

Challenges:

LCS Civils faces several sustainability challenges typical of the civil engineering sector and specific to its own operations. A significant issue is the high carbon footprint associated with heavy plant and transport, including excavators, dumpers, rollers, and haulage lorries, which contribute substantially to scope 1 emissions. Balancing efficiency with sustainability requires investigation into electric plant equipment and offsetting emissions elsewhere in the business.

The disposal of excavation spoil, particularly on brownfield sites where contamination is a risk, demands careful classification and specialist disposal routes, increasing environmental and financial costs. Meeting Sustainable Drainage System requirements within budget and space constraints, especially in urban environments, adds further complexity.

Supply-chain transparency is also a concern, as key materials such as ductile iron pipes and concrete products often lack consistent sustainability data, making accurate environmental assessment difficult. Adapting swiftly to evolving regulations on runoff and dust management near sensitive sites requires agility. Finally, instilling a sustainability-first mindset across all levels of the workforce remains an ongoing endeavour, although early engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has already yielded promising improvements.

Impact:

Engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School has enabled LCS Civils to embed sustainability more effectively across the business. The Self-Assessment Tool highlighted strengths and gaps, providing a clear roadmap for upskilling. A focused learning plan followed, with e-learning modules on carbon emissions proving particularly valuable. These modules deepened understanding of construction-related carbon output and identified practical measures to reduce emissions on site, such as minimising plant idling, planning more efficient logistics, and exploring lower-emission materials.

Resources from the Supply Chain Sustainability School have shifted the company towards a proactive stance on sustainability, integrating environmental considerations into core project delivery rather than treating them as compliance tasks. This approach has strengthened internal knowledge and enhanced credibility with clients and main contractors that prioritise sustainable practices within their supply chains.

Fact box



Company

LCS Civils Ltd

No of employees

26

HQ

Waterway House, Canal Street, Wigan

Website

<https://www.lcscivils.co.uk/>

Main contact

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Services

LCS Civils specialises in groundworks, ductile iron pipework, drainage, and general civil engineering.

About

LCS Civils is a civil engineering and groundworks contractor delivering high-quality infrastructure solutions across the United Kingdom. Founded in 2018, the company draws on more than 25 years of industry experience and a commitment to providing a first-class, reliable service. LCS Civils works across residential, commercial, and public infrastructure sectors, and operates nationwide, offering flexible, expert led services tailored to client needs. This practical, solutions focused approach is underpinned by a skilled workforce, strong values in health and safety, and a growing emphasis on sustainability and continuous improvement.

Value gained:

Membership of the Supply Chain Sustainability School has delivered clear benefits to LCS Civils, supporting both business growth and internal development. Participation has strengthened responses in pre-qualification questionnaires and tender submissions, demonstrating a serious and ongoing commitment to sustainability. This visible dedication offers a competitive advantage as more contracts demand evidence of environmental and social responsibility.

Beyond competitive positioning, the School's resources have improved employee skills, leading to better decision-making, cost savings through efficient resource use, and reduced operational waste. By embedding sustainability as a core business value rather than a compliance requirement, LCS Civils has enhanced its reputation, lowered risk, and created more resilient, efficient processes.

Future proofing:

LCS Civils plans to retain the Supply Chain Sustainability School at the heart of its learning and development strategy. Regular updates of the Self-Assessment will track progress and highlight emerging training needs as sustainability expectations evolve. Participation will expand across the workforce, including supervisors, commercial staff, and newer team members, to build a shared understanding of the company's sustainability goals.

To support continued progress, LCS Civils would welcome more tailored content for subcontractors and SMEs in the groundworks and civils sector, particularly guidance on low-carbon plant and material choices. By maintaining this partnership, the company aims to stay ahead of regulatory changes, foster a culture of sustainability, and deliver infrastructure solutions that are both economically and environmentally sustainable.