

Challenges:

Carbon, carbon, and more carbon!

The infrastructure sector is notoriously carbon-intensive and heavy; this is in part due to such restrictions as 'adoptable standards', and the lack of reliable information in the form of EPDs for things like drainage components. As responsible designers, RPS Consulting UK & Ireland sees it as their duty to minimize carbon impacts through intelligent design and materials specification. The areas of their design are often specialist and bespoke, which can add to the complexities of carbon reduction and building use strategies. They are constantly updating their knowledge and refining their designs to be less carbon intensive. They are now trying to specify manufacturers that have EPDs and are encouraging others in their



supply chain to produce them. This is to enable them so they can accurately see the real impacts of their designs and further reduce carbon impacts.

Impact:

The biggest impact and challenge to carbon reduction has been increasing people's levels of awareness over the global issues and how to design effective carbon reductions in a specialized environment. RPS Consulting UK & Ireland has found significant assistance in this regard through a school. As part of their obligations as carbon reduction strategists, they launched a compulsory carbon-intensive training scheme across all their disciplines. As part of this program, the E-learning modules supplied by the school were invaluable. They listed a total of 13 training modules, 3 of which were supplied by the school. This training also forms part of their new starter requirements, and they also list the school as a major source of information on a variety of topics in their Associates and Principles forums. In 2024, they plan to update their carbon training and are pushing for more engagement with the school in a wider context due to the amount and quality of information available.

**A NET ZERO
 CARBON FUTURE**

Fact box



Company

RPS Consulting UK & Ireland
 (Newark Branch)

No of employees

178

HQ

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Website

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Services

- Design Consultants
- Architectural
- Civil
- Structural
- Highways
- CDM
- WLCA

About

The Newark Branch of RPS are specialist in infrastructure. We design a plethora of buildings and core UK and Ireland framework requirements. Covering everything from the humble Warehouse to Airports, Highways and Rail infrastructure hubs. We are active in reaching Net Zero targets and offer WLCA for the infrastructure sector.

Value gained:

The overall benefits achieved are numerous. RPS Consulting UK & Ireland was able to offer great sources of information on the importance of carbon in the as-built environment, delivered on a platform that is easy to access anytime. They bolstered their own training requirements with external sources of reliable and relevant information, further emphasizing the importance of carbon reduction on a wider scale and its impacts across the industry. Their staff can engage on both a business and personal level to enhance their knowledge base, and many of them have done exactly that. The school also offers a wide variety of on-topic webinars, which are extremely helpful when dealing with such a wide variety of projects. Being able to see who else are also members has proven valuable when assessing levels of engagement across all the industry sectors.

Future proofing:

RPS plans to continue using the school as a great source of information and integrate the Schools' resources more fully into their ongoing training programmes across our multi-disciplinary teams. The School already offers consummate support across diverse and pertinent subjects, the only thing the School could do to support us more is to keep up the great work and content