

OxLEP Environment and Sustainability Showcase

**Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year
Award Entries**



ALP Synergy Ltd



OxLEP Environment and Sustainability Showcase

OxLEP Business was delighted to host a Marketplace and Celebration in October 2024, delivered with support from awards sponsors and event supporters.

The event was designed to bring together and celebrate Oxfordshire's business community, showcasing the Oxfordshire SMEs that had been supported by OxLEP Business since April 2022 through both a Marketplace and an Awards evening.

The event was rounded off with a special awards ceremony, celebrating the success and achievement of businesses who have been supported by OxLEP Business since April 2022, through to the present day.

This showcase of Oxfordshire businesses promotes entries to the award category Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year. This award aimed to recognise businesses that have demonstrated commitment to and achievement of environmental sustainability.

These businesses are being promoted to help inspire others to:

- Engage with OxLEP support,
- Prioritise environment and sustainability actions in their plans, and;
- As a contribution to the Net Zero mission in Oxfordshire.

The Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year award was sponsored by ALP Synergy Ltd. ALP Synergy Ltd are THE delivery partner for transformational economic development. They also deliver a wide variety of water and sustainability projects, which inspired their sponsorship of this category. The award winners, BioBright Ltd are pictured below with Ant & Lesley Parsons from ALP Synergy Ltd.



BioBright

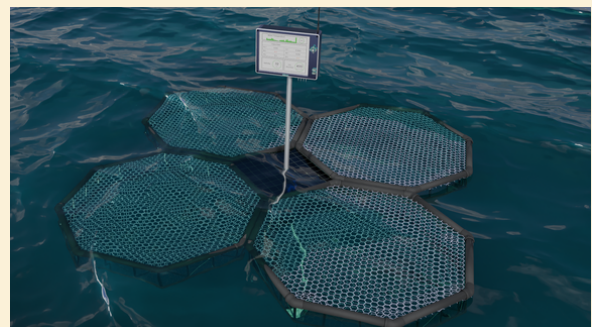
BioBright LTD take immense pride in their innovative approach to environmental sustainability. Our mission is clear: to decarbonize and purify port waters by merging algae cultivation with advanced real-time monitoring technology. By doing so, we tackle critical pollution issues while championing a cleaner, greener future.

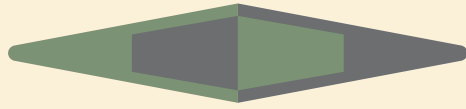
Algae, nature's unsung hero, play a pivotal role in our solution. These remarkable organisms absorb pollutants like CO₂, nitrates, copper, zinc, phosphates, ammonia, and ammonium. Our cutting-edge sensors provide real-time data on water quality and algae performance, ensuring that every stage of the process is optimized. Through lab testing, we have achieved measurable results, including a 55% reduction in nitrates and a 60% decrease in copper. We are now engaging with ports in the UK, US, Canada, and Singapore to implement these solutions.

Our work doesn't stop at environmental impact. We actively engage with port authorities and local communities, sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration to drive sustainable practices. From workshops to strategic partnerships, we aim to inspire collective action.

Looking to the future, we envision expanding our technology to new locations and exploring innovative applications to address larger water bodies. With a commitment to measurable impact and a passion for sustainability, BioBright LTD is setting new benchmarks in environmental stewardship and marine ecosystem health.

<https://www.biobright.co.uk>





CABINET & FRAME

Furniture with everyday elegance



Cabinet & Frame, a business born from over 30 years of bespoke furniture experience and a passion for sustainable design. At Cabinet & Frame, we create repeatable furniture and interior products that combine timeless aesthetics with environmental responsibility. Our range includes kitchens, under-stair drawers, and cabinets, alongside a growing collection of adaptable tables, chairs, and unique lighting and storage solutions.

Sustainability is at the heart of our ethos. We source timber locally to reduce transport miles, combine solid wood with eco-friendly panels to minimize material usage, and utilize water-based dyes and finishes, avoiding harmful solvents. Our waste wood and shavings are repurposed to generate hot water for local heating. Our well-insulated workshop is electrically heated and equipped with energy-efficient LED lighting, ensuring minimal energy consumption.

Starting with minimal equipment, I launched Cabinet & Frame in November 2023 near Witney. Since then, I've completed projects like bespoke kitchen tea points for a community project and a custom-designed kitchen in Abingdon. With the support of a grant from WODC and OxLEP, we've invested in essential machinery and improved our workshop for greater efficiency.

At the OxLEP Business Marketplace, I'll be showcasing my first new product: oak side cabinets with contrasting grey panels a continuation of our Finn Collection. Cabinet & Frame stands poised to fill a gap in the market, offering high-quality, tailored furniture that bridges the gap between mass production and bespoke craftsmanship.

<https://www.cabinetandframe.co.uk>





DAMASCUS ROSE KITCHEN

At Damascus Rose Kitchen, we believe in the power of food to bring people together and create meaningful change. Since 2021, our all-female kitchen has been a haven for talented cooks, many from refugee backgrounds, who infuse Middle Eastern dishes with the warmth and hospitality of Syrian culture. Located in the heart of Oxford, we serve vibrant mezze bowls, falafel wraps, and more, delighting customers in our café on George Street and at catered events across the city.

Our story is about more than just food. Together, we've created a community that supports refugee women in building social connections, improving language skills, and gaining independence in the UK. As a social enterprise, we're equally passionate about protecting the planet for future generations.

Our vegetarian menu is a cornerstone of our commitment to sustainability, offering delicious, low-carbon meals that encourage plant-based eating. We proudly operate a zero-food waste policy, partnering with the Too Good To Go app to share surplus food while making affordable meals accessible to our community. To further reduce our environmental footprint, all our packaging is compostable and biodegradable eliminating plastics from our takeaway and catering services.

At Damascus Rose Kitchen, we're proving that businesses can thrive while putting people and the planet first. We're proud to lead by example and inspire others to embrace sustainability in their own lives.

<https://damascusrosekitchen.org>



At Outside ideas, I'm proud to say we're on a mission to empower small businesses while championing environmental sustainability. Founded by Peter Mols, we specialise in tailored coaching, running mastermind groups, and hosting the UK's most relationship-focused networking events.

Our approach is simple: people buy from people. Through Networking-in, we create meaningful connections that drive business success. Beyond fostering relationships, we focus on sustainable growth, helping small business owners thrive while making a positive impact on the planet.

Sustainability is at the core of what we do. We've taken significant steps to become a carbon-neutral company. By conducting thorough carbon audits and implementing energy-efficient measures, such as reducing cloud storage and minimising computer energy use, we're leading by example. Partnering with Green Machine Computers, we help recycle e-waste responsibly, and through organisations like Ecologi, we offset emissions by investing in reforestation projects.

Our commitment doesn't stop there. Locally, we collaborate with The Earth Trust and Wild Oxfordshire to restore habitats and protect wildlife. Globally, our initiatives extend to Africa, Asia, and beyond.

At Outside ideas, we believe sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement. Through our efforts, we aim to inspire small businesses, employees, and clients to join us in creating a greener, brighter future. Together, we're proving that business success and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

<https://outside-ideas.com>





OXFORD WOOD RECYCLING

At Oxford Wood Recycling (OWR), we're passionate about addressing wood waste issues and supporting the circular economy while making a positive social impact. Since our establishment in 2005, we've worked to change attitudes towards wood products in the UK, offering sustainable waste management solutions that emphasise reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Every month, we collect waste wood from over 167 commercial and domestic sites across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire. In 2023 alone, we recovered 1,981 tonnes of wood, with 378 tonnes reused and 1,603 tonnes recycled—saving nearly 987 tonnes of CO2. Much of this reclaimed wood finds new life in our Abingdon-based Wood Shop, where it's sold or crafted into bespoke furniture and commissions, including projects for Harwell Campus, Buckingham New University, and even the Chelsea Flower Show.

Our work goes beyond environmental sustainability. Through our Wood to Work programme, we support 25 job seekers annually, helping them gain skills and confidence to achieve employment. As a team of 23, we're proud that 83% of our income is derived from trading, fuelling our mission to promote sustainability while creating opportunities for those facing barriers to employment.

We're excited about initiatives like our Library of Tools, empowering nearly 400 residents to rent rather than buy, and the growth in SESI refill sales, supporting eco-friendly lifestyles. Every project we take on, and every interaction we have, is a step toward building a more sustainable future together.

<https://www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk>

Palmer+Partners

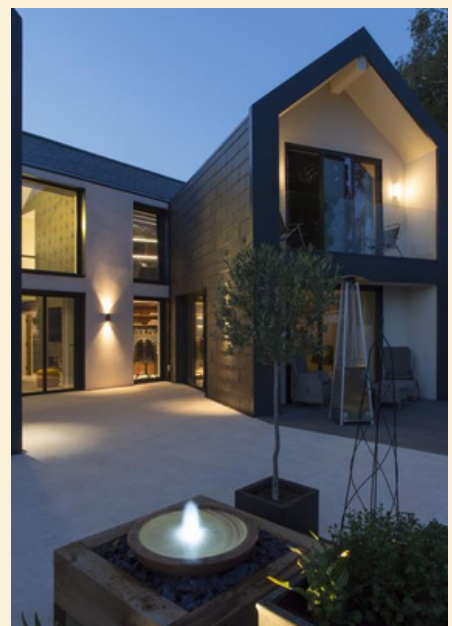
Here at Palmer + Partners Architects, sustainability isn't just a consideration it's at the very core of who we are and what we do. Since our founding by Lynn Palmer in 2010, our team of nine architects and technicians has been dedicated to delivering high-end residential designs that challenge the boundaries of sustainability.

Passive design is our specialty, and we're passionate about making sustainable living accessible to everyone. Whether through our Certified Passive House Designers or our innovative 'BluPrint' range for self-build homes, our goal is to empower our clients to embrace eco-friendly living today and into the future.

Sustainability permeates every aspect of our business. Internally, we operate a paperless office, drive our electric car, Arch-E, for site visits, and even use electronic business cards. But it's in our projects that our commitment truly shines. From sourcing local eco-friendly materials to designing homes with airtight construction, high insulation, and mechanical ventilation, we create spaces that are both comfortable to live in and kind to the planet.

We're also proud to engage our community with free workshops and seminars to inspire and educate others on sustainable building practices. Our mission is to lead by example, creating a ripple effect of sustainable innovation across Oxfordshire and beyond.

<https://palmerandpartners.co.uk>



PLANQ

PLANQ LTD, a UK-based supplier and manufacturer of sustainable and circular furniture. At PLANQ, we're passionate about transforming the interiors industry with our distinctive material, Rezign™ crafted from post-consumer textile waste and bio-based binders. Rezign™ embodies our commitment to environmental sustainability by diverting textile waste from landfills and giving it a second life.

Our diverse collection includes chairs, stools, tables, cubics, and locker systems. Currently, our UK operations focus on manufacturing tabletops with Rezign™, while the rest of our range is produced in collaboration with PLANQ B.V. in the Netherlands. Looking ahead, we're dedicated to localising more of our production processes to better serve the UK market, reduce import-related emissions, and tackle our own textile waste challenges.

At PLANQ, we're driven by a bold vision: to prevent 50,000 kilograms of textile waste from ending up in landfills or incinerators by 2030. This mission fuels our efforts to empower clients with sustainable and circular products while educating communities about the environmental impact of their choices. In just three years, we've diverted over 1,000 kilograms of textile waste from landfills, saving more than 3.4 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. These results reflect our steadfast dedication to climate action and inspire us and others to champion a greener future. Together, we can make sustainability the standard.

<https://www.planq.nl>



Rawstone

At Rawstone Consulting we specialise in ESG consultancy. I'm proud of how we're driving sustainability not just for our clients, but in how we operate every day. Our mission is to help medium to large companies create and implement effective ESG strategies, ensuring their operations are aligned with a more sustainable future.

Our environmental impact is small compared to many of our clients, but we believe in leading by example. In 2022, we measured our full scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, neutralised them, and set a verified Science Based Target. By installing an air source heat pump, switching to renewable energy, and adopting electric vehicles, we reduced scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% achieving our 2030 goal eight years early! Now, we're tackling scope 3 emissions, which make up 95% of our carbon footprint, by incentivising contractors to use renewable energy through financial support during the cost of living crisis.

Our influence extends to our clients, where we embed greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement and reduction into all projects. Since January 2023, we've helped reduce emissions by 144,116 tCO₂e through tailored strategies, equivalent to over 6,000 times our footprint. This includes pro bono work for charities like Forget Me Not Children's Hospice and support for clients seeking Science-Based Target verification.

We also advocate for sustainability through workshops, blogs, and donations because we know climate change demands collective action.

<https://www.rawstoneconsulting.co.uk>



As the country's leading technology business focused on reuse and recycling, re-universe is revolutionizing the way businesses approach sustainability. We empower organizations to track any item for recovery, reuse, or recycling, seamlessly integrating return incentives like rewards, deposits, or replacement charges. Our system excels in public-facing scenarios think reusable coffee cups and food packaging offering businesses a trifecta of benefits: lower costs, CO2 savings, and reduced disposal expenses.

What sets re-universe apart is our patented technology that eliminates friction for users. No apps, no sign-ups just a simple tap of a payment card to ensure a smooth, customer-friendly experience. While originally designed for the UK's delayed Deposit Return Scheme, our technology has found broader applications, starting with Blenheim Palace in 2022. Through iterations and innovation, we refined a reusable coffee cup system, achieving significant reductions in single-use litter and CO2 emissions.

Building on our Blenheim success, partnerships with the Eden Project and the Isle of Man are taking our mission further. From slashing bank charges to saving hundreds of tons of CO2 annually, these collaborations highlight our global impact.

At re-universe, sustainability is our driving force. One cup at a time, we're reducing litter, cutting carbon emissions, and inspiring a shift towards a reusable future. Together, we're creating cleaner, greener spaces for generations to come.

<https://re-universe.com>





Velocity is transforming freight delivery in Oxfordshire. We are an ultra-low emission courier service, providing businesses with a quick, affordable, and sustainable way to dispatch their goods.

Our mission is simple but impactful: to offer an environmentally positive delivery solution to improve air quality, reduce congestion, and keep urban streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians. By using electric cargo bikes and fully electric vans, we minimize emissions while ensuring the reliable delivery of a wide range of goods from office supplies and catering to retail products and medical samples.

At our launch in 2022, we committed to creating a business that reflects our values. We pay the Oxford Living Wage, offer permanent contracts to couriers, and prioritize working with independent local businesses. Our clients include artisan bakers, ethical coffee roasters, and sustainable caterer businesses that are the lifeblood of Oxford's economy.

Our partnership with initiatives like OxFarmtoFork and institutions like Oxford City Council allows us to go even further in reducing emissions. Whether delivering fresh produce to university colleges or supporting biotech firms with sustainable logistics, Velocity proves that low-emission delivery isn't just viable - it's essential.

We're committed to showing that sustainability and efficiency can go hand-in-hand, making Oxford a healthier, more liveable city for everyone.

<https://www.velocitycc.co.uk>



SUSTAINABLE

WEDDING ALLIANCE

At the Sustainable Wedding Alliance (SWA), we are proud to be part of a movement driving meaningful change within the wedding industry. Our mission is clear: to raise awareness, tackle climate change, and empower businesses to make responsible decisions that balance people, profit, and planet. Sustainability is the foundation of everything we do, from our operations, proudly carbon-neutral since 2021 to the initiatives we champion across the sector.

Building a community of like-minded businesses has been pivotal. Collaboration over competition is a core value for our members, who use our dedicated membership platform to network, share ideas, and work together for a more sustainable industry. Inclusivity is another priority; in November 2021, we launched a scholarship to support businesses facing financial challenges, ensuring sustainability is accessible to all.

We're also focused on educating couples about having sustainable weddings. Our Wedding Carbon Footprint Calculator helps couples measure their impact and offers actionable tips to reduce it.

In 2024, we achieved B Corp certification, solidifying our position as a leader in sustainability. With a Net Zero target of 2030, we're setting the bar high, publishing biennial impact reports, and helping businesses achieve our Sustainable Wedding Alliance Accreditation a gold standard in environmental and social responsibility.

At SWA, we believe in the triple bottom line: promoting environmental action, building a fair society, and contributing to an ethical economy. Together, we're creating a sustainable future for weddings and beyond.

<https://sustainableweddingalliance.com>



Witney Pony Partners began in 2014 with a simple mission: to introduce children and adults to equines in an ethical, compassionate environment. Our goal has always been to offer an alternative for those seeking kinder training and husbandry practices. By focusing on horse psychology, we work with our equines to foster mutual respect, communication, and understanding. Our students bond with a dedicated horse or pony for their lessons, emphasizing the importance of trust and partnership in creating accomplished riders. For those who prefer non-ridden interactions, we offer enriching, hands on experiences with our equines.

Our environmental impact is a key focus, and we're committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by April 2025. Our current footprint is approximately 25 tonnes of CO2 per year, which we're addressing through tree and hedge planting and donations to a seagrass charity, an initiative supporting both carbon capture and the protection of seahorse habitats. Operating entirely off-grid, we utilize solar panels, a borehole, and a composting toilet, minimizing fossil fuel reliance.

Wildlife thrives on our six-acre sanctuary. Our hedges, trees, and pesticide free practices support a rich ecosystem of insects, birds, bats, mice, voles, moles, shrews, foxes and badgers.

We recycle, repair, and reuse, ensuring landfill waste is minimal. By nurturing this balance, we not only sustain our environment but allow it to flourish.

<https://www.witneyponypartners.com>





Would you like to engage with fully funded support for your Business?

Engage with OxLEP's Support by completing the Business Support Tool.

You will then receive your fully funded Business Support Action Plan.

Click here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/business-support-tool/>

Scan here:



Delivery of the OxLEP Business Growth programme was supported by ALP Synergy Ltd. ALP Synergy Ltd is on a mission to support 10,000 small UK businesses to start, grow or thrive by 2030 as part of a sustainable and fair economy.

www.alpsynergy.co.uk



ALP Synergy Ltd