

Future of Excellence in Sustainability Award Winner 2025



Peak Converters

Peak Converters is a Derbyshire-based business set up in the 1970s. The company manufactures high-quality foam and fibre products for a wide variety of industries. Its solar panel project entered for the Future of Excellence in Sustainability Award and impressed the judges as a model for integrating renewable energy solutions into existing manufacturing operations. [Here's more from the Peak Converters team...](#)

Why does sustainability matter to you?

Sustainability takes centre stage in everything we do. Our installation of solar panels has enabled us to generate enough energy to power our entire factory. It's just one of many methods we are introducing that underlines our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint.

How are you creating a more sustainable future in the furniture industry?

Our 250kW solar panel project, launched in May 2024, was designed to significantly reduce our carbon footprint and advance our commitment to sustainability.

Solar Phase 1:

Planning (May - Aug 2024)

We began with a comprehensive feasibility study, assessing site viability, energy consumption patterns, and potential solar output. Collaborating with LiveSolar, we performed an extensive analysis of environmental impact and benefits.

Solar Phase 2:

Design (Aug - Sep 2024)

Following approval from stakeholders, we moved into the design phase. Our team worked with engineers to develop a layout that maximised sunlight exposure while adhering to safety and regulatory standards.



Solar Phase 3:

Installation (Oct 2024)

Installation began in October and was completed in 3 weeks. We partnered with LiveSolar, a reputable solar contractor, ensuring a seamless process that involved the installation of 500 solar panels.

We prioritised local hiring, which not only bolstered community support but also aligned with our values of fostering local economic growth.

Solar Phase 4:

Monitoring and Adjustment (Oct 2024 - Present)

Since activation in October, we have closely monitored the system's performance, utilising smart technology to track energy generation and consumption in real-time.

This data has allowed us to optimise our energy usage further.

What improvements in sustainability have you delivered?

The outcomes have been transformative:

- **Energy Generation:** Our solar panels are projected to generate approximately 215,000 kWh annually, powering nearly 100 per cent of our operational needs through most of the year.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** We anticipate a reduction of around 54 tons of CO₂ emissions per year, contributing significantly to our sustainability goals.
- **Cost Savings:** We expect to save approximately £30,000 annually in energy costs, allowing reinvestment into further sustainability initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are researching the possibility of expanding our solar capacity by adding battery storage solutions, allowing us to store excess energy for use during peak demand.

By generating clean, renewable energy on-site, we will power our growing fleet of electric vehicles and support a transition from gas heating to energy-efficient infrared heating systems.

How have you empowered employees to create a more sustainable future?

Our methodology involved a participatory approach, engaging stakeholders throughout the project. We conducted regular workshops to keep our team informed and inspired.

How have you led and educated others?

We are dedicated to leading by example in the renewable energy landscape.

By embracing innovation and collaboration, our solar panel project not only exemplifies our commitment to sustainability but also sets the stage for a greener future for our organisation.

