



CLC News Release

01.02.2022

The Construction sector's CO₂nstruct Zero Industry-Change programme continues to grow.

Launched in March 2021, CO₂nstruct Zero brings together organisations that are demonstrating leadership in relation to carbon reduction, sharing their good practice with others from across the UK construction sector, and providing a set of metrics that enables the sector, quarterly, to collectively measure its progress to Net Zero.

Since its launch more than 70 Business Champions have committed to targeted carbon reduction, and to provide details of how they are achieving this to help those from across the wider sector.

Today's announcement marks CO₂nstruct Zero's continued growth.

The following companies have been appointed in the first round of new champions for 2022

- AECOM
- Changing Streams
- Carey Group
- GPH Builders Merchants
- John A Stephens Ltd
- Northstone Group
- Pure Haus
- SIG Trading

In addition to welcoming these Business Champions, we are delighted to announce today that NatWest has joined CO₂nstruct Zero as a Partner, recognising the global role of construction in meeting the Net Zero challenge.

Charlie Foster (Managing Director, Large Corporate Real Estate) of NatWest said: *"Ambitions around net zero, particularly given the required timescales, are only going to be achieved through the sharing of knowledge across sectors and supply chains, together with clear and consistent measurement and tracking of the reduction in carbon emissions; CO₂nstruct Zero is a really positive example of a collaborative effort to bring a whole sector together to solve for net zero and NatWest looks forward to championing this work."*

John Wilson, CEO of the Northstone Group, said: *"We are delighted to be recognised as a CO₂nstruct Zero Business Champion. As a Group we are committed to managing our operations in a responsible way and we strive to develop and implement innovative solutions to drive more sustainable construction. By working closely with our supply chain and clients, we are reducing the environmental footprint of our projects and delivering a more sustainable built environment in line with the CO₂nstruct Zero priorities. We are pleased to play an important role in modern society, leaving a positive lasting legacy for the planet, contributing to a better future for all."*

CLC co-chair Andy Mitchell CBE said: "*Carbon reduction is one of the CLC's leading priorities for 2022 as we seek to support industry in its drive to Net Zero. Since launch last year more than 60 firms have signed up as Business Champions but we must not rest on our laurels. For this reason, I am delighted that we have started 2022 strongly, with our first new Business Champions of the year helping to ensure that CO2nstructZero continues to spread good practice sector-wide.*"

Notes for editors

Details of *CO2nstruct Zero* and the Business Champions can be found at www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/constructzero/. Short pen portraits of the Business Champions are available below:

AECOM

As part of AECOM's Sustainable Legacies strategy launched in 2021, it developed ScopeX™, which is an initiative that aims to reduce carbon through design, considering embodied and operational carbon across the entire project life cycle. ScopeX focuses on reducing carbon emissions associated with clients' projects through AECOM's engineering designs. By understanding and quantifying the carbon implicit in these designs, it can identify the optimum combination of location, situation, site, logistics, materials, construction methods and in-use operations to minimise energy use, optimise sources of renewable power and integrate nature-based solutions wherever feasible.

Changing Streams

Changing Streams is developing tools to measure the 'plastic footprint' of materials and components used in construction, whether this be packaging or the components themselves. Source, manufacturing process and recyclability (fate of materials at end of life) all contribute to this equation and are an integral part of the carbon footprint of any building or construction process.

An example of this is a 5 year programme Changing Streams is about to launch with a housing association in the NW, in association with the Low Carbon EcoInnovatory framework. This will look at how to achieve zero carbon and/or zero plastic in housing projects, and how these ambitions can be combined while also using sustainable materials.

Carey Group

In 2021 Carey Group established its baseline scope 1,2 and 3 emissions for its whole operation and value chain for a baseline year of 2018/19. It is following the Science Based Targets Initiative and is committed to setting a target that is accepted by the initiative, a process that it expects to complete in the first half of 2022. It is also establishing key areas for carbon action in the next two years including plant regulation and replacement, phasing in alternative fuels, eco-driver training and restricting company car emissions.

GPH Builders Merchants

GPH Builders Merchants was established in April 1982 in the farming community of Inverurie in Aberdeenshire. The business has grown from a small tool and plant hire business into the largest independent builders merchant in the North East of Scotland. It has recently launched a company vehicle initiative to mandate the use of electric vehicles for those in Company cars or vehicles travelling less than 12,000 miles per year. To support this, the company is building upon the utilisation of Solar PV in branches and developing plans to roll out EV Charging points in branches, for customer and staff use. GPH volumetric concrete business is closely following the Institute of Civil Engineers Low Carbon Concrete Roadmap to ensure the company maintains an edge on current developments in low carbon concrete.

John A Stephens

John A Stephens has invested over £1.5m on the electrification of its yard forklift trucks to significantly reduce yard emissions and use of fossil fuels. It sends all plastic waste to recycling and waste wood and pallets to feed a wood-fired power station. It is investing in a small fleet of EV delivery vans for local city-centre zero-emissions Deliveries, and has installed 5 x 7kW car chargers and already has 3 x pure EV company cars. The company has installed 2 x wood pellet-fed biomass boilers for its site heating and hot water, and in 2017 installed 100kWp of solar PV on one third of its roof space, one of the largest private PV on-building installations in the UK at the time.

Northstone Group

Northstone Group is committed to managing its operations in a responsible, sustainable way and to develop innovative solutions to drive more sustainable construction. By working closely with its Supply Chain it is also reducing the knock on environmental footprint of projects and delivering a more sustainable built environment. It is trialling HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil) as an alternative to Red Diesel with a reduction of 90% Carbon Emissions, while installing EV charging points and encouraging sites to utilise electric vehicles from hired sources. It is also working with parent company CRH, Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) and suppliers to increase recycled content in pre-cast concrete products, the production of concrete with lower temperature processing, bitumen with recycled content and work with partners participating in Steel Zero.

Pure Haus

Pure Haus build with Passive House principles, the world highest energy efficiency standard. It uses the Passive House Planning Package to very accurately design building to high energy efficiency. It builds with off-site constructed panels. All materials are centralised and organised in a workshop. The off cut materials are used in the follow panels and not disposed of which would be the case for on-site construction, reducing waste. It designs in a way that allows calculation of the lifetime carbon footprint of its buildings.

SIG Trading

Sig is positioned for accelerating sustainability trends and contributing to the road to Net Zero. Its business was set up in 1957 supplying insulation products and has grown to the size it is today by continuing to supply specialist products that support the carbon efficiency of buildings throughout their life cycle through advanced performance. Using its product expertise, Sig supports customers in energy efficient and sustainable materials. As well as the carbon impact of the products it supplies, achieving net zero its own business is imperative, working to reduce its emissions to reduce the impact of the construction sector as a whole

About the Construction Leadership Council (CLC)

The CLC's mission is to provide sector leadership to the construction industry. The expanded CLC has twelve workstreams that operate collaboratively to address the biggest issues facing the sector. Workstreams include skills and inclusion, building safety, Net Zero and business models. The CLC is co-chaired by Lee Rowley MP, Minister for Business and Industry, and Andy Mitchell CBE, CEO of Thames Tideway.