

## Construction Leadership Group Meeting (Q2)

10th September 2025

### Meeting Actions

#### Actions for group members:

- Prepare and submit business planning proposals using [the template form](#) by Tuesday 11th November 2025
- To support School KPIs, group members are encouraged to:
  - Share their priority supplier lists with the School
  - Complete corporate (re)assessment
  - Promote completion of individual (re)assessments
  - Advertise upcoming events
  - Share learning resources, including the [Scope 3 Emissions e-learning module](#), the [Carbon Emission Scopes Cheat Sheet](#)
  - Integrate School resources into their internal LMS systems
- If you would like guidance on priority supplier lists, please contact Keith, who has kindly offered his support
- Share a list of groundworks with Sarah and Yasmin so we can create a list of groundworkers we wish to target
- Consider utilising your partner workshop allowances to deliver a Scope Busting workshops to your teams or supply chain

#### Actions for the School:

- Sarah and Yasmin will follow up with Ben White, Steven Wheeler, and Mark Ross to gather case study resources
- Sarah and Yasmin to follow up with Warren Lynes about potentially presenting on how OnSite Support are supplying embodied carbon data on all their products to supply their clients in a future meeting
- Sarah and Yasmin will explore options for creating a 3-month lookahead and will consult with a small group of stakeholders to shape the final output.

### Welcome, Introductions and Agenda

**Keith O'Flynn (John Sisk & Son and Group Chair)** began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and the group went around the virtual room to give introductions. Keith went through the agenda for the meeting.

### Update: Circular Economy Taskforce

We were delighted to be joined by **Dr David Greenfield**, who provided an overview of the Government's Circular Economy Taskforce and current progress. He explained that the government is preparing a national Circular Economy Strategy with sector route maps, including one dedicated to the Built Environment.

David described the ambitious scope of the built environment working group, which focuses on materials across the entire supply chain. He also emphasised collaboration with the Supply Chain Sustainability School to integrate circular economy principles into educational curricula, supporting wider industry engagement and knowledge sharing.

Group members welcomed the detailed insights David provided and stressed the importance of alignment with School resources to avoid duplication. It was agreed that the group would continue to monitor progress and prepare to support the development of the Circular Economy Strategy when opportunities arise.

If you have any questions for the Circular Economy Taskforce, you can contact them via email [circulareconomystrategy@defra.gov.uk](mailto:circulareconomystrategy@defra.gov.uk).

### Priority: Circularity

**Sarah Chatfield (Action Sustainability and Group Manager)** shared updates on the impact of the School's *Measuring and Reporting Waste in the Built Environment: A Practical Guide* launched in July 2025 (1,036 views at the time of the meeting), before encouraging group members to share best practice examples and lessons learned:

- **Oliver Cripps (Etex)** highlighted waste reduction efforts in plasterboard manufacturing, including collaboration across industry groups, use of LCAs, high

recycled content, take-back programs, and strategies like off-site cutting and reuse of offcuts. He noted challenges in waste generated during storage, delivery, use, and rework, as well as the importance of clean waste streams created by regulatory requirements, which increase visibility and encourage responsible practices.

- **David Greenfield** discussed material reuse and site waste management, emphasising that logistics and material presentation on construction sites are critical for effective recycling. He noted the importance of site separation and shared lessons from early Site Waste Management Plan pilots.
- **Keith O'Flynn** shared Irish initiatives exploring bio-circular materials such as hemp and wool, noting challenges with storage and urban logistics. He highlighted the importance of aligning circularity with procurement fundamentals.

Group members reflected positively on these updates, recognising the potential for these activities and shared experiences to advance circularity within the sector.

#### Priority: Carbon Reporting

Before sharing progress to date for the planned activities relating to this priority, **Sarah Chatfield** invited group members to share best practice examples and lessons learned from Q1 carbon reporting activities:

- **Ben White (Kilnbridge)** outlined the approach on the One North Quay project for Canary Wharf Group), which includes:
  - Strict reporting requirements for embodied carbon reduction across reinforced concrete, steel, and site emissions.
  - Development of multiple concrete mix options to optimise for ambient temperature conditions and reduce embodied carbon.
  - Use of a concrete tracker to record deliveries, calculate embodied carbon, and project end-of-project impacts.
  - Regular reporting to Canary Wharf Group, including progress toward ambitious targets.
- Building upon Ben's contribution, **Steven Wheeler (Canary Wharf Group)** added:

- The One North Quay work builds on lessons from Wood Wharf, using detailed tracking of concrete mixes per floor and per element to exceed original design expectations.
- Close collaboration with contractors and early engagement enabled effective carbon reductions.
- Mixes were adapted for weather conditions, and opportunities for circularity were explored by reusing materials between projects where storage allowed.
- **Mark Ross (Environment Agency)** shared examples from framework contractors, including hydrogen fuel cells replacing diesel on site compounds, reducing carbon emissions, and suggested centralising case studies within the School for wider access.

Following this group discussion, Sarah shared progress to date and planned activities relating to this priority:

- There are 10 Net Zero Skills In Action Videos and 4 Short Net Zero Animations available on the [Future Workforce page](#), including [this video focusing on groundworks](#)
- Scope Busting webinar engagement:
  - 6 partner webinars booked to date; members encouraged to use allowances for relevant sessions.
- Resources usage to date:
  - [Scope 3 e-learning module](#): 965 views
  - [Carbon Emission Scopes Cheat Sheet](#): 468 views

#### Priority: Climate & Carbon

**Sarah Chatfield** invited group members to share any further best practice examples or lessons learned from Q1 relating to climate and carbon; no additional contributions were raised.

- Update on Net Zero Carbon Building Standards Webinar with UKGBC:
  - Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 20 January 2026.
  - Planning will commence in mid-to-late October, including creation of the registration page and full briefing.

- Delivery of the webinar is dependent on the launch of the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard (NZCBS); UKGBC has agreed in principle to deliver the session in Q4 once the standard is available.
- Group members will be kept updated on any changes to the timing or content.

#### Updates: School KPIs, AGM and Impact Report

**Sarah Chatfield** presented updates on the School's KPIs to July 2025, noting a generally positive trajectory across all metrics:

- Six new partners since April 2025.
- Construction sector performing strongly, with 1,800 individuals trained year-to-date.
- Training delivery (learning hours and learners) on target; recent summit data to be incorporated in future updates.

#### Discussion: UK Sustainability Reporting Standards Public Consultation

**Keith O'Flynn** provided an overview of the UK SRS public consultation, noting:

- The consultation covers S1 (non-climate reporting) and S2 (climate reporting).
- While the government has not confirmed the exact scope, there is a high likelihood that economically significant companies, including SMEs on a voluntary basis, will be in scope.

#### Discussion Highlights:

- Benefits may include improved transparency, consistency, alignment with global standards, and stronger company reputation.
- Potential costs and barriers include extra reporting requirements, data collection challenges, and need for dedicated reporting resources.
- **Oliver Cripps (Etex)** emphasised the benefit of alignment with international standards (CSRD, IFRS S1), but highlighted the ongoing challenge of multiple overlapping reporting requirements across regulatory and voluntary frameworks.

- **Keith O'Flynn** acknowledged the growing need for dedicated reporting resources within companies and the potential simplification the UK SRS could provide.
- **Nikki Carthy (Leeds College of Building University Centre)** highlighted the importance of embedding sustainability reporting awareness within apprenticeships and curricula to support long-term industry readiness.
- **Steven Wheeler (Canary Wharf Group) and Darron Hall (Sir Robert McAlpine)** noted that while companies are generally prepared with existing data and reporting systems, there is concern about duplication and the additional administrative burden.
- Discussion on carbon credits: transparency is recommended where part of decarbonisation strategies; credits play a role in reduction roadmaps.
- **Steven Wheeler** noted his company currently focuses on direct decarbonisation measures first, raising concerns about traceability and efficacy of credits.
- Group agreed carbon credit reporting requires careful consideration and alignment with decarbonisation strategies.
- The School will continue to monitor developments and explore educational content to support SMEs in reporting under SRS.

#### Update: Business Planning Proposals

**Sarah Chatfield** provided an update on the approach to business planning for 2026-27:

- Members are encouraged to submit proposals in advance using the linked template, which will also be included in the meeting minutes.
- Proposals should focus on key challenges anticipated in 2026-27, such as alignment with the circular economy task force, roadmap initiatives, and upcoming reporting standards.
- Keith O'Flynn and Sarah will review submissions to identify key themes, overlaps, and potential opportunities for collaboration across other groups within the School.
- A shortlist of feasible proposals will be circulated in advance of the 4 December 2025 meeting, allowing members to review and prepare for discussion.
- The process is intended as an early notice to give members time to consider how the School can maximise impact and address organizational challenges for the coming year.



### Any Other Business (AOB)

The following points were discussed under AOB:

#### 3-Month Lookahead:

- **Yasmin Chatt (the School)** is reviewing potential layouts for this communications piece and will provide updates when proposals are ready.

#### Summit Feedback:

- Yasmin noted the summit appeared to be very successful; final statistics and data will be shared once available.
- **Rachael Riley (RSK)** attended and highlighted that ISO 24000 was not discussed extensively; Sarah noted it remains a key standard and suggested this feedback could be shared with the summit organisers.

#### PlantWorx:

- **Alex Priddle (Prolectric)** submitted an AOB in advance of the meeting to inform the group of the School's sponsorship of the Site Sustainability Showcase at PlantWorx on 23–25 September. Members interested in attending PlantWorx were asked to contact **Yasmin Chatt or Sarah Chatfield** via email.

#### Closing Remarks:

- **Keith O'Flynn** thanked members for attending, noted the value of collaborative discussions, and encouraged submissions for 2026-27 business planning proposals.