

CASE STUDY: NPTC GROUP OF COLLEGES

BACKGROUND

As one of the largest colleges in Wales, covering a third of the country's landmass and offering courses to more than 270,000 residents across the country, NPTC Group of Colleges is proud to be one of 64 partners involved in the Supply Chain Sustainability School. It's the ONLY Further Education institution involved in the project and also is currently the Chair of the Wales School.

The School of Construction and Built Environment is the largest College within the Group and boasts four purpose-built construction centres at it's Neath, Swansea, Brecon Beacons and Newtown Campuses.

THE SCHOOL IN WALES



The Supply Chain Sustainability School in Wales was launched in March 2017 to bring together the key construction companies in the Principality to work together to up-skill the supply chain in sustainability. The School is the only conduit that brings together public and private sectors including industry, learning providers, local authorities and government departments to deliver key sustainable training. It will make the sector more effective and sustainable in every way, from an economical to sustainable future. The training focus is unique and translates innovative HEI research into practical

activities for the industry. It has been recognised as a key body for the Wales Government to engage on sustainable matters, and has an Assembly Member as its patron.

Mark Dacey, CEO and Principal of NPTC Group of Colleges said: "At NPTC Group of Colleges, we have always looked to lead the way, in terms of engaging with the Construction sector and key policy areas, such as sustainability. We are proud therefore to be the only FE College in the UK, to be a partner in the School and delivering together what is demanded by the sector, in terms of practical training solutions.

Since its inception, the School has been led and Chaired by Wyn Prichard, Director of Construction Skills and Business Strategy of NPTC Group of Colleges. Wyn is a keen supporter of the School and explains why NPTC have been engaged as a Partner to drive forward the School in Wales:

"Building the sustainability skills and knowledge of the construction supply chain is vital to its future success. The College is delighted to have played a part in helping to launch the School in Wales; we think the School model – a mix of traditional and online training - is ideal for the industry and the level of engagement from the supply chain bears this out. It's vital that the industry works together, and the School provides the perfect platform for this."

IMPACT

Guided by Wyn Prichard, the School has brought together industry leaders such as BAM, Barratt Developments, Bouygues UK, ISG, Kier, Sir Robert McAlpine, Redrow, Skanska, Welsh Water and Willmott Dixon. This Partnership is crucial in driving the School to engage with the supply chain and provide real measurable impact on the skills and knowledge of the supply chain.

"We've been delighted with the buy-in from the Partners and, just as importantly, the supply chain," said Wyn. In six months, the School has worked with 645 companies and 1,418 individuals, helping to grow their sustainability skills.

A major part of this engagement has come through the delivery of nine training sessions and Supplier Days which have been attended by 279 delegates from the construction sector. The focus of these events has covered areas such as Sustainable Procurement, DfMA, waste in the housing sector and the fairness, inclusion and respect agenda.

The School has also worked with the Welsh Government to publicise new policies and strategies such as the recently launched 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains'.



THE FUTURE

After a strong start, the School in Wales is set to grow through the delivery of more training sessions and driving more organisations to the suite of online training resources. One of the key areas the School will look to develop is the engagement as Partners of the big Wales-based contractors.

“The School has made a big impact in a short space of time and my goal as Chair of the School in Wales is to keep this pace up and to bind into the group more of the key players in Wales. Working together on this issue is vital and we want even more organisations to help drive the strategic direction of the School.”

Wyn Prichard, Director of Construction Skills and Business Strategy, NPTC Group of Colleges