

Sustainability within Connect Scaffolding:



“I joined the organisation in 2015, and as a scaffold contractor environmental consideration was not traditionally part of the management focus. It has been a key challenge to get senior management level buy in to enable and promote reform and introduce new programmes and

incentives. I am now the business Environmental and Sustainability Champion and I have had to structure my response to different stakeholders citing the business case and financial benefits at director level and the long-term benefits to our operatives. The business has now seen buy in from all members of staff at every level of the organisation.

As part of the company Senior Management Team I help to generate the environmental policies such as the Environmental, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Policy. Within the last year alone I have created and introduced new policy for the company on Harassment, Anti-Slavery and Waste. In this way, I bring important issues effecting the organisation and the communities we work in to the forefront and also other unseen issues such as human slavery.

As part of the senior management team I set objectives and targets and report on these monthly and at end of year to see if they have been achieved and help set new goals in line with KEY Performance Indicators (KPIs)

I monitor all environmental information for data analysis and respond accordingly as required. My team creates and amends all documentation used by the company and ensures this is uploaded onto the company integrated Business Management System (BMS).” – *Adam King, SHEQ Manager.*

Impact:

- **Subject specific learning:** Attending the School’s topical workshops on subjects such as Social Value and the CITB Apprenticeship Levy has helped Connect Scaffolding to benchmark where the organisation was and to get an understanding of what other organisations larger and smaller are also doing.
- **Purchasing procedure updates:** The School’s resources have prompted a review of Connect Scaffolding’s purchase procedure to ensure that the organisations they buy from are sustainable and encouraged them to make checks of their major suppliers to ensure they are sourcing their scaffold boards from sustainable avenues.
- **Collaborative business:** Mace AIR has completed assessments collaboratively, utilising the relevant technical champions from the sustainability team to ensure that an accurate representation of strengths and weaknesses was provided.

Fact box



Company

Connect Scaffolding

No of employees

< 200

HQ

London, UK

Website

www.connectscaffolding.co.uk

Main contacts

Adam King

Services

Scaffolding

About

Originally formed in 1991, **Connect Scaffolding** has sustained steady growth and now has a workforce of over 200 people and a fleet of 70 trucks and vans. Connect has earned a reputation for repeat business through service, professionalism, trust and anon-adversarial attitude to contracting.

A key part of the service is their design and engineering capability. With a wealth of experience across a variety of sectors, they can provide the optimum solution to meet client requirements in terms of safety, quality, cost and programme.

Areas of specialism: concrete frame scaffolding, timber frame scaffolding, restoration scaffolding, temporary roofing.

Current accreditations include: FORS – Gold, Investor in People, RoSPA Gold...

- **Sustainability potential identification:** Having completed 5 self-assessments since 2012, Mace AIR have found the Action Plans produced to be a very accurate and useful way of working on some sustainability areas which were not previously being strongly delivered against.

Value gained:

- **Social Value reporting:** Attending the School's topical workshops on subjects such as Social Value has helped Connect Scaffolding to understand the tools available for recording things they already do in the organisation (such as having over 40 apprentices/trainees within the business, our skill matrix monitoring, local employment and yearly charity events for Isabella Hospice).
- **Improved PQQs:** From reviewing their purchasing procedure above, Connect Scaffolding are now able to add in the sustainability of their supplier chain into their PQQs.
- **Accredited training:** Connect Scaffolding have found the School's e-learning modules to be very helpful in deepening their understanding of sustainability topic and have been able to attribute the CPD points accrued to relevant IEMA memberships.
- **Industry body recognition:** Connect Scaffolding use their Gold membership as a benchmark for progress and promote their participation towards their RoSPA and NASC awards.
- **Competitive advantage:** Being a Gold member of the School allows Connect Scaffolding to understand the problems faced by their customers and helps them to understand where they fit in the supply chain and how they can help them; this gives the business a competitive advantage over their competitors.
- **Reduced water usage:** For their customer, **Historic England**, Connect Scaffolding used onsite water catchment to fill large water butts used as kentledge onsite. This reduced the customers' site water usage considerably and all that was needed was good planning in having the butts on site early so they could be filled and be stored before the project began.



Future Proofing:

Connect Scaffolding believe that the School is doing good work to connect big organisations and SMEs across the country, but they feel more could be done to ensure that the SME's are included and helped to see the benefits of membership. Using platforms such as LinkedIn to publish case studies and companies achieving GOLD membership would be a good way of getting the message to others in an open forum.