

Attendees: Matt Nichols (Reconomy), Mark Turner (Supply Chain Sustainability School), James Cadman (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Imogen Player (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Helen Wickham (Berkeley Group), Ben Angove (Biffa), Dan Pearson (Biffa), Cathal Ward (Bouygues UK), Leila duToit (CW Contractors), Michelle Grisdale (EMCOR UK), David O'Hagan (Graham), Nigel Ostime (Hawkins Brown), Jade Hunt (Kier), Matt Dewsbury (Skanska), Adam Lane (Mathias and Sons), Helene Wright (National Grid), David Chandler (Unwasted), Rod Fountain (Unwasted), Eugene Meehan (O and B), Nikolaos Sapounas (Osborne), Sarah Jane Davies (Sisk), Anthony Lavers (Taylor Wimpey), John Dwyer (Telford Homes), Karen McWalter (Hochtief UK).

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 mentioned that following discussions subsequent to the last meeting in July, a decision had been taken to expand the scope of the action regarding engagement of clients, designers and architects on their approaches to resource efficiency and waste reduction. It was felt that including suppliers and manufacturers, who are often innovative and well-motivated to make changes for the better, would enable the group to make wider inroads across the whole built environment value chain.

2. Review of current learning materials on waste and resource efficiency

Internal review of the waste and resource efficiency learning materials within the Supply Chain Sustainability School has commenced, however a request was made for members to also spend some time reviewing resources. This is very important as School partners are well placed to offer informed comments. To start the process off Jade Hunt and Leila duToit kindly offered to review the Waste e learning module.

Action: School to liaise with Jade Hunt and Leila duToit regarding the review process.

Action: Group members to inform Mark or Imogen if they are willing to review further resources.

There was a request from members to have more resources aimed at providing an increased understanding of circular economy and Defra's 2018 Waste Strategy, particularly on Extended Producer Responsibility. This should include a 'common language' definition of circular economy as well as information on the Government's Resource and Waste Strategy. **Note:** the School already has e-learning on CE, so we should make the link between those and Waste modules more explicit.

Action: School to review and potentially provide more resources aimed at improving circular economy understanding.

The School requested that group members provide examples of best practice and case studies. This could include examples of when single plastic use was reduced, or even examples of when implementation plans have not been successful. The aim of this is to increase a shared understanding of practices available and that have already been trialled and tested.

Action: Partners 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 School should provide an education and awareness piece on the Government's 2022 Plastic Tax. This should include what the implications will be, what the responsibilities will be, and a timeline of suggested actions.

Action: School to provide an education and awareness piece on the Government's 2022 Plastic Tax once clarity is achieved (hopefully via the Government's the Autumn budget statement).

3. Waste, resource efficiency and circular economy initiatives

An action from the last meeting was to research the waste, resource efficiency and circular economy initiatives available in the UK. The report was circulated as pre-read documentation and Imogen Player provided an overview of the research that was undertaken. 22 Initiatives were identified that fit the inclusion criteria, 9 of which were specific to the built environment, 13 of which targeted all sectors but were still appropriate to the built environment.

Action: If any members know of any other information that is relevant to this research, for example initiatives that were not discussed or initiatives that are out-of-date, please inform Imogen Player (Imogen@actionsustainability.com). Those found will be shared with UKGBC to add to their database.

4. Adam Lane, Mathias and Sons Presentation

Adam Lane presented the barriers and challenges that Mathias and Sons have faced regarding single use plastics, and the solutions they have developed. They were informed to change by a key customer and launched a challenging but highly successful project to remove all single use plastic from their packaging. Single use plastic labels, tape and bags were just some of the items they replaced. Mathias and Sons are trialling a take-back scheme and Adam informed that they are also developing a relationship with a charity to over-brand logos on redundant workwear.

5. Survey of school members

The School conducted a survey for its members between 5th August and 18th September 2019. From this, 224 responses were collected. The aim of the survey was to gain an understanding of what School members would like to increase their understanding of and have more resources available of. Imogen Player provided an overview of the responses. In summary, respondents are interested in learning about a wide variety of waste and resource efficiency topics. Respondents also like a mix of learning styles, including: e-learning; toolbox videos; webinars; training sessions and supplier days. This is useful as it confirms the School's current approach of offering blended learning is meeting the needs of the respondents. The discussion stressed the need for some really basic learning on waste handling and compliance for the supply chain.

Action: If any members would like to request resources specific to certain topics, please let Imogen Player know (Imogen@actionsustainability.com).

A discussion took place regarding the problems of improving segregation and recycling rates for general mixed waste (GMW), otherwise known as light mixed compactable. Matt Nichols mentioned that in his experience within the Homes waste market, Light Mixed Compactable (LMC – generally packaging) typically accounts for 60-65% of the constituent waste stream, with the other major streams being plasterboard and wood. LMC waste is often predictable as the product being built is ostensibly the same, unlike construction or fit out which can differ from project to project.

An education piece was requested on:

- Understanding the common constituent elements of GMW within the various School markets (construction, FM, Infrastructure, Homes)
- Minimising GMW in order to increase segregation and increase recycling (and ideally further elimination) of common individual waste streams.
- Case studies (videos?) of good practice on site in this regard.

Action: School to identify, focus or develop new content on the general mixed waste category, its components and how to eliminate constituent waste streams, increase material reuse, segregation and recycling, and avoid GMW.

Action: Members to provide examples and case studies of general mixed waste, for example products that are often found in GMW but should not be there, as well as elements that should be segregated. This can also include examples and case studies of best practice where the aim is to combat cultural changes linked to waste segregation improvements.

Action: School to provide an education piece on the tools that are currently available to identify products that can be recycled, and that assist with waste segregation understanding.

6. Material exchange portals

An action from the last meeting was to research the material exchange platforms (MEPs) that are currently available in the UK. The report was circulated as pre-read documentation and Imogen Player provided an overview of the research that was undertaken. It was discussed that the main challenges encountered in using them in practice are logistical – for instance donated materials not being used in timely fashion, or MEPS being geographically distant and thus presenting challenges at project site level in terms of ease of transportation. CL:AIRE soils exchange MEP was notified as absent from the research. It was discussed that a map of these recorded MEPs and their associated exchange radius should be created, in order for companies to better understand which MEPs they could use. It was suggested that MEPs could be discussed within a School supplier day, enabling contractors to gain an understanding of MEPs, as well as potentially linking up larger contractors with smaller contractors to enable MEP practice.

Action: If any members know of any other information that is relevant to this research, for example material exchange platforms that were not discussed or that are out-of-date, please let Imogen Player know (Imogen@actionsustainability.com).

Action: School to investigate creation of a map of the recorded MEPs, with their associated radius of exchange - assuming a radius of 30 kilometres, as discussed by those in the room. Likewise extend the flow diagram of Client > Designer > Contractor > FM to include MEPs.

Action: Members to provide any case studies from their organisations of practices where surplus materials have been reduced or exchanged within their organisation, or through third parties.

Action: School to discuss MEPs at a future supplier day. This would involve providing an understanding of MEPs, as well as networking to enable MEP practice.

7. David Chandler and Rod Fountain, Unwasted Presentation

David and Rod provided an overview of their MDF replacement product, Neverwaste, and an understanding of how it will link to the circular economy and waste and resource efficiency. Currently in development, they take fibrous cellulose waste and turn it into product. They intend to provide a take-back scheme, where all used Neverwaste product is recycled new product, enabling “an 85% reduction in carbon loss”.

8. AOB

A group exercise to discuss: ‘How can we contribute to innovation for efficiency, collaboration and waste reduction, supporting the circular economy?’ was postponed due to a lack of time. The primary intention of this exercise is to identify common barriers to implementation, with a view to addressing these barriers through the future activities of the group. This or a similar exercise could be facilitated

at the next waste category group meeting. Group members' views are sought as to whether this would be considered beneficial.

Matt Dewsbury informed Matt Nichols that he would have the knowledge resources available to create a tool that details MEP locations.

The next meeting will be held on: 12th December 10:00 – 13:00 at National Grid's Warwick Office.