



KNIGHTBUILD

CASE STUDY: Knight Build – *Eliminating Single-Use Plastics*

Knight Build operates a considerable approach to construction and this ethos runs throughout the entire business. Knight Build takes responsibility for the impact of construction on the environment and is determined to protect the environment and local ecosystems surrounding its construction sites where possible.

Knight Build takes environmental issues very seriously and acknowledges that its activities can have a substantial impact on the environment. Knight Build has since developed an Environment Policy which is displayed across its construction sites to reinforce the importance of preserving the environment. The Environment Policy states that Knight Build is committed to ensuring that:

- Carbon footprint is reduced.
- Sustainability is promoted across its sites.
- Negative environmental impacts are minimised.

Particular consideration is given to:

- Flora and fauna.
- Contaminated land.
- Emissions to water.
- Noise and vibration.
- Fuel, silt, and chemicals.
- Waste management and minimisation.
- Emissions to air, including dust, fumes and smoke.

Waste management and minimisation are of particular concern for Knight Build. On all of its sites, Knight Build sets a target for reusing, recycling and diverting 90% of all waste produced on site from landfill.

Preventing Plastic Pollution

In efforts to reduce its consumption of single-use plastics, Knight Build has introduced green cups across the company and on all of its construction sites. The idea stemmed from an incentive Knight Build carries out with its site operatives called: **'See It, Say It.'**

The initiative involves all operatives from each site to give a suggestion for how Knight Build can improve, with the best suggestion winning a £20 shopping voucher, and the best overall suggestion each month receiving half a shift off work.



Following a winning suggestion from one of the site operatives, it took a single conversation between the Knight Build directors to replace all existing Styrofoam and plastic cups on all its sites and at the Head Office. Rather than introducing a gradual transition like many retail companies, Knight Build implemented the change with immediate effect.

The Knight Build branded green cups are made from plant starch and are both 100% compostable and biodegradable. The green cups will decompose in less than six months without having a detrimental impact on the environment, as is the case with typical Styrofoam and plastic cups. With this change alone, Knight Build has significantly reduced the amount of harmful single-use plastics being consumed on Knight Build sites across London.



Alongside the branded green cups, Knight Build provides each operative with a Knight Build branded reusable bottle which operatives can easily attach to their tool belts. Instead of bringing plastic bottles on site which are disposed of after one use, operatives can now fill up the reusable bottle on site which will help reduce the volume of single-use plastics consumed on site.

Promoting Recycling

Knight Build recognises that it is highly important to communicate environmental issues to the workforce. On its construction sites, there are environmental awareness posters, leaflets, and handbooks to provide information and to encourage positive environmental behaviour among site operatives. Each site has an environmental noticeboard complete with graphs to display the site's environmental targets. This information is also displayed on the site hoardings for members of the public to view and to be kept updated.



While to prevent waste being disposed of to landfill, Knight Build acknowledges that it is vital site operatives learn to recycle and segregate waste correctly and responsibly. On all of its sites, Knight Build provides designated waste skips and bins for specific waste streams such as paper, plastic, glass, and cardboard for site operatives to avoid unnecessary waste disposal to landfill.

31 Brompton Square

At the Brompton Square site, environmental assessments and a Site Waste Management Plan were introduced before construction commenced to ensure all measures to protect the environment are implemented during the construction process. To communicate environmental issues to the workforce, site operatives are made aware of the environmental risks associated with construction at site induction and during toolbox talks. While booklets and posters encouraging good recycling practices and positive environmental behaviour are distributed to the workforce.

The site has since signed up and become an ambassador for the '[Right Waste, Right Place](#)' campaign. The campaign is managed by the Environment Services Association and is sponsored by the Environment Agency to help businesses meet their Duty of Care regulations. To become an ambassador, an organisation must have evidence of promoting best practice with regards to waste management. The site team proved their commitment with 87% of all waste produced on site diverted from landfill.

To find out more about Knight Build, click [here](#) to visit their website.