

Background to this Environmental Footprint Reduction in Brewing Project

Reduction in the environmental footprint of operations is vital to reduce cost, reduce consumption of valuable resources, reduce the impact of wastes and demonstrate business responsibility with consumers. Companies that start on the pathway to becoming environmentally more efficient typically exploit their new thinking to promote market advantage, seize new innovations and work more closely with their customers to help grow their business. This project run by The York Management School 2016-2017 sought to promote ways of reducing the environmental impact of operations across a network of aspiring brewers. Whilst technological advances can help brewers be more resource efficient, there are potentially significant opportunities to reduce environmental impact by looking at operations with ‘fresh eyes’ and changing practice without the need for significant investment. The project used a combination of interviews with head brewers and brewery environmental leads, visits to individual breweries and workshops across the UK to gather brewers together to exchange ideas. The focus of the workshops was to disseminate good practice through practitioner presentations, capture the challenges that brewers were facing and capture the opportunities brewers had seized. This brochure summarises the data collection by listing the headline values, activities, benefits, practices and barriers.

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Brewers' Company,
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Environmental Practices for Breweries

Findings from UK Brewers

VALUES

Craft heritage of products, open, grow market together, social purpose, profit with purpose, local employment, supporting others, quality, decent living and working, beyond compliance.

ACTIVITIES

Collaboration between other brewers, customers, suppliers and community. Improvement culture, conservation culture, educating others, impact reduction actions and projects.

BENEFITS

Cost reduction in purchasing and operations. Defray upgrades. Lower disposal costs, brand presence, leadership, market impact, open doors to collaboration, resilience to scarcity, value from waste.

ENABLERS & PRACTICES

