvements: We plan to go live later this year with new functionality in our central purchasing system that will identify and promote more sustainable suppliers.

National Best Practice Sharing: X University has taken an active role in sharing best practice, contributing to the advancement of sustainability sector-wide through the Heads of Procurement Group and HEPA Turnover Group and at a conference. In addition, our Head of Corporate Information Systems, shared this initiative via UCISA.

Learnings

To meet our Scope 3 targets we need the buy-in of colleagues. The Carbon Dashboard has given us a simple and effective way to start the conversation which has generally been positively received.

The dashboard is only effective in conjunction with other activities including providing better guidance and working with suppliers.

This work is not a start/finish project, all our procurement activity is being pivoted towards sustainability.

There is a large effort and resource required and whilst this initiative is lead by Procurement, the effort is shared by colleagues in Sustainability, ISS, Facilities and academic departments, in particular the Environment Centre. We have also benefitted from working with Masters Students researching this topic.

“The Procurement and Travel Carbon Dashboard has been essential in moving focus to scope 3 emissions and offers a practical solution to these challenges. The dashboard has been particularly helpful in aiding staff to easily see how their personal choices can impact the University’s emissions, and to help them make more sustainable options in both business travel and in their purchasing choices.” – Head of Sustainability

B – Collaboration with supply chain & peers to realise industry leading carbon net zero target.

Summary

A collaborative approach to realise carbon net zero, delivered with the University's supply chain and peers. X found real reward in bringing people together in pursuit of its industry leading target.

Short Description

Strategic Procurement at the University of X has developed an innovative knowledge sharing strategy to help it achieve sustainability targets drawn from the University's Environment and Climate Emergency paper. The strategy is split into 2 parts each facing a different audience and working to different engagement approaches but ultimately capable of realising sustainability benefits that can be shared by both audiences. The project began in 2022 and is seen as a long-term investment by the team to support its work to help X realise its carbon net zero by 2030 goal.

Long Description

The University declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in 2019 which resulted in public declaration of a sector leading carbon reduction target which is net zero by 2030 on all emission scopes. Bought in goods, services and works account for approximately 60% of the University's carbon emissions hence working collaboratively with our supply chain and others to achieve this goal is a core principle of the Strategic Procurement team's sustainability strategy.

X's Strategic Procurement team has thought innovatively about how to influence suppliers and out public sector peers to adopt sustainable business practices. We believe a collaborative approach with our supply chain and our peers is fundamental to realising carbon net zero. We developed a knowledge sharing strategy to work with other universities, public bodies and our suppliers to help us all achieve carbon reduction and a more sustainable future.

Led by the team's sustainability leads, we designed a range of inclusive supplier engagement events. We have done this by hosting events that are free to attend and suppliers may attend either in person or virtually via Teams.

Our programme of events include annual supplier sustainability conferences and workshops. Our annual supplier sustainability conferences give our suppliers a platform to share their carbon net zero/sustainability journey with representatives from our supply chain, university staff & students. This event provides opportunity for challenge and questions by the audience. Presentation sessions at these events are highly sought after by our suppliers.

Alongside our annual sustainability conference, we host a virtual supplier workshop each term. The aim of these workshops is to help suppliers progress on their sustainability journey. To date, workshops have been held on topics: how to calculate their business's carbon emissions, how to get started with sustainability and an introduction on social value and why X University is

introducing this into tenders. Social value was a hugely popular subject and we ran the workshop daily across one week to ensure every supplier who registered for the workshop, could attend and fully participate in the breakout sessions that formed part of the workshop. This ensured all attendees has opportunity to share their perspective, knowledge and experience on this subject. We have also held workshops on Net Positive Futures and EcoVadis.

Event attendance data 2022 / 2023

Event	Registrants	Attended
Supplier Sustainability Day 1	115	50
Workshop 1 – Intro to Carbon Accounting	257	130
Workshop 2- Net Positive Futures	172	90
Supplier Sustainability Day 2	127	105
Workshop 3 – Social Value	100	50

Supplier feedback has been extremely positive for both event formats and we're extremely proud to report 771 people registered for the events and 425 joined virtually or in person which highlights the demand for knowledge sharing without barriers to attendance that hinders our suppliers' engagement.

We use supplier feedback to plan future events to ensure their subject matter is relevant to the widest possible supplier audience. We were surprised that colleagues at other universities and public bodies asked to attend our supplier events and we are proud that our knowledge sharing strategy is inspiring other universities to launch their own sustainability events in future.

We have found real reward in bringing together like-minded individuals for knowledge sharing, networking and celebration of our suppliers' achievements. We are also excited that these events have created collaboration opportunities amongst our supply chain as well as allowed us to gain a better understanding of sustainability challenges in the supply chain.

Alongside our supplier engagement programme, we are actively engaging with other organisations across the public sector to learn about their sustainability and carbon net zero journey. During the past year we've spent considerable time and effort attending events off Campus to gather intelligence about the issues facing organisations and learning about the great work being done across other business and public sectors. An example being GW4's Living Labs for Net Zero Transformation workshop which focused on the largest contributors to Scope 3 emissions.

Earlier this year we asked our UPC to propose at a UKUPC consortia meeting that suppliers be required to submit carbon reduction plans as part of framework tender processes run by consortia and that consortia publish these with framework documents to help universities source from suppliers who share their climate emergency ambitions.

X University's carbon net zero target is industry leading. It drives us to push boundaries and work with suppliers, the wider H E Sector and other public bodies because our combined efforts increase our impact on sustainability and carbon reduction; the results should benefit everyone.

C – Embedding RP principles in the new multi-faith centre build to WELL Gold Standard accreditation

Summary

The Jo Cox 'More In Common Multi-Faith Centre' is a place of reflection for staff & students which benefits people from all faiths and backgrounds. Through the sourcing of biodegradable hand soap, Stabilised Aqueous Ozone, recycled furniture, and having achieved a WELL Gold Standard accreditation, the building benefits the planet too.

Short Description

The Centre was built to replace the University of X Faith Centre. Situated in the heart of campus, the aim of the centre is to provide a space for reflection for staff and students from all faiths and backgrounds, inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation and Jo's famous words "We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us". To support this it was clear that the principles of responsible procurement needed to be embedded throughout the procurement process to ensure the ethos of the project was fully supported, the project itself could realise its full potential and suppliers were able to contribute in full to a building that supports not just the University but the wider community around it.

Long description

The University's vision and philosophy for its new multi faith centre was that it would be a building that it would:

- Be a place for a diverse range of students to meet, reflect, be calm and engage with others.
- Provide space to meet everyday faith needs as well as enable community gatherings and celebrations.
- Provide community rooms and a lounge, for all faiths and none.

Given the potential of the building within the local community it was vital that the project delivery was supported and accentuated with an ethical and mindful procurement approach. This would involve considering responsible procurement ideals not just for the physical building but other areas that would support the make up and running of the centre such as furniture and cleaning materials.

Consideration was given to how the building itself could support an inclusive and welcoming environment. The University approached its suppliers for ideas around this. Using Bond Bryan who are an appointed Architect from its Professional Services Framework Agreement and Morgan Sindall the appointed Main Contractor, they worked together to realise the vision for the building.

Following consultation with Bond Bryan at the initial concept stage it was agreed that the WELL Building Standard would be an ideal mechanism to compliment the philosophy behind the building. The WELL Building Standard is a performance-based system

for measuring, certifying, and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and wellbeing. Through air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind. WELL, is grounded in a body of medical research that explores the connection between buildings, where we spend more than 90 percent of our time, and the health and wellness of its occupants. WELL certified spaces can help create a built environment that improves nutrition, fitness, mood, and sleep patterns.

The Procurement Team then worked with its suppliers to ensure the standard was incorporated into designs and worked with contractors to ensure that the building was built to spec. The WELL Standard was built into the evaluation criteria for the main contractor and highly considered for further direct appointments.

As well as the building itself the Procurement Team also wanted to ensure the furnishings within the building were ethically sourced while also retaining the quality needed for a building that would be one of the most widely used on campus. For this the Procurement Team looked to the Sustainable Furniture Solutions framework and worked with suppliers across 2 lots to deliver a solution that delivered both recycled furniture and where this wasn't possible furniture made with ethically sourced fabrics, the fabric chosen for all furniture was made using 100% recycled bottles.

50% of the breakout space furniture was reused from the previous Faith Centre and reupholstered using the same fabric.

How the long term maintenance of the building could support sustainable materials was also a consideration. As a result all cleaning products used are low hazard and the only product required is Stabilised Aqueous Ozone (SAO). This is used in conjunction with reusable, launderable microfibre cloths. The hand soap used is Soap₂O an innovative soap solution made of biodegradable materials. These are all sourced through innovation based discussions with a range of suppliers in the market.

There was a further requirement within the centre for prayer mats, not something the Procurement Team are used to sourcing. After asking framework suppliers for their advice contact was made with a suppliers subcontractor - Inloom based in X. Brother and sister team Zohaib Ali and Nadia Ali, who respectively are law and business graduates from X, sourced and donated 150 prayer mats through their fabric and textile company Inloom Fabrics. Zohaib and Nadia were inundated with pledges after they discovered that the new centre on campus required a supply of mats needed for Friday prayers and at other times, having asked family and friends if they would like to contribute to this voluntary act of Sadaqah. This encapsulated the values that the centre looks to promote and was made possible by forging links through existing suppliers.

The Centre was formally opened on 31st March 2023 in the presence Jo's sister an MP and parents Jean and Gordon Leadbetter. The project was delivered on time and under budget and has achieved the WELL Gold Standard accreditation. The procurement of the project is a great example of how responsible procurement principles can be implemented without compromising on budget, quality or delivery. Key to this was strategic backing of the Procurement Team from senior stakeholders at an early stage of the project who were keen to support a responsible procurement approach. The other key aspect was the support given by suppliers who are essential in enabling us to deliver a project that befits the philosophy of the centre.

Outstanding Collaborative project by a framework supplier

A – A Pioneering project deploying high-performance, green energy-powered computer cluster

Summary

Innovation Centre 7 at X University is a pioneering project that exemplifies the potential of data and digital technologies to drive sustainable innovation in education and society at large. By understanding the unique needs of the university, the project team successfully deployed a high-performance, green energy-powered computer cluster that supports research, fosters collaboration, and aligns with X's commitment to sustainability.

Short Description

Fujitsu's Innovation Centre project is the latest innovation centre within the X Growth Corridor University Enterprise Zone situated within the University's Science and Innovation Park in the UK. Designed to provide innovative support and workspace for businesses embracing data and digital technologies, it includes the new Digital Society Institute aimed at fostering innovation for over 400 local SMEs in various sectors. To achieve this, the project required the implementation of a state-of-the-art IT infrastructure, a high-performance computer cluster powered by on-site green energy, combining CPUs and GPUs for research support. By understanding the university's technology challenges and sustainability goals, the project successfully modernized data centre services, promoting sustainability and collaboration. The hybrid approach of on-premises and Cloud services ensures maximum value delivery to the university and society at large, fostering education and innovation in a sustainable manner.

Long Description

Project Description and Purpose:

The project Fujitsu were involved with is the latest addition to X University's Science and Innovation Park, situated within the X Growth Corridor University Enterprise Zone. Its primary purpose is to provide innovative support and workspace for businesses looking to leverage data and digital technologies. Additionally, it houses a new Digital Society Institute, which focuses on data and digital technology to drive innovation and growth in the local SMEs across business, health, and cultural sectors. The aim is to create a competitive and dynamic business environment while fostering collaboration between these companies and academics.

Approach:

The project began by collaborating with various key stakeholders within X University to gain insights into their technology challenges and broader business and sustainability strategies. By understanding the university's needs and objectives, the project

team was able to develop a high-performance computer cluster. This cluster acts as a versatile and data-secure resource that supports a wide range of research activities. It incorporates traditional CPUs and two different types of GPU cards to enhance computing power. Crucially, this new infrastructure is powered by green energy generated on-site at X's campus, aligning with the university's commitment to sustainability.

To optimize the technology resources, the project team adopted a hybrid approach that combines on-premises and Cloud services. This ensures the best of both worlds, enabling the delivery of the highest value back to the University. The new datacentre not only brings data-centre services into the modern age but also advances X's sustainability goals, embedding sustainable practices into its operations.

Outcomes:

The successful deployment of the high-performance computer cluster has several key outcomes:

Sustainable Innovation: The new data infrastructure allows X University to innovate sustainably, demonstrating a commitment to embedding sustainability across all aspects of their operations.

Enhanced Research Capabilities: With the state-of-the-art computing cluster, the university can pursue new research directions across its three faculties. This benefits a wide range of academic disciplines and contributes to societal advancements.

Societal Impact: The datacentre facilitates pioneering healthcare research, addressing critical societal challenges. Additionally, the increased capacity supports SMEs in collaborating with X experts, enabling these businesses to gain a technological edge, drive economic impact, and foster innovation.

Supporting Academic and SME Services: The expanded capacity of the datacentre ensures seamless support for both academic research and the needs of local SMEs, reinforcing X's position as an innovation hub.

Learnings:

The project highlights several key learnings:

Customer-Centric Approach: By understanding the university's comprehensive needs and objectives, the project team was able to deliver a solution that aligns with X's vision of sustainable innovation and societal impact.

Synergy of Digital and Sustainability Strategies: The project demonstrates the power of integrating digital technologies with sustainability practices. This synergy can foster innovation not just within the educational context but also for the broader society.

Collaboration and Partnership: Successful implementation relied on collaboration with key stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of partnership and shared goals in driving innovation. An easy procurement path through SSSNA was followed.

Hybrid Technology Solutions: Adopting a hybrid approach that leverages on-premises infrastructure and Cloud services allows institutions to optimize resources and achieve the best value.

In conclusion, Innovation Centre at X University is a pioneering project that exemplifies the potential of data and digital technologies to drive sustainable innovation in education and society at large. By understanding the unique needs of the university, the project team successfully deployed a high-performance, green energy-powered computer cluster that supports research, fosters collaboration, and aligns with X's commitment to sustainability. Through this project, X University has positioned itself at the forefront of innovation, making a significant societal impact and offering valuable learning experiences for future endeavours.

B – Recycling 4,500+ devices with supplier's zero-landfill recycling saving 624 tonnes of carbon

Summary

The University has purchased hundreds of devices through the NDNA framework and recycled more than 4,500 devices with X's zero-landfill recycling on the IT disposal framework. The university have saved 44.1 tonnes of IT from landfill, 624 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and the equivalent of 671,000 plastic bottles.

Short Description

For more than 30 years, Stone has helped universities across the UK transform their IT landscape while supporting the environment and social causes with sustainable, circular operations. The partnership between Stone and the University of X is a first-class example of how organisations can work together under the UKUPC umbrella to supply top-tier IT products to elevate education while taking environmental and social responsibilities seriously. For the past three years, the University has purchased hundreds of PCs and laptops from Stone using the NDNA and then used the NWUPC IT Equipment Reuse Recycling and Disposal framework to responsibly recycle unwanted IT without sending anything to landfill. Stone's engineers prepare equipment to the University's specifications and install on-site when required, Stone's recycling teams collect unwanted IT, and Stone's social value reporting enables the University to demonstrate its environmental impact with meaningful data.

Long Description

Sustainability is critical to the University of X. The University generates 26,000kWh of solar energy annually across its Green Flag campus and no longer invests in the fossil fuel industry. The University has achieved ISO 14001 certification and is working towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Those benchmarks are familiar to Stone, too - our Making a Digital Difference sustainability framework aligns with the same UN goals and governs environmental and social sustainability across the entire business and we've been ISO 14001-certified since 2007. When the University needed a circular IT partner, it made sense to choose an organisation that cares about sustainability just as much. An elite partnership for exceptional education The purpose of the project is two-fold: the University needed to buy top-quality laptops and desktops on the NDNA to help staff and students deliver world-class learning and research and the University also wanted an IT Asset Disposal (ITAD) partner to recycle unwanted IT responsibly to support its sustainability goals. Stone occupies a first-ranked position on the NDNA's Lot 1 and Lot 3 categories for provision of Desktop PCs and One-Stop Shop IT and sits on the framework as a reseller of HP devices. The University conducted a further competition against the NDNA framework to choose a supplier and took into account quality, price and equipment testing. Stone was the successful bidder in partnership with HP after achieving the best value-for-money score. Combine that NDNA status with Stone's position as an HP Amplify Power Partner and it means the University was able to secure appropriate devices at superb prices. Since the partnership was established three years ago, Stone has supplied the University with hundreds of HP EliteBook and EliteDesk devices. Because Stone is a circular IT provider, we don't just supply devices. If required, our expert engineers install devices on-site without disrupting day-to-day operations and our Autopilot pre-provisioning ensures devices are ready for use. To improve security, Stone also adds laser-etched University logos to each device. Sustainability – it's in our DNA To fully embrace circular IT, the University of X relies on Stone for recycling, too. Stone is the only IT solutions provider in the UK with its own on-site recycling facility. We're WEEE-accredited, erase data to military standards and we're Valpak-certified as a zero-landfill recycler, so all the University's unwanted IT is either recycled responsibly or refurbished to professional standards. Stone is listed as a supplier on the UKUPC IT Equipment Reuse Recycling and Disposal framework, so the University can trust the fact that we're fully vetted and accredited. It's a national framework, so all UK universities can use Stone's ITAD services. It made sense for the University to directly award this side of the service to Stone given the benefits of working with one provider. As part of our project with the University, Stone collects the University's unwanted IT and takes it back to Stone HQ free of charge.

Because the University uses the award-winning Stone 360 app to book its recycling collections, they earn cash rebates that are then used to buy further IT - including more equipment on the NDNA. Usage of the award-winning, industry-first Stone 360 app also helps the University contribute to Stone's tree-planting programme. The app also allows the University to book collections on convenient days based on when new IT is being delivered. Real value and genuine results The results are impressive and tangible beyond the University reaping the benefits of HP EliteBook and EliteDesk devices at great prices. Stone's social value reporting enables the University to measure its environmental impact in concrete ways, which helps contribute to the University's sustainability strategies while proving meaningful progress. Over the course of the partnership, the University has generated £1,250,000 of social value, which includes saving 44.1 metric tonnes of IT from landfill by either recycling or refurbishing more

than 4,500 unwanted devices. Stone's social value reporting means the University can see that they've saved 624 tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere and the equivalent of 671,006 plastic bottles. The partnership ensures University staff and students can use HP devices to support world-class learning and research - while the University recycles responsibly, improves its sustainability performance with concrete outcomes and earns cash rebates. David Barrett, Head of DPS, IT Services at University, said that the University "values its strong collaboration with Stone and benefits from an excellent working relationship," and explained that "Stone's ITAD procedures are easily accessible and align with the University's sustainability objectives through their zero-landfill approach." Thanks to the frameworks under the UKUPC umbrella, the partnership can continue to flourish in a robust, reliable and affordable manner. The University of X and Stone's partnership creates sustainable outcomes for an elite institution thanks to circular IT that delivers positive financial, social and environmental impacts.

C – Scope 3 emissions reduction project, in the loose furniture & commercial interior sectors

Summary

In partnership with X University's Eco-Innovation Hub, X have been able to capture our Scope 3 emissions, look to a roadmap for reductions and have developed a tool capable of delivering reduced industry impacts within the loose furniture & commercial interior sectors.

Short Description

One of the EFG European Furniture Group Ltd key partnerships during 2022-23 has been with X University's Eco-Innovation Hub. The partnership has been instrumental in our journey towards net zero. Through collaboration, we have captured our Scope 3 emissions and develop a comprehensive plan to achieve net-zero.

Additionally, the tool we developed in conjunction with this project allows us to calculate embodied carbon product data which we are using to drive improvements throughout the product life cycle, from design to procurement. We are collaborating with Industry, to make the tool widely accessible with not only our supply-chain but also our competitors, facilitating carbon reductions on a mass scale within the furniture & commercial interiors industry, further contributing to our mission of sustainability.

Long Description

EFG have been working in partnership with X University to measure our environmental impacts, build our roadmap to net zero and build a carbon calculation tool that we hope to share with the manufacturing sector to reduce industry impacts collectively for the betterment of business and the planet.

Problem: Calculating business and product impacts is difficult to comprehend, labour intensive, unregulated or extremely expensive – leaving a large chunk of the industry behind such as SME's like ourselves.

Project Aim: We are committed to minimising our impact on the environment and wider community of our operations and supply chain. As part of this objective we set a target to be carbon net zero by the end of 2033. We sought out a partnership with X University to create new business processes and operations for our organisation, our supply chain, as well as create a new framework of guidance to help other like-minded organisations create a legacy for the future.

Solution Goal: The goal was 2 fold. Firstly – to create a clear understanding of our own current carbon impacts through Scope 1,2 & 3 and to develop a clear roadmap to net zero emissions. And secondly, to create an accessible solution for carbon calculation in order to reduce industry impacts as a collective. Developing a methodology or tool to enable SMEs like ourselves to become carbon net zero. Giving business clear analytics & measurement to improve, monitor and track their Scope 3, Supply Chain Impacts - bringing together fragmented data into one shared methodology - for reliable and consistent benchmarking across the furniture industry, with the potential to be useful within other manufacture based business models too.

The project has had some significant outputs and we anticipate even more to follow:

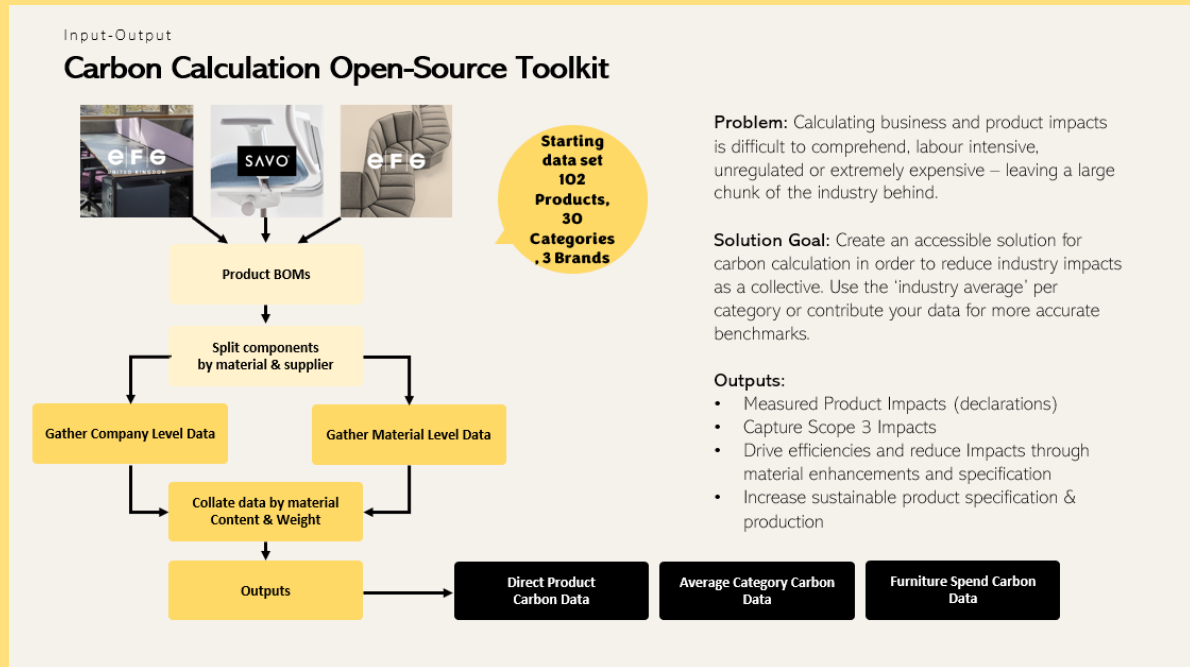
- Measured Product Impacts
- Capture Scope 3 Impacts
- Drive efficiencies and reduce Impacts through material enhancements and specification.
- Increase sustainable product specification & production.

In partnership with X University's Innovation Hub, we have taken substantial strides towards net-zero emissions. Capturing our Scope 3 emissions and developing a comprehensive plan to achieve net-zero, we are actively working to minimise our carbon footprint throughout the product life cycle. Our tool for calculating product carbon, offered to the furniture sector for free, promotes widespread carbon reductions, illustrating our dedication to driving industry-wide change.

The project has developed a sustainable platform and value proposition, in conjunction with other initiatives, to enable the business to attract new business and partnerships alike. The project has also been the catalyst for a framework to help other organisations take the necessary steps to change.

As well as being the right thing to do, we believe this project has helped to position us from an aspiring sustainable furniture provider to market leading in this regard within the interiors and furniture Industry, driving greater new business opportunity for sustainable growth.

The approach:



This LCA tool calculates a cradle-to-grave carbon footprint for products, which includes the following phases:



Gate Level Data

The dynamic and scalable element of the tool resides within the Product Manufacture stage. Individual manufacturers can create their own benchmarks with their own data – OR - we can begin to share and build an industry benchmark collectively, with shared data for the betterment of the industry.

Component manufacturers provide operational data including energy consumption and material waste, packaging, logistics and products produced allows us to see the larger picture and calculate emissions per unit or product category.

We have taken great pleasure and pride during the process of this project and thank you for taking the time to read this outline for consideration.