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# Kingfisher opens first net zero energy store

Kingfisher, the international home improvement company, today announces that the recently opened Peterborough Screwfix store will be the first in its estate to be net zero in its energy usage. Revealed as Kingfisher publishes its annual sustainability report, the net zero energy store will generate as much power as it uses and pass surplus energy back to the grid.

**A Kingfisher first**

The store brings together a powerful combination of solar panels, solar battery storage and an air source heat pump, creating a new and innovative solution to save energy. Other Kingfisher stores and distribution centres have solar panels or air source pumps to provide heating, and plans are being unveiled to install energy storage batteries at the B&Q distribution centre in Swindon. However, the Peterborough store marks the first time Kingfisher has used solar panels or air source pumps together with battery storage to power operations around the clock.

**Powering the net zero energy store**

Power is generated by the solar panels during the day, and excess energy is used to charge the batteries which power the store in the evenings. The air source heat pump has replaced gas and electric heating, and together with the solar PV system, heats the store more efficiently. Surplus power goes back to the grid, off-setting the days in winter when the solar PV will be generating less power and grid energy is needed to power the store.

**Fuelling more energy saving measures**

Inspired by these first steps, the Peterborough team is now considering other moves to reduce energy use even further. For example, by using energy metres on-site, Screwfix could see a spike in energy use at the start of the day when people were making their morning coffee. By fitting a hot water tap that uses battery-stored solar power, they hope to eliminate this energy use.

**Graham Bell, CEO at Screwfix, commented:** “We are investing now to cut energy across our own operations, and our long-term aspiration is to match this by helping customers have zero carbon or energy positive homes and businesses too. Our net zero store in Peterborough represents a significant milestone in our ambition to embed sustainability across the business, and help customers to create good, sustainable homes and businesses.”

**Making progress on sustainability targets**

The net zero energy store reflects Kingfisher’s overall goal to become a net positive business. Kingfisher’s annual sustainability report shows it is making good progress towards this, especially in reducing energy use and cutting carbon emissions. The business has reduced its absolute carbon footprint by 16% since 2010/11 and aims to increase this to 25% by 2020. It purchases 100% of its UK energy from renewable sources, covering both the Screwfix and B&Q businesses, and will have invested over £10 million in on-site renewables by the end of this year.

The sustainability report also reveals that a third (32%) of Kingfisher group sales now come from products that make customers’ homes more sustainable, taking the business closer to its goal of 50% by 2020. For example, as of 2017/18, Kingfisher has switched 91% of all light bulbs to LED, and sales of all LED products exceed £200 million. Meanwhile, the company is also improving water efficiency in various products, such as the new unified range of kitchen taps launched last year that are all low flow.

**Jeremy Parsons, Head of Energy and Renewables at Kingfisher, commented:** “‘Being able to create a zero energy store is a huge milestone for us. This store has a range of solutions that we have deployed individually across distribution centres and large format stores in the UK and France. Pulling them into one project at Screwfix demonstrates how far we can go towards creating very low carbon stores, and this approach is informing our next phase of investment in energy projects for the near future.”

**Caroline Laurie, Head of Sustainability at Kingfisher, commented:** “At Kingfisher, we believe in using our scale for good – for the good of the environment, the good of our customers, their families and communities. This is at the heart of everything we do, from how we power our stores to the products on our shelves. We have ambitious targets focused on the issues that matter most to our customers and we’re very proud of what we’ve achieved so far. We’re not taking our foot off the pedal; there is still much more we want to do in future.”

For more detail on the progress Kingfisher has made on sustainability, please visit: <https://www.kingfisher.com/sustainabilityreport>

**ENDS**

**Note to editors**

**About Kingfisher plc:**

Kingfisher plc is an international home improvement company with over 1,200 stores in 10 countries across Europe, Russia and Turkey, supported by a team of 77,000 colleagues. We operate under four retail brands - B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt and Screwfix. We offer DIY and home improvement products and services to nearly six million customers who shop in our stores and through our digital channels every week. Our customers are everyone wanting to improve their home, as well as the experts and trade professionals who help them. We believe everyone should have a home they feel good about, so our purpose is to make home improvement accessible for everyone. For more information, please visit: [www.kingfisher.com](http://www.kingfisher.com)

**About Screwfix:**

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward and affordably-priced, helping its trade customers get the job done quickly, affordably and right first time. Tradespeople can shop 31,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or in-person from their local store. From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 11,000 products available to pick up from 580 stores nationwide. For more information about Screwfix please visit: [www.screwfixmedia.co.uk](http://www.screwfixmedia.co.uk)

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