

Challenges:

As a specialist groundworks and reinforced concrete contractor, one of the main sustainability challenges for Oliver Connell & Son Ltd has been balancing the environmental impact of carbon intensive activities with the demands of live construction programmes. Concrete production, extensive plant use and material transportation all contribute to embodied carbon, while variable site constraints can limit opportunities for reuse and waste reduction. Another challenge has been ensuring sustainability is consistently understood and applied across a large, site based workforce, where priorities often focus on programme and delivery. Aligning the supply chain has also required ongoing effort, particularly in relation to responsible sourcing, environmental standards and data quality. At the same time, client expectations around carbon reporting, social value and environmental performance have increased significantly, requiring improved internal processes, stronger governance and upskilling of teams to embed sustainability into everyday decision making.

Impact:

The Supply Chain Sustainability School has been instrumental in supporting Oliver Connell & Son Ltd to address these challenges in a practical and structured way. Through a combination of e learning modules, workshops, webinars and formal assessments, teams across the business have developed a clearer understanding of sustainability principles and how these apply to day to day operations. The School's resources have supported the move from awareness to action, particularly through tailored action plans that have helped drive improvements on site. Sustainability Champions within the business have used School content to brief teams, reinforce expectations and promote consistent standards across projects. Engagement with the School has also improved collaboration with the supply chain by providing a shared framework and common language, supporting more productive conversations and improved environmental and social outcomes.

Value gained:

Membership of the Supply Chain Sustainability School has delivered tangible benefits for Oliver Connell & Son Ltd. It has strengthened the organisation's ability to demonstrate sustainability competence during pre-qualification and tender submissions, supporting success in securing work with Tier 1 contractors and public sector clients. Membership has also improved understanding of client sustainability priorities, enabling closer alignment with project delivery requirements and reduced compliance risk. Operational improvements have been seen in waste management, environmental controls, supply chain engagement and the quality of sustainability data captured on projects. The School has supported a positive cultural shift, helping sustainability

Fact box



Company

Oliver Connell & Son Ltd

No of employees

70

HQ

Head Office: Oliver Connell & Son Ltd,
Zanrose House, Perivale Park,
Horsenden Lane South, Greenford,
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Website

<https://www.oliverconnell.com/>

Main contact

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Services

RC frames, architectural concrete,
basement and civils, aviation,
infrastructure, value engineering

About

Established in 1974 by Oliver and Pat Connell, Oliver Connell & Son Ltd started as a small family run groundworks company and has enjoyed consistent success over the years, flourishing into one of the most established reinforced concrete frame and groundworks subcontractors in London, with a turnover of more than £150 million per annum.

become a shared responsibility rather than a standalone function. Looking ahead, continued membership will support competitiveness, compliance with evolving requirements, improved efficiency and reinforcement of the organisation's reputation as a responsible and forward-thinking contractor.

Future proofing:

Oliver Connell & Son Ltd intends to continue integrating learning from the Supply Chain Sustainability School into training, procurement and project delivery. Additional value could be achieved through more specialist contractor focused content, practical carbon reduction case studies and enhanced benchmarking tools to support continuous improvement across the supply chain.