

Best Covid-19 Company Response: **EXTERNAL**

Winner Magnox

This category recognises organisations that stepped up to support society in the pandemic, helping charities, looking after supply chains and customers or making products and services accessible to those in need

Magnox is a nuclear decommissioning company operating under the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Magnox is responsible for the safe and secure clean-up of 12 nuclear sites in England, Scotland and Wales and already had a strong ethos of helping its neighbours.

The focus of its response to the pandemic was to support the country whilst maintaining safety and compliance. This involved pausing in some areas, maintaining critical operations in others and supporting hundreds of staff in shifting their work from site to home.

Magnox sites are in relatively remote locations so have strong ties to their local communities. Each year the Magnox socio-economic fund gives hundreds of thousands of pounds to support local causes. More than £300,000 in socio-economic grants was made available to support local authorities and community groups to enable them to respond to the crisis. But the Covid response was more than an organisational budget; Magnox supported its people to offer their vast array of skills – from co-ordination to crochet, from driving to design – as volunteers in their communities. More a quarter of the workforce volunteered, providing more than 5,400 volunteer hours in communities – the equivalent of almost three years of work.



In Magnox's business it needs to protect its workers from radioactive material, so it has the awareness and equipment to do that. Magnox staff identified supplies that could be shared whilst maintaining the safety of the sites and got the supplies out to the community to where they were needed to support frontline response work. More than 150,000 items of PPE were provided for frontline healthcare workers, including disposable respirators, suits and gloves. Magnox employees with 3D printers at home supplied their areas with face masks. Surplus food from site canteens was donated to local food banks. Volunteer motorbike riders transported

Shortlisted

human milk, blood, medical samples, equipment and medication. Volunteer drivers also used Magnox work vans to support doctors' surgeries by distributing prescriptions to shielding members of the community. Magnox people helped with the vital administration to support all these activities. All this was delivered in response to the emerging picture of need, with volunteers' skill sets aligned with the requirements in the community.

Achievements

The positive impact of Magnox's response to the pandemic was deep and wide-ranging. Volunteers marshalled traffic at doctors' surgeries and converted bedding into scrub bags for NHS workers. NHS staff put uniforms into the bags at the end of their shifts, and put them straight into the wash, minimising handling and helping to contain the spread of the virus. Volunteers worked at community shops and at local radio stations to keep neighbourhoods up to date with community information.

Magnox provided £300,000 from its socio-economic scheme to local authorities and organisations to support vulnerable groups. The money from Magnox's socio-economic scheme helped fund day centres, PPE for volunteers, baby boxes for vulnerable families and a pet food float. Activity packs were provided for disadvantaged children, as well as arts and crafts resources to help with schoolwork for vulnerable youngsters. A community call centre was set up, a citizens' advice bureau was supported and community vehicles maintained.

When the pandemic hit, the desire to help was innate; from the board to the workshop; the company as a whole and the individuals who make up Magnox provided a remarkable response. ■

Judges' comments



You made me jump up and down after a long day of judging as I couldn't stop smiling when reading your entry. Congratulations on a wonderful, caring and far-reaching response to Covid-19. At a time when most concentrated on those closest to us or how to keep going, you turned outwards and directed your thoughts to your community.



What really stood out that this wasn't just about an organisation making the effort but individuals too – testament to the leadership of the organisation in creating an environment where colleagues can support their whole community.

→ 87%

→ Fortis Therapy & Training

→ Guide Dogs

→ UK Addiction Treatment Group