

08.03.2021

CLC SEEKS INDUSTRY SUPPORT TO DRIVE DELIVERY OF NET ZERO IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Construction Leadership Council is calling on businesses from across the industry to play their part in securing net zero carbon construction 2050. In this year of the UK hosting COP 26, it is imperative that the construction sector steps up to the challenge and supports the Race to Zero

Today the CLC announces CO₂nstruct Zero, a cross-industry change programme to drive carbon out of all parts of the construction sector, from manufacturing and design to construction and operation of assets.

It is intended to promote the high-level priorities that the industry must work on to reduce carbon, thereby playing our part in achieving the UK Government's objective of net zero for the whole economy by 2050.

CO₂nstruct Zero builds upon the way that the industry united last year as a single force to tackle Covid-19, ensuring a consistent approach is taken by the whole sector while avoiding duplication of work.

CO₂nstruct Zero's priorities are:

Transport

- Accelerating the shift of the construction workforce to zero emission vehicles and onsite plant
- Maximising use of Modern Methods of Construction and improved onsite logistics, reducing waste and transport to sites
- Championing developments and infrastructure investments that both enable connectivity with low carbon modes of transport and design to incorporate readiness for zero emission vehicles

Buildings

- Work with Government to deliver retrofitting to improve energy efficiency of the existing housing stock
- Scale up industry capability to deliver low carbon heat solutions in buildings, supporting heat pump deployment, trials of hydrogen heating systems and heat networks
- Enhancing the energy performance of new and existing buildings through higher operational energy efficiency standards and better building energy performance monitoring

Construction Activity

- Implementing carbon measurement, to support our construction projects in making quantifiable decisions to remove carbon
- Become world leaders in designing out carbon, developing the capability of our designers and construction professionals to develop designs in line with circular economy - reducing embedded and operational carbon, shifting commercial models to incentivise and reward measurable carbon reductions.
- Support development of innovative low carbon materials (prioritising concrete and steel), as well as advancing low carbon solutions for manufacturing production processes and distribution

The CLC is now inviting companies and organisations from across the industry to link up with CO₂nstruct Zero, getting involved with its delivery. The CO₂nstruct Zero is not to

develop new solutions or new pathways – there are many groups in the industry well placed to do this, but we believe that the CLC does have a critical role to play in bringing people together to consolidate collective actions and plans for the sector.

An action plan is being prepared, aligned to the 9 priorities, co-ordinating the extensive and exciting work already happening right across the industry, including within the CLC through the Green Construction Board and the Infrastructure Client Group, to develop the solutions, guiding companies on the actions and role that they can play. Organisations can volunteer to help with the development of the action plan by bringing their initiatives to join up, while individual businesses are encouraged to become Business Champions sharing their approach to delivering on the 9 priorities and contributing to the Race for Zero.

The action plan will also consider changing skills needs and how these can be addressed to provide a workforce that can achieve net zero.

Construction Leadership Council chair Andy Mitchell CBE said: *"There is no bigger challenge that our industry faces than the need to decarbonise. We need to pull the whole industry together, letting everyone know what they can do to reduce carbon, while unlocking strategic changes that will set the sector on a new course towards net zero"*

Construction Minister Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: *"The UK was the first major economy to set our commitment to eliminate our country's contribution to climate change into law. But we can only do that by working with industry to make practical changes to secure a better low-carbon future."*

"I am delighted that, through CO₂nstruct Zero, the construction sector is showing the unity and leadership to make this happen and ensure we build back greener."

The Construction Leadership Council will be identifying measurable targets to show how the industry is making progress towards Net Zero. CO₂nstruct Zero will act as the focal point of engagement for the industry with Government in preparation for November's COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow.

Notes to editors

1. Companies and organisations that would like to get involved with the development of the CO₂nstruct Zero action plan should register their interest by emailing Stuart.Young@beis.gov.uk
2. The CLC is supported in the delivery of CO₂nstruct Zero industry change programme by the Green Construction Board which is the CLC workstream providing knowledge, expertise and thought leadership on Net Zero Carbon, as well as other complementary initiatives from across the sector including the CIC Roadmap, Future Homes Taskforce, UK GBC Roadmap and the CLC Retrofit Strategy.
3. For interviews on CO₂nstruct Zero, please email David.Hendy@macegroup.com

End