

Challenges:

Improving sustainability within the concrete products manufacturing industry is challenging; by default, the raw materials and processing operations are carbon intensive. However, Milbank Concrete Products Ltd has embarked on a journey to reduce its carbon footprint significantly. The internal company target is to be scope 1&2 carbon neutral by 2030, and great success has been achieved in emissions reduction since the baseline was set in 2018.

Several projects have come to fruition, enabling Milbank Concrete Products Ltd to reduce scope 1&2 CO2e by around 40%. The company employs a biomass boiler for closed-loop hot water heating of prestressed product moulds. Internal manufacturing machines, forklift trucks, and other vehicles run on 100% HVO biodiesel instead of fossil fuel diesel. A large solar PV panel installation supplies electricity to the prestressed factory and offices.

New projects for 2024 and beyond have already started, including additional solar PV panel installations with possible battery storage for charging company EVs and an expanding electric forklift fleet. In 2024, a significant portion of the product haulage fleet and site installations team vans will switch from fossil diesel to HVO, impacting scope 3 emissions. Concrete mix cement reduction projects are also underway, with one expected to be in place in early 2024. Several smaller carbon and waste reduction projects have been undertaken, and there are plans for more, such as sustainable PPE and battery-powered site equipment.

Sustainability encompasses more than just carbon reduction; Milbank Concrete Products Ltd places significant importance on its people, considering them the most crucial element of any successful business. The company aims to support its employees' personal growth through mentoring, training, or external courses, offering a career rather than just a job.

Exceptional customer service is a central focus, aiming to provide high-quality service at all stages of the customers' journey, from the initial order through delivery to ongoing support. This commitment ensures the attraction of new clients and the retention of important relationships with existing customers, contributing to continuous growth.

Milbank Concrete Products Ltd maintains a large network of suppliers who rely on the company for business, fostering key relationships that are mutually beneficial across the entire supply chain. The company places considerable importance on ensuring that its suppliers share equal values, including employees, sustainability, and support for local communities.

Community support is a core objective within Milbank Concrete Products Ltd's overall strategy, involving offering local employment and supporting local schools, sports clubs, charities, and other

Fact box



Company

Milbank Concrete Products Ltd

No of employees

165

HQ

Colchester, Essex

Website

www.milbank.co.uk

Main contact

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 Health, Safety & Environment
 Manager –
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Services

Design, Manufacture, Delivery &
 Installation of Precast & Prestressed
 Concrete Products.

About

Milbank have provided design, manufacture, transport & installation of Precast & Prestressed concrete products for more than 75 years. Milbank offer the most comprehensive concrete product service across the UK, providing a range of standardised and specialist precast concrete products for residential, commercial, infrastructure, leisure, and agricultural sectors. Our manufacturing facilities, offices and transport hub are located near Colchester on the border between Essex and Suffolk in the UK. Alongside the flagship prefabricated concrete products, we also supply an array of specialist concrete products to most parts of the UK. We like to see ourselves as more than just a precast concrete

notable causes. The company remains committed to supporting its locality as much as possible. Proactive adaptation of processes at Milbank Concrete Products Ltd toward carbon neutrality has been a priority. The company acknowledges that the work is ongoing but has made a significant start. Commitment to continual investment, research, and development ensures ongoing progress and direction toward sustainability.

Given that manufacturing and installing precast concrete products is a high-risk, high-hazard industry, Milbank Concrete Products Ltd has developed standards, processes, and controls to ensure the highest levels of safety for its employees and the customers' sites they work on.



Impact:

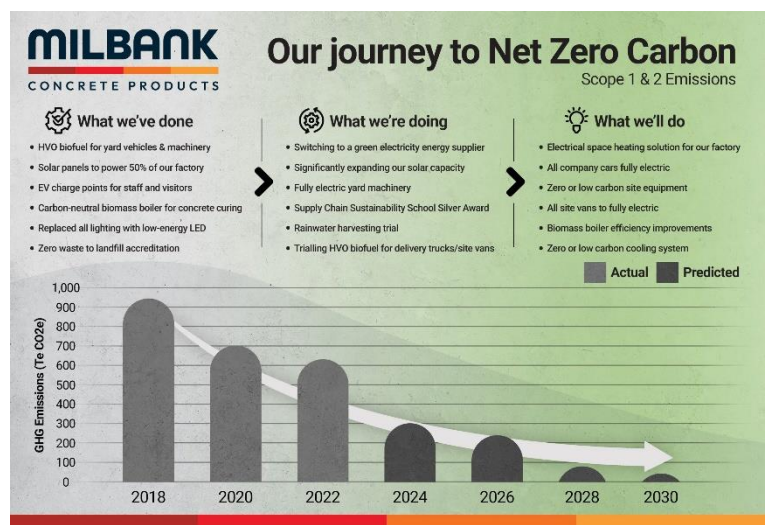
Milbank Concrete Products Ltd has attended three events organized by some of its customers, where the Supply Chain School was also present and provided insights into how they can support businesses in improving their overall environmental, sustainability, and governance culture. The value lies in gaining an understanding of other businesses both up and down the supply chain.

Resources:

Assessments – Easy to use, including carbon calculator, which we have concentrated on using.

Action Plan – Gives a focus on areas where the company can improve and takes them into areas which the company have not addressed internally.

E-learning modules - Modules are useful, a vast array of subjects from different industries. Helps generate ideas that the company could use internally.



Value gained:

As a precast concrete manufacturer and installer, Milbank Concrete Products Ltd aims to drive carbon out of its business and products. The company hopes that its continued membership will keep it up to date with innovations throughout supply chains that it could also employ. Currently, there are no monetary cost savings in Milbank Concrete Products Ltd's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, as that is not the primary goal. The aim is to lead the way in the industry by providing structural precast elements with the lowest possible embodied carbon from cradle to grave. The company sees the school as a piece of the jigsaw that helps in realizing that goal.

At present, there appears to be no competitive advantage in reducing carbon, as Milbank Concrete Products Ltd is rarely asked by its client base regarding this issue. However, the company is confident that this will change. Being able to use the carbon calculator and apportion its carbon footprint to clients who use the school is a valuable step along that road.

Future proofing:

Milbank Concrete Products Ltd's future with the school will focus on using the carbon calculator as a baseline to measure carbon reduction improvements and how they impact its product's embodied carbon. The company will continue to monitor the resource library to learn more about subjects that have synergy with its business and operations.