

Sustainability through action





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By viewing the planet as a stakeholder, companies everywhere will redefine how they do business



UNIPART
GROUP OUR CARBON PLEDGE
RACE TO ZERO

Having signed up to the United Nation's Race to Zero Campaign in 2021, Unipart aims to become net-zero by 2040

Unipart Group has been engaged in environmental improvement activities for over thirty years

Working sustainably while still meeting the needs of our customers requires creative thinking and the drive to see it through. Our momentum has been maintained through the strong engagement of our people and through the application of continuous improvement techniques embodied in our proprietary business system, The Unipart Way.

For instance, since 2018, we have worked with customers, suppliers, and partners to remove over 500 tonnes of single-use plastics from our logistics operations. On one project alone in the Rail sector, we prevented 13km of single-use plastic from entering the environment in just one year, by finding alternative ways of packaging LED signals for transit.

Our initiatives within the business last year reduced CO₂ consumption by 20%, water consumption by 10%, and achieved an overall recycling rate of 97%.

Minimising the impact on the environment of our worldwide operations is of fundamental importance to the Group. We're particularly focusing on optimising our energy usage in moving towards a net-zero carbon position.

The Group has adopted science-based targets to provide a clear path to reducing emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement aligned to the Science Based Target Initiative. With targets to be net zero carbon for our scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and net zero carbon inclusive of scope 3 emissions by 2040.



Energy: Unipart's approach

Environmental issues require changes to how we consume energy, and where that energy is derived from.

We look inward, just as much as we look outward. We cut our own electricity consumption by 10% by installing efficient LED lighting. Improving our heating management systems in our distribution centres reduced our gas consumption by 9% in the same period.

Both Unipart Logistics and Unipart Rail have switched to 100% renewable energy, for both electricity and gas. The move to renewable energy is saving 6,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

HVO-ready fleet hits the road

Last year, Unipart Logistics announced the introduction of more sustainable transport fleet solutions across its existing network. With vehicles transitioning to be hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO)- ready, we've already cut CO2 emissions by 700 tonnes in a year from deliveries using this carbon cutting biofuel.

It's also supporting the NHS Supply Chain with the introduction of eight fully electric trucks, underlining the commitment to develop sustainable fleet operations and drive down environmental impact. The initiative is part of the Department for Transport's £10m Battery Electric Truck Trial (BETT).

This 12-month pilot project includes 20 DAF LF Electric trucks using pioneering technology to service the NHS and local authorities.

Zero-emissions technology at work

The circular economy seeks to end the cycle of society's take-make-waste system. Better management of resources – and what happens to materials after a product's life ends – will significantly lessen the impact we all leave on the environment.

To this end, Unipart Logistics is addressing the challenge of the growing EV consumer market – the disposal of EV batteries – through recycling and reuse.

Drawing on our early adoption of digital technology, heritage in automotive logistics, and world-class health and safety record, we're playing a key part in the circular economy of batteries, developing smart storage, and transport solutions.

We are also continuing the drive for innovation by developing new technologies to support the net-zero carbon strategy.



Rising to the challenge

Drawing on our joint venture business, Hyperbat, we're leveraging knowledge gained through our automotive battery-production facility to develop electrified vehicle solutions for the Rail market.

Another early opportunity has already presented itself, supported by Innovate UK: develop a new battery powered Track Rail Transposer to meet the growing market requirement for zero-emissions rail plant equipment. We're already at work using our market-leading facilities and experts to develop transformational solutions to serve this cutting-edge industry.



Unipart Group Awards

The Group's efforts to achieve sustainable outcomes have not gone unnoticed

2021
DECEMBER

The Group achieved the highest-ever, five-star certification of 96.1% from the British Safety Council underlining the Group's commitment to achieve carbon net zero by 2050.



2022
JANUARY

The British Safety Council commended Unipart's public pledge to the UN Race To Zero Campaign, committing to go carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon net zero by 2050.



Unipart Logistics is awarded the prestigious Globe of Honour for the 9th consecutive year for outstanding environmental management.

2022
SEPTEMBER

Unipart Logistics achieved a five-star rating in the British Safety Council Environmental Sustainability audit for the 10th consecutive year.



They surpassed the best-practice standard of 92% across all evaluation areas: continual improvement (94.3%), leadership and commitment (94.7%), stakeholder engagement (95.6%), risk management (95.4%), and supply-chain management (94.2%).

2022
DECEMBER

The British Safety Council awarded Unipart Logistics a Globe of Honour for its commitment to sustainability for a 10th consecutive year in December 2022.





A story to tell: Thinking Green

Tapping into employees' creativity in the drive for net zero is critical to the company's sustainability gains. More than that, it raises awareness that drives personal behaviour change both within the company and at home.

Green Fridays are a group-wide initiative, where colleagues develop actionable ideas using The Unipart Way for reducing carbon and energy usage and eliminating waste. To inspire creative thinking, Digital Cubes have been given to them. This is a simple tool which is used to spur thinking for solving real-life problems with digital solutions. It enables them to review, among other things, processes and equipment through a digital lens.

The response was overwhelming

We have recorded over 600 ideas from colleagues for reductions in carbon, water, paper and other resources, leading to a more sustainable work environment. Nor were the ideas limited to digital solutions.

We've already undertaken a number of carbon-reducing projects borne from Green Fridays.

Lighting accounts for nearly 5% of global CO₂ emissions. Now consider that LED lighting achieves energy savings of around 70% – if the world were to switch to this energy-efficient technology, 1,400 million tonnes of CO₂ would be saved ¹

This is why we've installed LED lighting in most of our buildings. We've also added roof skylights to allow natural lighting in, which further lowers our buildings' carbon footprint. We've put in place charging points for electric and plug-in vehicles at the majority of our sites. New building energy management systems improve the monitoring and reporting capability of energy usage.

The Group's IT infrastructure has been enhanced to accommodate large volumes of video conferencing. This enables colleagues to work from home more often and reduce the need for unnecessary travel.

¹ Climate Group



Green thinking in action

Inspired by their Green Friday experience, NHS Supply Chain Maidstone assessed their systems.

How could they further reduce energy usage on site?

The Unipart Logistics facility stores and delivers stock to NHS hospitals and trusts across the country, per their contractual agreement as the supplier for NHS Supply Chain.

The Maidstone warehouse holds over £2.5m worth of stock, which must be stored within a specific temperature range. This can require excessive energy usage, but this wasn't the only problem.

One system failure would have a terrible impact for hospitals and trusts. To ensure the safety of the stock while lowering the amount of power needed, the building had to become as energy efficient as possible. The answer: strengthen the building's insulation, adding loading airlocks, air curtains, new dock doors, and inflatable door seals.

The temperature is controlled through a jet stream. This jet stream is a large air conditioning network that heats and cools the building when needed. It uses gas to heat the building and through a condenser unit, electricity to cool. The insulation system has lowered the mean temperature so that the jet stream doesn't have to operate for 12 hours.





Where are we now?

It is too soon to draw specific conclusions in terms of the effectiveness and impact of Unipart's "Going Green" activities. However, early indications suggest that our colleagues are inspired to take action in the areas in which they work.

The 600+ ideas from Green Friday provide a fertile ground for further improvement and for knowledge and good practice sharing across the organisation.

The Group's future investments in EV, digital product development, and sourcing of electricity, will continue to provide opportunities to implement sustainable measures in line with the Race to Zero 3Ps framework.

Ultimately, it will require a continued focus and creative skills and techniques to maintain momentum in a programme which has started strongly and is clearly on the personal agenda of so many.

There is no playbook to achieving net zero. Not all the answers exist.

We must learn as we go
and keep an unwavering
commitment to our goals



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