

Attendees: Matt Nichols (Reconomy), Mark Turner (Supply Chain Sustainability School), James Cadman (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Imogen Player (Supply Chain Sustainability School), David O'Hagan (Graham), Iain Casson (Kier), Jo Potts (Kier), Gemma Tovey (Lovell), Helene Wright (National Grid), Sally Fraser (McLaren Group), Jim Riley (Protec), Joel Studley (Redrow), Olivia Ward (Redrow), Matt Dewsbury (Skanska), Ian Heasman (Taylor Wimpey), John Dwyer (Telford Homes), Andrew Cooper (Valpak), Dan Pearson (Biffa), Nicole Costantini (Valpak).

1. Introductions

Matt Nichols opened the meeting and all introductions were made. Mark Turner provided a summary of the last meeting and an overview of what would be discussed in this meeting. Mark also provided a reminder of the agreed approach for the waste and resource efficiency category group, namely dividing the workplan into three sub-sections: mapping and materials, procurement and supply chain engagement, measurement and reporting. A reminder of the key intervention points for designing out waste was also provided. It was suggested that a visual link be made between the intervention points and a circular economy approach, in keeping with moving from linear to circular processes.

Action: AS to investigate the practicality of including circularity within the relevant graphic

2. Updates on outstanding waste category group actions

Mark informed that the initial previous action to map existing waste initiatives was complete, but as we would like to keep it a live document, should delegates come across any initiatives that are not listed, please let Imogen know.

The School led review of the waste and resource efficiency learning materials is underway, with helpful input from members who have reviewed some resources. Jade Hunt and Leila duToit kindly reviewed the Introduction to Waste e-learning module.

Action: Partners to continue to provide any examples and case studies they have of waste and resource efficiency in practice. N.B. these do not need to be “polished” materials – the School can assist in building these into future learning content etc.

The group aims to engage not only the client and design community in the next quarter, but also continue the work with manufacturers and suppliers. By engaging with this community, we can begin to determine the challenges, barriers and best practice to designing out waste from the onset.

Partners to recommend any suitable potential organisations that could present relevant and informative examples.

3. Review of School's 'Waste & Resource Efficiency' website landing page

The group reviewed the School's 'Waste & Resource Efficiency' website landing page to provide feedback. It was observed that the first fact on the page is dated 2014 and was suggested that the page be updated with facts from either 2018 or 2019, or at least as recent as possible. It was also suggested that the cost aspect of waste be stated more boldly on the website, to convey the waste message clearly in cost units.

Whilst it should be noted that 'appropriate' targets differ between audiences, the School could still put some information on the website providing waste targets for different audiences: e.g. housebuilders, facilities management.

Action: Delegates to inform Imogen if they have any key up to date facts and figures that they think should go on the waste landing page.

The School is able to collect data for which waste resources are viewed and accessed the most. It was suggested that this data be used to help inform which key resources should be displayed on the landing page.

Action: School to use resource data to inform which key resources should be on the waste landing page. N.B. this might be less popular resources that it is clear users should be accessing to develop their knowledge.

4. Jim Riley, Protec Presentation

Jim Riley gave a presentation on how a supplier can work with clients to overcome barriers and introduce a circular product and service. He provided an overview of their closed loop re-manufacturing scheme of their Proplex product. A key point mentioned by Jim was their desire to ensure their feedstock comes from the industry already in use, in this instance the construction industry. A major challenge Jim finds is getting the Proplex sheets back after use, to be re-manufactured into new Proplex or re-used.

5. Rebecca Fleet, National Grid Presentation

Rebecca Fleet gave a presentation on National Grid's successful 'Save Evie's Whale' initiative. The campaign was launched 18 months ago to reduce single-use plastic in their main offices. The campaign has successfully reduced single-use plastics in their offices. Communication and engagement has been and remains key to the success of this initiative. Lovell offered to share their example with the group.

Action: Partners to continue to provide any of their own examples for reduction/awareness campaigns to enable sharing of knowledge on problem solving and elimination of "pinch points" and cultural barriers.

6. Update on Material Exchange Platform Mapping

The material exchange platform report was distributed at the last meeting. The School is now developing an online interactive mapping platform with the help of Matt Dewsbury from Skanska. The aim is for the user to be able to navigate through the different material exchange platforms and determine their location and radius. It was suggested that the choice of material exchange platforms chosen to be on the interactive map should consider:

- Waste regulations
- Health and safety requirements
- Other legalities and associated requirements

It was also suggested that a suitable disclaimer should be developed as and when the School launches the interactive map. Additionally, Helene Wright suggested that the School coordinate their approach with MI-ROG (Major Infrastructure – Resources Optimisation Group) in order to not duplicate efforts.

Action: School to coordinate with MI-ROG to determine if pre-existing learning is available or if a collaborative approach could be taken.

7. Plastic Waste Streams

Mark informed the group of an opportunity that has arisen with UK GBC and Zero Waste Scotland to carry out a survey of waste practices by Partners in segregating and recycling plastics waste. This survey will be in surveymonkey format with yes/no questions followed by opportunity to add more detail if available. Though it is expected that current knowledge of such data sets will be low it will enable all three organisations and their Partners to form a helpful baseline in advance of the expected Plastics Packaging Tax and extended producer responsibilities.

Mark asked the group if they were happy for this to take place and they confirmed that they thought this would be very helpful. Should any member of the group wish to look at the questions and suggest feedback prior to the survey being released, please let Mark or Imogen know as the trial version is now in development.

Matt Nichols informed the group that he had spoken with Zero Waste Scotland and also recently attended the UKGBC's Contractors Group. Collectively there was interest in establishing accurate and focused data on waste packaging via one or a series of detailed project/s or sector focused survey/s. This would be a separate piece of work to the surveymonkey survey mentioned above. It was considered that Homes might be a strong sector in which to start such work as the supplies are typically more predictable than in other sectors such as FM, Construction or Infrastructure. This could then be expanded if funding and the will from Partners and intermediaries exists.

A significant objective of such work is to gather evidence that could be used to influence suppliers and manufacturers to change their packaging materials and practices. In this context Reconomy has recently purchased Valpak. This organisation offers considerable experience and a platform called Insight which could potentially be used in a trial environment with Partners to develop reliable data sets and influence policy.

8. Nicole Costantini, Valpak Presentation

Nicole Costantini gave a presentation on Valpak's Insight platform tool. This tool provides users with a clear view of the drivers of their business' packaging materials waste by material type and supplier, allowing producers to comply with their packaging requirements, as well as enabling businesses to interrogate their data and make informed decisions. Nicole also provided an overview of current waste regulations and the UK Government's plans for the future, including the Extended Producer Responsibility and the Plastic Tax.

It was agreed that discussions continue with Zero Waste Scotland and potential trial Partners with a view to identifying and finding participants and funding for a suitable trial project.

9. AOB

Matt Nichols suggested that as a general principle this Category Group develops sector initiatives that provide best practice and lessons learnt for sectors that have similar waste streams. These sectors could include housebuilding and fit-out construction.

Should anyone have a room capable of holding c.25 people that they are able to provide for 2-3 hours on the 18th February, please let Imogen know ASAP.