



Carrylift helps horticultural manufacturer grow its sustainability credentials

Carrylift, along with their valued supplier Calor, have worked to support a leading horticultural products manufacturer to make a seamless transition to BioLPG for its forklift truck fleet. A switch which has delivered long term sustainability, benefits and improved the operating environment for employees.

About Vitax

Vitax is one of the UK's leading manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural products. Supplying packaged products into the domestic market for use by the amateur gardeners and bulk products such as fertilisers used by golf clubs, football stadia and other sporting environments.

Its busy manufacturing site, based at Skelmersdale in Lancashire, contains several large-scale warehouses and the use of an efficient and reliable forklift truck fleet, which is essential to help keep on site manufacturing activities running smoothly. The company has traditionally relied upon diesel powered trucks, but as a number were coming to the end of their operational life, the company began discussions with Carrylift to investigate the potential options for replacements.



The Challenge

As a responsible business, Vitax also wanted to take the opportunity to further enhance its existing sustainability ambitions, and were interested to see if an alternative, renewable fuel could enable the company to improve its environmental impact.

Howard Bond, North West Sales Manager at Carrylift, says: "We had very productive discussions with the Vitax management team. They were open to new suggestions about how we could assist them improve the environmental and operational performance of their essential forklift truck fleet, as several of their older trucks became obsolete.

"In partnership with Calor we were able to present an integrated solution that used a new fleet of highly reliable TCM trucks which are fuelled by Calor's BioLPG.





Calor's Futuria BioLPG was specified and the transition period of swapping the fleet over from diesel to BioLPG was seamless. To underpin the fuel needs of the new fleet, Calor's Field Sales Professional Chris Teasdale supported Vitax with the siting of a new BioLPG bulk tank and alongside Calor's expert team dealt with the tank specification, all safety mechanisms, civil engineering planning and approval, installation, and commissioning.

Vitax operate an extremely busy manufacturing site and it was essential that there was no interruption to schedules as the work was undertaken and the new fleet introduced. Mike Aspinnall, Health and Safety Manager at Vitax, comments: "The switch over was straightforward and Calor handled all aspects of the project very well. Working in tandem with Carrylift, they ensured that the transition from diesel to a BioLPG was managed on time and on budget. Since beginning operation over two years we have had no issues."

There are now seven TCM BioLPG powered forklift trucks on site at Vitax used for the movement of raw materials and finished products safely and efficiently. Thanks to the on site BioLPG bulk tank, each truck driver can refuel directly from the Calor bulk tank as required so that operational efficiency is optimised. This also eliminates the need to manually handle 18kg gas bottles during transfer from the forklift to a gas bottle store.



Our Solution

To further support Vitax, Calor remotely monitors the fuel levels within the BioLPG bulk tank using its telemetry system, and automatically schedules refuelling deliveries to Vitax as required, ensuring that the fleet always has enough fuel on site to support operations.

The switch to BioLPG has also improved the prevailing conditions found within the busy production and storage warehouses. Helping to reduce emissions and pollutants when compared to the previous diesel-powered trucks, both noise levels inside the warehouses and overall carbon emissions have been cut by using the new fleet.

Mike Aspinnall from Vitax, concludes: "The swap over to Calor BioLPG has been successful for Vitax. The initial transition was smooth, and the company now has a fleet of highly efficient, reliable, flexible, and sustainable forklift trucks to support its day-to-day operational requirements. Looking ahead as other legacy forklift trucks used by Vitax need to be replaced, they too will be switched to BioLPG to further reinforce the company's long term sustainability ambitions."

