

SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY



July – Sept 2021

Supply Chain Sustainability School

Progress report

1. Summary by numbers

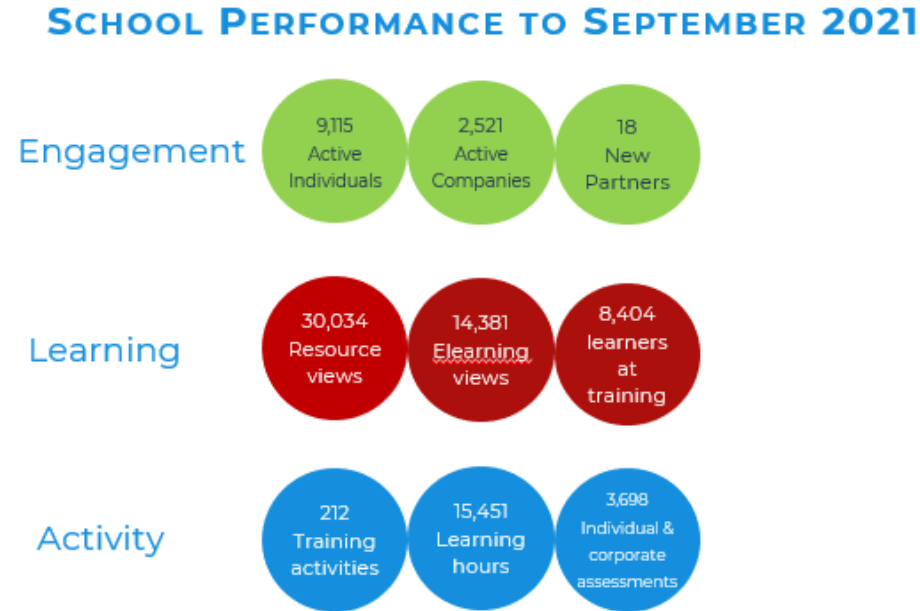
1.1 Progress against KPI's

There are currently 2,521 organisations and 9,115 active individuals who have become active since 1st April 2021. In terms of the planned activities, these remain on track with quarter three set and quarter four are already being planned.

Engagement in terms of resource access and learners at training continue to build with Q2 exceeding resource and elearning views compared to Q1. Attendance at training activities has also been maintained with a minimal dip (a difference of about 150). The delivery team have noticed that there have been less bookings for training over the month of September. Analysis is taking place to understand this and monitoring over the next two months to notice any trends. One reason that has been floated is that people are beginning to return to offices etc more now that restrictions are easing and perhaps have less time for training.

The Illustration below shows key highlights for Q1&2:

Illustration 1:



Progress Report

Table 1 below shows a summary of planned activity and progression for each sector:

Deliverables	Actual/ Target	Const	FM	Homes	Infra	Offsite	Wales	Scot	FIR	Digital	Procurement	Entire School
Active companies*	2,126/ 2,860	527/ 550	789/ 1,000	934/ 1,500	715/ 750	374/ 400	570/ 450	348	--	--	2,521/ 3,235	
Active Individuals											9,115/ 12,600	
Business Bytes*	4	4 (inc Confere nce)	4	2	4	3	8	4 (Ambasad or Network)	3	2	14/29	
Training Workshops	8	12	12	12	14	4	4	40	12	47	127/189	
Lunch & Learns*	4	4	8	8	8	2	0	22	12	10	72/164	
Learners @ training**	920	550	1,380	1,200	1,000	400	400	2,300	1,140	1,640	8,404 /14,880	
Learning Pathways	1	-	1	-	--	--	-	-	-	-	2	
FIR Ambassador	-	-	-	-	--	--	-	567/600	-	-	528/600	
E-learning downloads	-	-	-	-	4,991/ 2,000	--	-	-	-	-	14,381 /8,000	
Assessments	-	816/ 150	-	158/1,608 200/1,500	203/ 340	540/ 60	94/563 120/240	-	541/500	473/250	302/3,396 600/3,000	
Re-assessments	-	239/80	-	114/360 550/900	50/ 120	151/ 60	97/120 120/240	-	-	-	305/746 700/1,000	
Bronze/ Silver/Gold	519/600	108/250	203/300	-	-	--	175/150	-	-	-	564/600	

*Wales & Scotland School have some events that are part of the sector business plans (denoted in brackets)

** Bracketed figures indicate potential for double counting against the entire school target. For example, a company can be active in more than 1 market sector but would only count once towards the overall target.

Key:	On target	Concern	Focus required	No target
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Please note: In the new system Wales & Scotland are viewed as regions. There are two ways to look at the reporting for these regions:

- Looking at the number of companies with a Welsh or Scottish postcode.
- Those who have an interest in these regions but are not actually located there.

The figures above illustrate figures from the second bullet point.

In addition, as there has been a joined-up approach towards the face-to-face training activities, there are several activities which are not 'sector specific' so the figures above will not necessarily add up to the total.

1.2 Online Face to face training activities

The online training activities remain popular. The marketing team have commented that September has seen a slight downfall in attendance. There could be many factors for this such as a more people returning to the office; there have been a lot of activities take place which is giving more choice to members, possibly diluting attendance figures. This will be monitored over the coming months and analysed to provide a more factual

There have been 8,404 learners attending workshops, Business Bytes and Lunch & Learns to date. This is an increase of 114% (3,921 learners in Q1&2 last year). There was a question around the fact that elements such as furlough impacted engagement figures last year and would these increased levels of engagement still be maintained. The results for the first six months of the year show that the School continues to be a learning hub. The next six months will be interesting as 'normal' life resumes.

Table 2. Training activities taken place to date

Type	No. of sessions	No. of learners	No. of learning hours
Business Bytes	14	2,436	4,872
Workshops	127	2,655	6,638
Lunch & Learns	71	3,941	3,941
Total	212	8,404	15,451

The number of learner hours is calculated as follows:

- Business Bytes = 2 hours x no. of learners
- Workshops = 2.5 hours x no. of learners
- Lunch & Learns = 1 hour x no. of learners

1.3 Engagement in the School

The School team have been working hard to engage organisations and individuals in the School, as well as keep them returning to learn through the School. The tables below compare previous years in terms of engagement. Due to developments in reporting the School can now track active individuals from 1st April which are included in table 3.

Table 3 Comparison of Active organisations, individuals and engagement over 12 months and since April:

	2021	2019	2018	2017
Active Organisations (over a period of 12 months)	3,744	3,092	2,980	2,563
Active Individuals (over a period of 12 months)	14,471	6,205	4,972	4,013
Active Organisations (1 st April – 30 th Sept 2021)	2,521	20,616	13,097	10,872
Active Individuals (1 st April – 30 th Sept 2021)	9,115	1,991	2,015	1,333
Resources & eLearning accessed (1 st April – 30 th Sept 2021)	44,415	4,183	3,320	2,082

* Active member defined as an organisation which have used at least one resource in the past 12 months. This can be either completing an assessment, coming to one of our events, or accessing an online resource.

Table 4 focuses on the month-by-month engagement from individuals. The School is continuing the find that engagement, in particular around resources and elearning continue to build, which is also reflected in the number of active individuals. Functionality within the School such as the Learning Pathways, which are popular ways for organisations to engage their internal staff and supply chain, will support the growth in these figures. These figures will continue to be monitored as the year progresses.

Table 4. Engagement tracker

Month	Resource views (not eLearning)	E-learning views	Virtual face to face training
2020			
April	1,904	1,483	392
May	2,378	1,171	895
June	1,990	950	807
July	2,256	976	839
August	2,558	825	935
September	3,155	1,268	517
October	3,797	1,641	1,313
November	4,441	1,674	1,381
December	3,326	1,583	218
2021			
January	4,129	1,557	1,637
February	5,610	2,476	1,382
March	6,074	2,651	1,864
April	4,981	2,340	1,340
May	4,075	2,008	1,211
June	5,091	2,334	1,525
July	5,440	2,408	1,262
August	5,057	2,853	1,047
September	5,314	2,455	1,619

It is also interesting to analyse which type of resources are being used by the members. The table below illustrates this.

Table 5. Analysis of popularity of resource type

Unique Resource Views	July	Aug	Sep
All Resources	7,245	6,981	6,599
Documents	1,215	1,172	1,402
E-learning	2,113	2,365	1,907
Tool	118	103	199
Videos	2,699	2,248	2,042
Weblinks	1,100	1,093	1,049

The top five resources each month are listed in the table below. This is likely to be driven by the communications that go out to members encouraging them to use specific resources based on the theme for that month.

Table 6. Top 5 resources each month

Top 5 Resources	Jul	Aug	Sep
#1	Re-thinking progress - Circular economy	Introduction to Climate Change and Carbon	Delivering Sustainable Outcomes: ISO 20400
	127 views	249 views	137 views
#2	Sustainability Strategy - Sustainability Short	Modern Methods Of Construction Database	Introduction to Climate Change and Carbon
	98 views	217 views	95 views
#3	Introduction to Climate Change and Carbon	Carbon Footprinting & Measurement	Carbon Footprinting & Measurement
	90 views	184 views	85 views
#4	Science Based Targets - Sustainability Short	Carbon Reduction, Offsetting And Net Zero	The Circular Economy
	86 views	140 views	64 views

#5	FIR Toolbox Talk: FIR Induction	Carbon Reporting	The Social Value Model - PPN06/20
	83 views	132 views	64 views

1.4 Quality ratings of events

All events that are run are measured against three KPI’s: quality; impact (change) and relevancy. These are based on good or excellent responses. The below table illustrate results for the training run to date:

Table 7. Table showing KPI ratings for Change, Relevancy and Quality

Year	Target and measure	Rating	Virtual change +/-
April - Sept 2021	95% of employers will rate the training quality as good or excellent	95%	0%
	90% of employers will rate the training received as relevant to their needs	90%	0%
	75% of employers agree training will change the way they do business	83%	-2%
FY 2020/21	95% of employers will rate the training quality as good or excellent	95%	
	90% of employers will rate the training received as relevant to their needs	90%	
	75% of employers agree training will change the way they do business	85%	

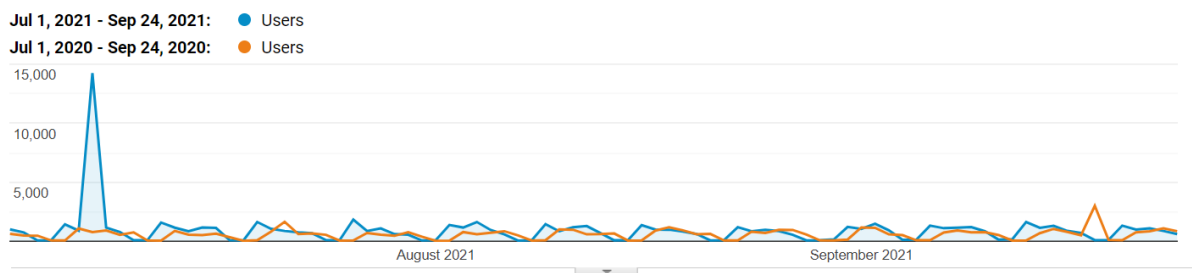
The Internal team continue to meet regularly to discuss feedback received from those who attend the training to ensure that the offering is continually improved.

2. PR, Marketing & Communications

Website

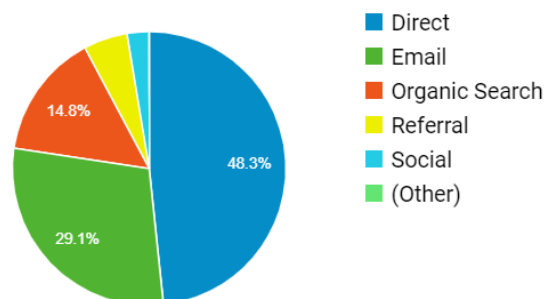
IMPORTANT: It must be noted that the spike in users on Wednesday 7 July was due to bot activity. A monthly email was sent to School members on this day and it's thought a link checker was used for anti-spam/phishing purposes by an email recipient's client/server. This generated an additional 6.5k users to the site on this day. This figure must therefore be taken into account when reporting Q2 stats.

In Q2 2021, the School acquired nearly 50k users organically (removing the bot activity noted above). If compared to the same time last year, the School received 37k users, therefore an increase of 35% in users YoY.



The School is continuing to receive international visitors, specifically users from the USA (12.47%), the Netherlands (7.16%) and Finland (6.73%) - perhaps due to all training sessions taking place online and more resources available in Q2 2021.

Email continues to be the second most powerful tool to get users to the website @ 29.1%, followed by organic search (i.e. Google) @ 14.8%. However, we continue to see that half of the School's web traffic is acquired from users directly typing the School's URL into a search bar or entered the saved tab @ 48.3%, showing how well established the School has become.



The topics that were most popular during Q2 were Fairness, Inclusion & Respect (2.6k page views), Carbon (807 p/vs) and social value (720 p/vs).

The most popular markets in Q2 2021 continue to be Construction (579 page views), FM (209 p/vs) and infrastructure (75 page views). These also reflect the top performing markets for the whole of FY 2020 and therefore this is a recurring theme for the School.

Media coverage

There has been a lot of activity in the press this Quarter, including;

- FIR survey results displaying how SCSS continue to impact a fair, inclusive and respectful built environment
- Launch of the carbon calculator, in partnership with the Sustainability Tool
- A partnership with Balfour Beatty on a Net Zero Survey ‘Greening the Chain - Overcoming barriers for a Net Zero Supply Chain’
- Launch of the RIBA DFMA guidance
- Nominations for two awards at the Construction News Awards 2021 – ‘Outstanding Contribution to the Industry’ and ‘Supply Chain Excellence’ with Highways England.
- 20 & 21st signatory to the Plant Charter, with SCSS leading the way for the UK’s built environment to drastically reduce onsite emissions to air that are harmful to human health and the planet.
- A partnership announcement with a new technology sustainability showcase – Futureworx.

The School also received many articles from members of the School announcing their updated bronze/silver/gold status, as well as new Partners announcing them joining the School (such as the Environment Agency).

Please refer to the table below for all media coverage In Q2.

Publication	Title	Date	URL
BDC Magazine	SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL CONTINUES TO POSITIVELY IMPACT A FAIR, INCLUSIVE, AND RESPECTFUL UK BUILT ENVIRONMENT, REPORT FINDS	08-Jul-21	https://www.bdcmagazine.com/2021/07/supply-chain-sustainability-school-continues-to-positively-impact-a-fair-inclusive-and-respectful-uk-built-environment-report-finds/

Publication	Title	Date	URL
Specification Online	Supply Chain Sustainability School impacts positively on built environment	08-Jul-21	https://specificationonline.co.uk/articles/2021-07-08/citb/supply-chain-sustainability-school-impacts-positively-on-built-environment
The fifth estate	10 things you need to know about your modern slavery statement	12-Aug-21	https://thefifthestate.com.au/business/government/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-your-modern-slavery-statement/
Raconteur	Why payment terms shouldn't be used as green incentives	12-Aug-21	https://www.raconteur.net/sustainability/why-payment-terms-shouldnt-be-used-as-green-incentives/
Environment Agency	Every day's a school day – enhancing our sustainability knowledge	25-Aug-21	https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/25/every-days-a-school-day-enhancing-our-sustainability-knowledge/
Scottish Construction Now	Gold award for Russell Roof Tiles	26-Aug-21	https://www.scottishconstructionnow.com/article/building-briefs-august-25th-1
Roofspace Solutions	Environmental Impact	26-Aug-21	https://roofspacesolutions.co.uk/about-us/environmental-impact/
Total Contractor	Gold medal for Russell Roof Tiles	26-Aug-21	https://www.total-contractor.co.uk/gold-medal-for-russell-roof-tiles/
Barhale	Barhale clinches Gold	02-Sep-21	https://www.barhale.co.uk/news/barhale-clinches-gold/
Hillcrest Structural	We are pleased to have gained our Silver badge with the Supply Chain Sustainability School	September	https://hillcreststructural.co.uk/we-are-pleased-to-be-awarded-our-silver-badge-for-the-scsc/
bbpmedia	Gold Medal Winning	03-Sep-21	https://www.bbpmedia.co.uk/news/manufacturing/gold-medal-winning.html
Facilities Management Journal	Free carbon calculator is launched for supply chains	03-Sep-21	https://www.fmj.co.uk/tag/supply-chain-sustainability-school-scsc/
i-FM.net	Free carbon calculator for supply chains	03-Sep-21	https://www.i-fm.net/news/free-carbon-calculator-for-supply-chains
BIM+	Carbon calculator targets supply chain sustainability	02-Sep-21	https://www.bimplus.co.uk/carbon-calculator-targets-supply-chain-sustainability/
French Chamber of Great Britain	Free carbon calculator for supply chains	02-Sep-21	https://www.ccfgb.co.uk/publications/latest-articles/n/news/free-carbon-calculator-for-supply-chains.html
marketscreener.com	Think Global. Act Local. Make a difference: Balfour Beatty leading the charge against climate change	17-Sep-21	https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/BALFOUR-BEATTY-PLC-4000600/news/Think-Global-Act-Local-Make-a-difference-Balfour-Beatty-leading-the-charge-against-climate-change-36449342/
BD Online	RIBA publishes Design for Manufacture and Assembly guidance	15-Sep-21	https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/riba-publishes-design-for-manufacture-and-assembly-guidance/5113708.article

Publication	Title	Date	URL
PBC Today	RIBA publishes latest DfMA guidance	17-Sep-21	https://www.pbctoday.co.uk/news/mmc-news/riba-dfma-guidance/99362/
businessday .ng	FG to promote sustainable ethical business practices	17-Sep-21	https://businessday.ng/news/article/fg-to-promote-sustainable-ethical-business-practices/
PBC Today	Balfour launches race to net zero carbon emissions	17-Sep-21	https://www.pbctoday.co.uk/news/energy-news/net-zero-carbon-emissions/99353/
Construction News	Balfour says lack of low-carbon materials threatens net-zero goals	20-Sep-21	https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/sustainability/lack-of-material-availability-threatening-supply-chain-net-zero-plans-20-09-2021/
Specification Online	RIBA publishes new Design for Manufacture and Assembly guidance	20-Sep-21	https://specificationonline.co.uk/articles/2021-09-20/riba/riba-publishes-new-design-for-manufacture-and-assembly-guidance
BDC Magazine	The built environment industry join forces to improve air quality and reduce GHG emissions across the UK	21-Sep-21	https://www.bdcmagazine.com/2021/09/the-built-environment-industry-join-forces-to-improve-air-quality-and-reduce-ghg-emissions-across-the-uk/
Construction Index	Latest company to try using hydrotreated vegetable oil instead of diesel oil to power its construction machinery is Kier.	21-Sep-21	https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/kier-tries-hvo-signs-charter
Building specifier.com	JOINING FORCES TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY	21-Sep-21	https://buildingspecifier.com/joining-forces-to-improve-air-quality/
Offsite Magazine	New Ways of Working with MMC	Sept	https://issuu.com/radarcommunications/docs/offsite_mag_100pp_iss_29_digital_first_version?e=15424601/64704172
Construction Shows	The Plantworx team are collaborating with The Supply Chain Sustainability School to deliver a new technology and sustainability showcase – Futureworx	24-Sep-21	https://constructionshows.com/cea-with-the-supply-chain-sustainability-school-future-technology-event-futureworx/
Materials Handling World Magazine	The Plantworx team are collaborating with The Supply Chain Sustainability School	27-Sep-21	https://mhwmagazine.co.uk/the-plantworx-team-are-collaborating-with-the-supply-chain-sustainability-school-to-deliver-a-new-technology-and-sustainability-showcase-futureworx.html

Content and Email Marketing

There have been some key developments within content and email marketing, including:

- **Re-engagement Campaign:** The marketing team launched a 6-week campaign to identify users who were not active on the School and re-engage them through an email automation series. Out of a total GDPR compliant list of 5.4k members, 1.5k re-engaged with the School. However, 3.9k members did not engage (i.e. open any emails sent within those 6 weeks), therefore the team will unsubscribe them and suspend their members accounts (upon completed dev work). This will allow for more accurate reporting and improve the ROI of our marketing.
- **People Matter Charter series** - A year-long email series has been activated for those who join the People Matter Charter. Its aim is to welcome, engage and retain annual signatories to the charter.
- **Training Sessions alerts** - A 'TrainingAlert' weekly email engages members to the SCSS free training sessions, generating between 450-600 clicks to the website. The
- **Resources alerts** – A monthly newsletter is distributed on the first Wednesday of every month and is focussed on promoting the free resources available on the School, plus updating members on what's happening in each market. This generates between 300-650 clicks to the School's website per send.
- **FIR Ambassador alerts** - Currently, a FIR email template is being redesigned to make the email cleaner, appealing and more engaging for FIR ambassadors.
- **Market updates** – A monthly news article is created for each sector featured on the School's News Page, highlighting top stories in the media and recommend training sessions and resources for those interested in that market. [Click here for an example.](#)

Email marketing continues to be a big focus, with plans to launch multiple educational series in the form of a customer journey, focussed on key topic areas (to engage members with resources) and an acquisition campaign (to acquire 'potential' priority suppliers).

Social Media

Twitter is the School’s platform with the most followers @ 5.2k, followed by LinkedIn @ 4.2k. However, LinkedIn is the School’s most engaging platform @ 727 engagement rate for July-September 2021.

Platform	# Followers	# Posts	Engagement
Twitter	5.2k	139	262
LinkedIn	4.2k	78	727
Facebook	158	46	37

KEY

**Followers: The total number of followers for SCSS pages.*

**Posts: The total number of posts published to SCSS pages.*

**Engagement: The total number of likes, comments, and shares received on content associated with SCSS pages.*

The most engaging posts on LinkedIn in Q2 were surrounding:

- Digital programme featured in Sir Robert McAlpine’s summer newsletter (48.58% engagement)
- Sustainable procurement Lunch ‘n’ Learn promo (7.25% engagement)
- Net zero campaign promoting net zero webinar (6.85% engagement)

The most engaging posts on Twitter in Q2 were surrounding:

- RIBA plan of work (6 retweets, 8 likes)
- Introducing the carbon calculator (4 retweets, 5 likes)
- Imperial college survey on tackling air pollution (5 retweets, 5 likes)

The most engaging posts on LinkedIn in Q2 were surrounding:

- Spruce up your knowledge on ISO 19650 this lunchtime! Webinar recording promo (9 shares)
- Sustainable procurement Lunch ‘n’ Learn promo (1 share)
- #PlasticBagFreeDay campaign – insight into how the SCSS eliminate the amount of single use plastic they use (1 share)

2. Sector Group Progress

The following section gives a summary of what each group are currently focusing on.

2.1 Construction

Since the launch of the new carbon calculator in September, construction partners have been actively recommending their supply chain to report using the tool, with many construction partners now themselves registered on the new platform.

Popular lunch n learns have included Greening the Fleet, Collaborating to Cut Carbon, the Environment Bill and the Construction Playbook. The next leadership group meeting will feature two workshops. The first to consider how Partners want their supply chain to engage in the School and to review the criteria for the current badging system. The second aims to facilitate knowledge sharing amongst partners on the challenges/ lessons learned / benefits in relation to engaging internal colleagues in the School, and engaging the supply chain in the School.

2.2 Homes

A key activity for the Homes group is the development of the School's first trade specific sustainability learning pathways, focusing on groundworks. The beginner level pathway is progressing well. Consultation has highlighted that groundworkers welcome the trade specific, collaborative approach. The pathway includes a statement from Homes and Construction Partners that highlights the business case for tackling sustainability, and highlights the common approach – it reflects both the 'carrot and stick' approach. The pathway will launch in the coming months.

In the run up to COP26, the Homes group is running a lunch n learn focusing on the Future Homes Standard, (a key driver for sustainability in this sector) and implications for the supply chain, together with a Business Bytes sharing the work of the Future Homes Task Force.

The Homes Leadership group explored the key priorities for how they would like their supply chain to engage in the School. The general consensus was that learning pathways, particularly from a trade specific angle, were top priority.

2.3 Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Group continues to be well attended with 30-50 attendees at our meetings. Recent presentations by key clients such as Network Rail, National Highways and the Environment Agency have led to setting up a client carbon group who plan to work collaboratively on scope 3 emissions reporting from the supply chain and carrying out an analysis of the various client strategies to disseminate to the supply chain and seek further opportunities to collaborate. The group has also set up a utilities client group to collaborate on performance management, single use plastics and learning pathways. The most recent meeting saw a presentation from HS2 Learning Legacy on the partnership with the School to disseminate learning from the project. Future meetings will see presentations by RSSB on the UK rail sustainability strategy, EKFB on their approach to supply chain for HS2 and National Highways on how they plan to implement their vision for supplier development in partnership with the School.

2.4 FM

The Group met in September and reviewed a new draft 'fast track' learning pathway, entitled "Byte Sized Learning". This has been developed to provide an FM audience with a series of short form introductory resources covering a range of relevant sustainability themes. There are five themes; modern slavery and ethics, waste and resource efficiency, energy and carbon, social value, wellbeing. Two resources have been chosen for each theme, which along with a short quiz will ensure that learners can complete this "taster" pathway in less than an hour.

David Emery presented on how the digital agenda is beginning to affect FM. A fruitful discussion took place exploring opportunities for potential collaboration. This will be developed into a joint event for Autumn/Winter, potentially also offering an interesting topic for the FM Conference in March 2022.

2.5 Offsite

September saw the launch of the Design for Manufacture & Assembly (DfMA) Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work. Attended by over 350 people, the majority were architects or other professional advisers. This was great news and the fact that this new publication has now been downloaded over 400 times from the RIBA and School's websites is another bonus. For those of you not quite up to speed on Offsite Construction, its essential that we influence and educate the designers as they carry significant influence with clients from the early stages of any project.

You can download the publication [here](#).

October will see the role out of ten short offsite films focusing on the need to change, why change must happen now and what are the implications for the rest of us.

The leadership group have been re-drafting and testing the updated Offsite assessment which we are pleased to say the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply have supported throughout. Look out for the launch in November.

2.6 Wales

Over the past quarter the Welsh Leadership Group have been focusing on the current challenges in Social Housing Retrofitting. The group are identifying and exploring further key connections to help the School and group in this agenda, as well as the Future Wellbeing Generations Act legislation.

The group have also heard about several School initiatives and how these initiatives may benefit the Partners and their supply chains. This included the Supply Chain Improvement Programme, which offers free training and free consultancy services to 10 partners, and also Modern Day Slavery. There have also been presentations on ISO 20400.org

In response to the group's requirement to discuss collaborative working practices, Dave described his recent experiences of bringing together procurement teams with offsite modular suppliers to see how the procurement of this type of building could be improved.

2.7 Scotland

School Partners in Scotland are devoting time to sharing recent news and progress on the sustainability agenda during their Leadership Group meetings. Recent successes include an Employee Carbon Pledge (Morgan Sindall), a Climate Academy being run for all UK staff (SSE), a Sustainable Growth Strategy developed with SEPA (Robertson), new work on Scope 3 carbon reporting (SPEN) and building supply chain resilience (Balfour Beatty). Partners are collaborating on joint activity and learning in the build up to, and during, COP26. This is being coordinated by Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC).

Major supply chain events for the Scottish market are being planned for October and November, all focussed around carbon reduction. These include “Timber in Offsite Construction” (21 Oct) with Centre for Advanced Timber Technology, “Designing & Embedding Resilience in Infrastructure Projects” (28 Oct) with Nature Scot, Scottish Canals and Glasgow Drainage Partnership, and “Low Carbon Regeneration” (5 Nov) with Clyde Gateway, Robertson Group and Scottish Water – who are presenting heat from wastewater technologies used in district heating systems.

At their next meeting the School will receive an update on SGN’s H100Fife project, producing and distributing 100% green hydrogen to homes in Levenmouth on the Fife coast.

2.8 FIR

The Fairness, Inclusion and Respect Programme continues to engage with industry through the training programme, the FIR Toolkit, and resources. The training programme (virtual) of workshops, masterclasses, and webinars, aiming to deliver 118 courses between 1st April 2021 – 31st December 2022 is on track.

A recent discussion with the FIR steering group was to agree the name for the FIR Maturity Matrix (alignment of the CITB BeFaIR framework and FIR Growth Matrix) and this will be called the **FIR Assessment Tool**. This will

launch in October 2021. Where 3rd party accreditation is required, this would be delivered via independent assessors.

The Diversity Monitoring Tool has now been designed and ready to use. The tool is for construction companies to report their diversity breakdown in a common and consistent way to their clients and contractors. The Diversity Tool is being trialled through the client supplier list from TFL, Network Rail, Highways England and HS2. Since it is the first year that data will be collected via the tool, it is worth trialling it with this smaller pool of individuals first before opening it wider. This will allow the group to monitor effectiveness and enable recommendations for next year.

2.9 Digital

The Digital Topic is now in full swing and a variety of subjects have been covered such as *Smart contracts in construction*, *An ISO 19650 crash course*, *Digital Logistics on a Shoestring* with the support from outside organisations (e.g., Plannerly; Hawkins\Brown; Cambridge University; Reading University) bringing in their expertise to this topic.

The Digital Training Needs Assessment CITB target of 500 has already been achieved, highlighting that this is a popular tool. However, the Digital Organisational Maturity Assessment has had a slow start the main internal blocker is that only admin users can access their SCSS account to complete this task. A marketing plan is in place to target admin users to complete their company assessments with the support of our digital leadership board hoping to push this target forward.

A Digital Training Journey (course) has been developed that mixes case studies of technology adoption from leading projects and contractors in our sector, with the academic knowledge of UCL lecturers who form Digital Outlook to deliver this. This is broken down into 20 hours of digital learning:

- 5 hours of virtual classroom (workshops)
- 4 hours of CPD accredited e-learning
- 2 Harvard Business School digital leadership teaching cases
- Access to over 100 additional digital learning resources

- Individual level digital leadership skills assessment and benchmarking
- Corporate level digital maturity assessment and benchmarking

2.10 Procurement

The focus has been on the Supply Chain Improvement Programmes (SCIPS) to get this piece of work up and running once the applications have been approved by our SCIPS Panel. The supply chain improvement projects process has been developed to enable partners to apply for a SCIP.

Of the four applications received so far, two will start in October. One with a smaller contractor who has very little formal procurement processes and requires help. A major Tier 1 contractor wants to put a cohort of people from client, tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors through a self-assessment and training programme, then to measure the improvement in skills and resultant cost savings. In both cases, the evidence gathered will help to demonstrate the case for better procurement. The other two applications will require further investigation.

The performance tool has now been populated with the key metrics identified by the school and the performance management steering group. These cover the base elements of productivity ranging from quality and health and safety through to more value orientated metrics such as waste, training and retention etc. The system has been demonstrated to CITB and is ready for use. The Supply Chain Improvement Programmes will be required to use the tool to evidence the success of the programmes and allow us to evidence the savings associated with the better procurement activity. Each programme will be supported with training and guidance on how to use the tool.

Collaboration partners CECA and Nottingham Trent University came together following on from our kick-off session in April. We have met in June and September to discuss actions from our first session and next steps and developed a RACI to support the actions. The following workstream have developed to support this piece of work - Content, Technology, Horizon planning, Marketing and Commercial.

3. New Knowledge Development

3.1 Plant Category Group

Since the last update, the existing [Minimum Standards](#) for plant and equipment tailpipe emissions, has been updated. These will be 'live' from 1st November. There are now 21 signatories to the [Plant Commitment Charter](#), [Kier being the most recent addition](#). A process has been developed and agreed a process for Signatories to the Charter to provide evidence that demonstrates their meeting the commitments in the Charter.

A new resource has been published. Developed by the CEA on the [Emissions Compliance Verification Scheme](#), a simple system for identifying the emissions stage for a given piece of plant.

There are several development strands the group are considering: creating a sustainability short on how to run a site with low AQ and GHG emissions; building a simple but useful calculator that enables the comparison of various factors when choosing between different pieces of plant, such as capex, opex, emissions, etc.; and developing a roadmap for the future of low emission plant, important in light of the CLC's Construct Zero Performance target of 78% of diesel plants to be eliminated from construction sites by 2035.

If you want to know more about the Plant Group, the Minimum Standards or the Charter, contact james@actionsustainability.com

3.2 Labour Category Group

After a year in development the online People Matter Charter assessment and pathway has launched. Organisations can now enlist their organisation on the People Matter Charter learning pathway and complete a number of resources, including the new online assessment linked to the People Topic. Once the resources are completed organisations can decide whether they would like to commit to the charter.

If they decide to commit they will then be supported by the automated marketing functionality which will guide them through the resources, help them with their case study and remind them as they come close to the end of 12 months they need to undertake the assessment again and continue to commit for another year.

Since the functionality went live at the end of July there has been 10 organisations completing the learning pathway and complete the commitment requirements. There were 2 renewals and 8 new organisations committing to the charter. That brings the current number of organisations committing to the charter to 94 organisations.

To understand more and commit to the charter you can access the pathway on the refreshed page here:

[People Matter Charter | Supply Chain Sustainability School \(supplychainschool.co.uk\)](https://supplychainschool.co.uk)

3.3 Waste Category Group

An update was provided from the launch of the DfMA (design for manufacture and assembly) Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work 2020. A further update was provided regarding soils, with CIRIA working on two projects: Guidance for sustainable reuse of soils in construction (from planning through to waste management), and a Soils Community of Practice online hub. In different ways, both updates support the group's ambitions regarding designing out waste.

Resources are in development to help reduce whole lifecycle waste from construction projects. The offer will be based around the structure of the Green Construction Board/Construction Leadership Council's Routemap for Zero Avoidable Waste in Construction. Generally, the group's members are now helping to generate numerous industry relevant case studies. Related to this, Olivia Moore from Redrow has undertaken to deliver a Lunch and Learn session highlighting the learning and development that has followed from their excellent "Reduce the Rubble" initiative.

Work on packaging and the plastics agenda continues with HMRC acting on feedback received from the School's events within one of their most recent guidance documents. A very popular Packaging Innovation Showcase event on June 24th brought together the partners in the Group's recent Homes packaging project, along with five case studies from innovative suppliers and manufacturers, to examine ways to reduce the sustainability impacts of product packaging. Work is underway to investigate similar programmes with some of the School's Utilities partners.

3.4 Special Interest Groups:

Carbon

The School's Climate Action Group released its updated [Carbon Calculator](#) in August 2021. Still free to access online, it has been upgraded, taking on board feedback from the Group. It is now easier to use and has been adapted so that organisations with different levels of experience in carbon reporting can participate, report their data and allocate it to their clients.

There are 75 registered Partners and 334 registered suppliers. Partners are actively looking to their supply chains to get involved.

Webinar sessions are taking place for members and Partners to find out more about how the Calculator works. The next sessions, all at 3 – 4pm, are on Weds, 27th Oct., Weds, 24th Nov., and Weds, 15th Dec., 3 – 4pm

More widely the School is running a series of training and webinar sessions in and around COP26. Information on this is available [here](#).

If you want to know more about the Climate Action Group or the Carbon Calculator, contact james@actionsustainability.com

Wellbeing

Having defined key desired outputs, the Wellbeing SIG has commenced two sub-groups this quarter to work on two work streams:

- Investigate the various existing **Wellbeing Survey Tools** available and either commit to signposting to one tool, or else combine

various elements with original ideas to create a School Wellbeing Survey Tool: the group have explored the range of options and have a shortlist of two; next step is to liaise with the Survey providers to discuss collaboration with the School

- Develop a new School **Sustainability Short (3-5 minute animated video) on Wellbeing** – “What it means to you” (working title!): the group have discussed a number of approaches to this broad topic; they are currently finalising the brief, and will then develop the script and visual storyboard

Members of the Wellbeing SIG also formed the panel of speakers on the Wellbeing In The Workplace Business Bytes in September.

Social Value

Following the implementation of PPN 06/20 demand for more focus on social value has increased. As a result, the School has set up a new social value group. The first meeting was well attended by Partners, who decided to continue the group and set up work streams to review current content and learning pathways with a view to adding content of needed, developing a response guide for SMEs and providing some independent guidance on the various reporting and monetisation tools. There are plans to explore opportunities for sponsored e-learning modules in future is there is demand and appetite among partners.

Please contact jenny@supplychainschool.co.uk if you have not already joined this group and have an interest in getting involved.

New Group: Retrofit

The School is set to launch a Partner-only group focusing on Retrofit.

Retrofit has the potential to significantly reduce the carbon output of buildings and homes across the UK, improve air quality and play a key role in helping to build wellbeing in our communities.

The new Retrofit Group will be driven by our Partners' needs and focus but we would expect it to focus on:

- Upskilling the supply chain to meet the growing need for retrofit
- Producing new learning materials, events and training workshops
- Develop collaboration and innovation opportunities between partners
- Accessing new sources of funding to help us go further, faster
- Drive the School's retrofit strategy

The first meeting will take place on the 13th October, 9.30am - 12.00pm and will be a virtual meeting. We would be delighted to see you on the day.

New Group: Interiors

The School team are delighted to have signed an MOU with the Finishes and Interiors Sector (FIS) trade association to develop a joint approach to upskilling companies in the sector on sustainability issues. With many of our Partners being members of FIS this is a great way for us to increase the take up of the School with the 500+ members of FIS.

The Finishes and Interiors sector has a number of key sustainability challenges such as carbon, waste and diversity, so developing a common learning pathway for their members is a great first step.

You can see more [here](#).

4. New Partners

The School welcomes new Partners this quarter: Social Value Portal, Keepmoat Homes, Colas Rail, GRS Group, Selwood, Mott MacDonald, Wales & Wes Utilities, Biffa, Achilles.

End.