

SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY

**SCHOL**

June 2024

# Plant Charter Version 2

[www.supplychainschool.co.uk](http://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 the UK's Net Zero by 2050 target and contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action).

### **Purpose of the Plant Charter**

This Plant Charter is an outward declaration that organisations are serious about taking action to reduce air quality impacts and carbon emissions. It is based on the Minimum Standards that the Plant Leadership Group developed. They are interlinked documents that describe the actions the sector should be undertaking to address the emissions from plant they buy or rent. This version 2 of the Charter builds on version 1 from 2021.

### **Leadership and Implementation**

The School's **Plant Leadership Group** developed the Minimum Standards and the Plant Charter. The group meet quarterly to drive this agenda and our aims forward, up and down the value chain. Clients, contractors, plant hire companies and suppliers – all participating and contributing, working 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 construction plant and equipment.

# The Signatories

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

The Plant Charter page on the School's website is accessible [here](#) and details the current list of signatory organisations.

**To become a signatory, complete the [Signatory Charter Report Template](#) and send alongside your supporting evidence to [Imogen@actionsustainability.com](mailto:Imogen@actionsustainability.com) and [Sam.Walker@actionsustainability.com](mailto:Sam.Walker@actionsustainability.com)**

For any queries please contact [Imogen@supplychainschool.co.uk](mailto:Imogen@supplychainschool.co.uk) or [Sam.Walker@actionsustainability.com](mailto:Sam.Walker@actionsustainability.com).



# 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;
- Global impacts on the climate from the tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), carbon dioxide in the main, and the knock on 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) has **stated** that “An estimated 4.2 million premature deaths globally are linked to ambient air pollution”, whilst the UK Government 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 Change 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 so. Moreover, 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.

# 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 to contractors and hire companies, out to subcontractors:

Bronze, Silver and Gold levels:

- **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 School's latest version of the accompanying Minimum Standards document.
- **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.
- **Innovation:** We will investigate, trial and implement new technologies that will help us on the route to zero emissions onsite. We will measure progress in reducing our emissions and report them to relevant stakeholders.

Platinum level:

- **Telematics:** We will utilise and share telematic data to enhance equipment performance, optimise maintenance schedules and reduce environmental impact across our operations.
- **Charter Inclusion in Supply Chain & Procurement:** We will include and promote the Charter throughout our procurement activities.

# The Charter: Evidence of Adherence

## Why

A useful but straightforward process for Signatories to the Charter to demonstrate their adherence with its Commitments and maintain their Signatory status.

## What

Information will be reported by the Signatories in confidence to the School for collation and analysis. Suitable accompanying evidence will be provided to support the data entries.

## When

Data will be requested and provided annually for the preceding 12 months, from the point they signed to the Charter.

## Who

Data provided by the Signatory to the School, confidentially. If any data is published it will be in aggregate, anonymised format with your approval.

## How

Criteria against the Commitments, below, will give the Signatories points towards being awarded Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Status.

## 1. Minimum Standards in Procurement

- Broken down by the categories of Plant relevant to the Signatory, as given in the Minimum Standards, the Signatory will provide information on the make-up of their fleet for the preceding 12 months to demonstrate that it meets or exceeds the latest version of the Minimum Standards.
- Data will be provided in terms of the number of plant bought or hired, for each relevant plant category individually, during the reporting year:
  - if the Signatory is a **Contractor**, it is the number of plant hired in for projects, as a % of the total hired in
  - if the Signatory is a **Plant Hire Company**, it is the number of new plant bought in, or existing plant upgraded to cleaner tailpipe emissions (and to extend asset life), as a % of all new fleet bought in.
- The information will be for the whole company, and not relatable to any particular client.
- Points towards gaining Bronze, Silver or Gold status will be allocated after assessment of information and evidence on the number and % of the Signatory's plant that meets or exceeds the Minimum Standards, as follows:
  - **3 points for 70% or more that meets or exceeds the Minimum Standards**
  - **Or 4 points for 80% or more**
  - **Or 5 points for 90% or more**
- **Total of 5 points maximum**

## 2. Engagement

- The Signatory will provide verifiable information of activities that they have undertaken in preceding 12 months with key stakeholders such as customers and suppliers on actively reducing GHG and AQ emissions and using the Minimum Standards and changing their procurement/hire behaviours as a consequence.
- This could include, for example, demonstration days and speaking at events about new technology and equipment that has lower emissions, published case studies demonstrating improvements to emissions, equipment trials on a client project looking to reduce emissions, supporting OEM innovation, and communications about the School's Plant Charter.
- This is not an exhaustive list and as such the Signatory can provide suitable evidence to meet this criterion.
- Points towards gaining Bronze, Silver or Gold status will be allocated after assessment of information and evidence on the number and type of engagement activities that the Signatory has undertaken, as follows:
  - **1 point for up to and including 2 engagement activities**
  - **Or 2 points for up to and including 4 engagement activities that lead to at least 1 tangible change in a procurement/hire decision to move to lower emission plant**
  - **Or 3 points for 5 or more engagement activities that lead to at least 2 tangible changes in a procurement/ hire decision to move to lower emission plant**
- **Total of 3 points maximum**

### 3. Awareness Raising and Education

- The Signatory will provide verifiable examples of training and skills development they have provided in the last 12 months on actively reducing GHG and AQ emissions to groups such as customers, colleagues, and contractors, across roles such as operatives, site managers, as well as hiring and procurement teams. This can be provided directly by the Signatory, or indirectly via a third party
- The Signatory will also provide information on how the training was relevant, useful and will be implemented. For example, a post-training survey and any other information on how behaviours have changed as a consequence of the training
- Points towards gaining Bronze, Silver or Gold status will be allocated after assessment of information and evidence on the number and type of training activities that the Signatory has undertaken, as follows:
  - **1 point for up to and including 2 training activities**
  - **Or 2 points for up to and including 4 training activities that demonstrate good engagement and uptake of the learning**
  - **Or 3 points for 5 or more training activities that that demonstrate good engagement and uptake of the learning**
- **Total of 3 points maximum**

### 4. Innovation

- The Signatory will provide verifiable information on their plans for the next 12 months for fleet hire or investment in respect of lower emissions and alternative power sources
- The information will include, but is not limited to:
  - Carbon footprint data – scopes 1, 2 and 3 where information is feasible. An explanation as to the data that is calculated, and the rationale behind any data that is missing or out of scope.
  - The % level of replacement during the next 12 months of existing fleet to lower emission plant

- A summary of the overall, longer term strategy for reducing emissions including an explanation of what the change will mean in terms of reduced emissions
- A description of what will happen with old fleet, how it will be disposed in a sustainable manner.
- A description of the organisation's plans to also address embodied carbon, beyond direct operational emissions, working collaboratively across the value chain
- Points towards gaining Bronze, Silver or Gold status will be allocated after assessment of information and evidence on the number and type of training activities that the Signatory has undertaken, as follows:
  - **1 point for providing your latest carbon footprint emissions (scopes 1, 2 and 3)**
  - **+1 point for describing the longer- term strategy for reducing emissions, including the % replacement for the coming 12 months to lower emission plant, and how you incorporate [The Plant Hierarchy](#) in your decision-making process.**
  - **+1 point for providing information on end-of-life disposal**
  - **+1 points for providing information on reducing embodied carbon.**
- **Total of 4 points maximum**

## 5. Telematics

- The Signatory will provide verifiable information of activities that they have undertaken in the preceding 12 months with telematic data. The aim of this section is to demonstrate how you are actively using telematic data to make more sustainable decisions.
- The information will include, but is not limited to:
  - A sample of the telematic data you collect e.g. operational data, maintenance data, performance metrics, safety data, environmental data
  - An overview of the plant and equipment that uses telematic data

- A description of how you have used telematic data to inform training
- A description of your longer-term strategy for using telematic data
- Points towards gaining Platinum status will be allocated after assessment of information, as follows:
  - **1 point for detailing the % of equipment by hours run that use telematic data, and a breakdown of type of equipment.**
  - **+ 1 point for describing how you have used telematic data to inform activities, such as training**
  - **+1 point for describing how you use telematic data for GHG emissions and air quality reporting**
- **Total of 3 points maximum**

## 6. Charter Inclusion in Supply Chain & Procurement

- The aim of this commitment is to promote the charter tangibly throughout your supply chain and builds on *commitment 2: Engagement*.
- The signatory will provide verifiable information of how they have incorporated the Charter within their own procurement activities
- Points towards gaining Platinum status will be allocated after assessment of information and evidence, as follows:
  - **1 point for inclusion of the Charter within your sustainable procurement policies and work-winning strategies**
  - **+ 1 point for inclusion of the Charter within PQQs and ITTs that you send to your supply chain**
  - **+ 1 point for inclusion of the Charter within contracts with the supply chain**
- **Total of 3 points maximum**

# The Charter: Information and Evidence

## Process for Assessing Charter Status

- On approaching the School to sign the Charter, the School will ask the yet-to-be-Signatory to provide evidence against the Commitments to confirm their Charter status.
- The School will assess the information and then allocate points. A Signatory needs to get points from each Commitment to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold. These points, a possible total of 15, are combined and the School determines if the Signatory is awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold, as per the table, right.
- The outcome is communicated to the Signatory and if awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold, the Signatory's logo will be added to the School webpage. If the applicant doesn't meet at least Bronze, they will be informed as to why and what they can do to reach it. The applicant must reach at least Bronze and cannot be a signatory to the Charter if Bronze is not achieved.
- Platinum level is achieved by gaining points in *Telematics* and *Charter Inclusion in Supply Chain & Procurement* sections, and a minimum of 1 point must be achieved in both categories to achieve Platinum. If only 1 point is achieved in 1 category, then the signatory remains at Gold status.
- Thereafter, on the anniversary of becoming a Signatory, the School will contact the Signatory to request updated information for the intervening 12 months for assessment. The School will confirm if the Signatory stays at the same Status or moves up or down. If they fail to produce the information within 8 weeks, their Status will be removed from the School webpage.

Charter Status	Points
Bronze 	6 - 9
Silver 	10 - 12
Gold 	13 - 15
Platinum 	17 - 21 <small>*Must score a minimum of 1 in each additional platinum category</small>