

Canford's Commitment to Being Green

Employer: Canford Audio Limited

Area: Washington, Tyne and Wear

Theme: Environment/ Sustainability



Being green has always been part of Canford's DNA. With this in mind, the Wellbeing Committee recently attended one of the monthly meetings hosted by the Green Group to learn more about the latest eco-initiatives taking place across the business. We were incredibly inspired by the team's ongoing efforts to make Canford more sustainable and environmentally responsible.

Current Initiatives

Here are some of the fantastic initiatives the Green Group has been working on:

- Energy-efficient lighting: All our lighting has been replaced with energy-efficient LEDs, which use only a third of the energy of our previous bulbs and emit no heat. They also last significantly longer, helping to reduce waste.
- Motion-sensor lighting: PIR (motion-detection) lighting has been installed in all communal



areas, with trials currently underway in other parts of the business.

- **Smart boiling water taps:** Our communal kitchens have long featured boiling water outlets to replace energy-hungry kettles. We've now upgraded all five to 'smart' versions that operate only during business hours.
- **Wildlife garden:** A dedicated wildlife garden has been created to provide a natural habitat for local species.
- **Small but meaningful changes:** Many additional small adjustments across the business continue to make a big difference over time.

Warehouse and Logistics Initiatives

We also learned that our warehouse and logistics teams have played a vital role in driving sustainability:

- **Eco-friendly packaging:** Transitioning to fully recycled and recyclable air-fill packaging made with no virgin plastics, which can be recycled multiple times.
- **Plastic-free alternatives:** Exploring the use of renewable, compostable materials (like paper and wood pulp-based plastics) and switching to paper bags for small fixings.
- **Sustainable wrapping:** Replacing foam inserts with cardboard end caps and using paper hex-cut wrap instead of bubble wrap.
- **Carbon-offset shipping:** Partnering with logistics providers to enable carbon-offset shipping options at no extra cost to customers.

All of these actions—big and small—contribute significantly to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact.

The Major Project: Solar Panels

Perhaps the most ambitious sustainability project to date has been the installation of solar panels. Work began in Autumn 2022 and was completed in early 2025. This major undertaking required:

- A full roof replacement and reinforcement
- Installation of new safety and access systems
- Training for our Facilities team in maintenance and care



- Completion of all works with zero downtime

The results have been outstanding. In just a few months, we have generated over 50% of our own electricity and that's during a relatively cloudy period!

Our next step is to explore energy storage solutions, allowing us to capture and use solar energy during downtime to further reduce our reliance on the grid.

In summary: Since installation, we've been producing over half of our monthly electricity usage through solar power alone!

"Sustainability has always been at the heart of who we are at Canford. It's not just about reducing our environmental impact, it's about making thoughtful, long-term choices that benefit our people, our customers, and our planet. The achievements highlighted by the Wellbeing Committee show what's possible when we work together with a shared sense of purpose. Generating over half of our electricity through solar power is a milestone we can all be proud of, but it's also just the beginning of our ongoing journey toward a greener future." — Alan Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Canford Audio Limited "

Looking Ahead

With this project complete, the Green Group is already researching future high-impact sustainability initiatives, including:

- Thermal insulation and exterior wall cladding
- Rainwater harvesting and reuse systems
- Improved glazing insulation
- Installation of electric vehicle charging points to support employees making the switch to EVs

Each of these steps will continue to reduce our overall energy usage. Today, Canford uses only one-third of the energy we consumed just three years ago. The entire Canford team takes great pride in these accomplishments—and the ideas for further improvement keep on coming.



Key Statistics

Number of Solar Panels

296 (124.32kWp system)

Projected Annual Yield

102–120 MWh/year

Actual Yield to date

85.118 MWh

Estimated Cost Savings

£37,367

Equivalent Trees Planted

47.15

Co2 Emissions Saved

84.865 tonnes

Standard Coal Saved

34.05 tonnes

The Wellbeing Committee is proud to highlight the incredible work of Canford's Green Group and the wider team. These initiatives not only support our sustainability goals but also enhance the overall wellbeing of our people and our planet.

“The success of our sustainability projects is the result of true collaboration across every department. From the warehouse to the offices, everyone has played a part in helping us reduce waste, save energy, and rethink how we operate day to day. Installing the solar panels was a major milestone, but it's the collective enthusiasm and innovation from our people that really drives our progress. It's inspiring to see how these efforts are making a real difference—not just for the environment, but for



the whole Canford community.” — Karl Thoroughgood, Head of the Green Group, Canford Audio Limited "

“It's encouraging to see the sustainability improvements Canford has implemented, particularly in enhancing the company's energy efficiency. I also appreciate the inclusive approach taken—engaging employees in forward-thinking initiatives and offering opportunities such as rooftop tours to observe the solar panel project and understand its benefits firsthand”. — Lucas Foulk, Engineering Technician. "

“As an employee, I'm proud to see our company taking meaningful steps toward sustainability. The green initiatives they've implemented, whether it's reducing energy consumption or promoting recycling, show a genuine commitment to environmental responsibility. It's encouraging to work for an organisation that not only talks about sustainability but actively integrates it into daily operations. Knowing that our actions contribute to a larger purpose, creates a sense of pride and motivation. Sustainability isn't just good for the planet, it's good for people, and it's good for business”. — Heather Charlton, Technical Support Administrator. "



