

SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY

SCHOOL

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Plant Charter

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www.supplychainschool.co.uk

Our aim

The Supply Chain Sustainability School will lead the way for the UK's built environment to drastically reduce onsite emissions to air that are harmful to human health and the planet, such that they will reach net zero by 2040¹ and contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 11 and 13².



¹ Aligned to the London GLA's target of zero emissions by 2040.

² Specifically, Targets **3.9**: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination; **11.6**: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management; and **13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

Our commitment

Signatories to this Charter come from across the value chain and commit to reduce the air quality and greenhouse emissions and the negative impacts they cause from the construction plant and equipment (CPE) that we, as an industry, buy, hire, and use.

We will do this by adhering to the following commitments. They apply to anyone in the value chain, from client through contractors and hire companies, out to subcontractors:

- **Minimum standards in procurement:** We will buy or hire CPE that meets or exceeds the minimum standards for AQ and GHG emissions, as laid out in the latest version of accompanying technical paper³.
- **Engagement:** We will engage suppliers and contractors up and down the value chain to actively participate in meeting the same minimum standards to contribute towards our aims.
- **Awareness raising and education:** We commit to providing our supply chain with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to achieve our aims.
- **Measurement and reporting:** We will measure progress in reducing our emissions and report them to relevant stakeholders.
- **Innovation:** We will investigate, trial and implement new technologies that will help us on the route to zero emissions onsite.

³ <https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/partners/groups/plant-group/>

Leadership and implementation

The School has convened a construction Plant and Equipment Group to drive this agenda and our aims forward. Facilitated by the School, the group meets regularly with organisations from up and down the value chain – clients, contractors, plant hire companies and suppliers – participating and contributing. We work collectively and collaboratively to:

- Understand the marketplace and the pace of change with innovative technology
- Assess priority areas for action
- Develop and consult with the sector on minimum standards and how quickly new, low-emission technologies can be brought on stream
- Engage and inform the supply chain of our activities and their role to play in moving to low-emission CPE.



The Signatories

By signing this Charter, the Signatory organisations are demonstrating their intent to work and collaborate towards achieving the five commitments contained herein, both within their own organisations and within the supply chain.

The list of Signatories is at

<https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/partners/groups/plant-group/plant-charter/>

If you are interested in signing the Charter, please contact

james@supplychainschool.co.uk.



Annex – The Context

It is well established that the use of fossil fuels to power construction plant and equipment (CPE) contributes to two direct impacts: poor local air quality (AQ) and the related health impacts on those working in and living around construction sites due to the emissions of particulates, nitrous oxides and other gases; and global impacts on the climate from the tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), carbon dioxide in the main, and the knock effects this has on our weather systems in a rapidly warming planet.

There is plentiful compelling evidence of both these impacts. The World Health Organisation (WHO)⁴ has stated that *“An estimated 4.2 million premature deaths globally are linked to ambient air pollution”*, whilst the UK Government⁵ has said that *“Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy.”* Statistics show that the UK’s construction and manufacturing sectors contribute 16% of the total emissions of particulates and nitrous oxides. Moreover, long-term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK has an annual effect equivalent to 28,000 – 36,000 deaths.

In their Special Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change⁶ described the severe impacts to the planet’s weather patterns and ecosystems should it reach 2°C warming over and above pre-industrial levels, making it clear that we can avoid the worst of the effects if we limit temperature rises to 1.5°C, but that we have until 2030 to put actions in place to keep within this limit. The UK has a legally binding target to be net zero by 2050 and was one of the first major economies to do so⁷. Moreover,

⁴ <https://www.who.int/airpollution/ambient/health-impacts/en/>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-air-pollution/health-matters-air-pollution>

⁶ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-theresa-may-we-will-end-uk-contribution-to-climate-change-by-2050> All links viable as of 8th June 2022

calculations show that the UK's CPE contributes to approximately 2% of the UK's GHG emissions from fuel use.

With all of this in mind it is imperative that the sector acts on its air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.