

Date: Tuesday 10th September 2024

Attendees: Imogen Player (Action Sustainability); Sam Walker (Action Sustainability); Lynne Good (Action Sustainability); James Cadman (Action Sustainability); Gavin Allan (Robertson Group); Paul Allman (MJ Evans); Mark Anderson (GAP Group); Gez Bonner (Lynch); Andy Byatt (SMT); Laura Capper (Natwest); Niall Conroy (Wolffkran); Byron Cotter (Baringa); Jackie Cuthbert (Sunbelt); Stuart Dearden (Natwest), Craig Downs (EKFB); Daniel Evans (Careys); Johnathan Fielding (Environment Agency); Darshan Grover (Baringa); Katie Kelleher (CPA); Phil Leahy (Sunbelt); Robert Lockwood (SCS); Chris Matthew (plantforce), Steve Postlethwaite (Costain); Jane Quan (Workdry); Joshua Taylor (Selwood); Emma Tongue (Morgan Sindall); Shital Shirsat Rohekar (HS2); Helena Urquhart-Woodward (SMT); Rebecca Vallender (MWH Treatment); Kim Watson (M O'Brien); Nicki Woodsworth (Boss Cabins); Ian Watt (Scottish Water); Christopher Wiseman (RSK).

Summary of Actions and Notes from the Plant Category Group Meeting

Plant Category Group – Introductions and outstanding actions		
No	Action/Notes	Owner
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Focus of Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charter and minimum standards update - Natwest & Baringa: <i>Enabling Supply Chain decarbonisation</i> - Sustainable Site Set-Up E-Learning Development 	
2	<p>Plant Group Updates</p> <p><u>The Plant Charter & Minimum Standards</u></p> <p>Proposed changes to the Minimum Standards were discussed following discussions from the previous call. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A change in the minimum standards to <50% corded/flex; ≥50% cordless/battery in recognition that there are tool applications that are currently better served, if powered by electricity, with a solution that has a flex (that said, as technology develops, more will become available with battery options). - The Scope, location and boundaries of London. The 32 boroughs of London were proposed as the official boundary and this change will now be updated. <p>A discussion was had on whether an additional column should be added to the Minimum Standards relevant to OEMs and whether the Charter should apply for projects.</p> <p>Discussion Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standards for OEMs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There was a query around whether the goal of this would be to encourage the manufacture of electric equipment, especially for larger plant items, and how to get more electric equipment into the market. 2. Inclusion of OEMs in Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There was strong support for OEMs be included, noting that unlike the Plant Charter, no frameworks exist for OEMs to push the industry away from diesel. 	

- Stage 5 emissions standards will be included, but there is a push for more boldness in promoting electric options.
- 3. **Current Market Readiness:**
 - Comments were made on how manufacturers are already being encouraged by client demand and are prepared to comply once the marketplace adopts electric plant. The shift is already noticeable.
- 4. **Challenges of Transition to Electric:**
 - It was highlighted that there is currently a lengthy process for transitioning from diesel to electric. In Scandinavia, electric equipment is subsidized, which helps with adoption. Without similar incentives in the UK, the transition is more challenging.
- 5. **Existing Frameworks:**
 - A comment was made on the Greater London Authority (GLA) framework, which is in place aiming for full electric plant by 2040. It was suggested that setting incremental targets leading up to 2040, with percentage changes over time would be beneficial.
- 6. **Separate Documentation for OEMs:**
 - It was suggested that if a framework is developed for OEMs, it should be in a separate document to avoid confusion between strategies for OEMs and other industry charters like the Plant Charter. However, it was also noted that new minimum standards might naturally push manufacturers toward change without the need for a dedicated OEM framework.

Plant Charter Progress

The Plant Charter outlines the minimum standards for plant machinery and equipment with the aim to reduce emissions from plant equipment and encourage innovation. We now currently have 23 signatories and have had the first 3 organisations achieve Platinum. Congratulation to those organisations who have become signatories of the Plant Charter!



Please contact Sam if you would like to sign up to the Plant Charter or discuss your application.

3 Baringa & Natwest: Enabling Supply Chain Decarbonisation

Natwest and Baringa led part of the session, facilitating a discussion based on:

Question:

1. Supplier Engagement for Decarbonisation – How are you engaging your supply chain to drive decarbonisation? What is the appetite from your suppliers and what are key barriers?

Response from the group:

- The group discussed the importance of streamlining processes and working together to recognise that technology may differ. A behavioural change is needed to help people understand alternative methods.
- There was a question about whether the business case for these changes is clear enough, with procurement teams noting that myths surrounding sustainability are gradually being dispelled.
- It was emphasized that mandates or strong encouragement are necessary, as sites often don't act unless explicitly required. There is also a cultural aspect to this shift.
- Concerns were raised about resistance to change, as people prefer sticking to familiar methods and worry that new equipment might not perform as expected. Demonstrations were suggested as a way to reassure staff that the equipment will work effectively.
- One company reviewed emissions by supply chain and ranked commodities like concrete and steel. They are collaborating with suppliers to explore innovative products and gather better data on carbon emissions.
- Work is being done with plant hire companies to bring more battery-powered and electric equipment on-site, with trials playing a key role in this transition.
- It was highlighted that documenting trials and sharing results could be improved to avoid repeating the same trials. Keeping track of all innovations and initiatives is essential.

Question:

2. Supplier Incentivisation – What incentives (particularly financial) are you providing / would you like to provide to your suppliers to encourage them to implement decarbonisation initiatives / investments?

Response from the group:

- The group discussed how, in some cases, there isn't much incentive to adopt sustainability practices beyond competitive advantage for winning work. Most suppliers are aligned with the necessary standards, so financial incentives haven't been used. Instead, they focus on understanding the financial benefits and creating business cases to justify the need for sustainability.
- The procurement strategy includes standardizing sustainability questions across suppliers, as clients are increasingly asking about these issues, which drives more inquiries down the supply chain. This demand acts as an incentive in itself.
- There was discussion around whether others are using financial incentives to motivate their supply chains.
- One participant mentioned that suppliers are generally open to pushing innovation, but cost is a major barrier. Rather than offering financial incentives directly, long-term use of equipment is encouraged. Cultural resistance to trying new equipment also remains a challenge.

- The idea of discounted financing for plant equipment was raised, with suggestions that it could incentivize plant hire businesses. It was noted that any financial support would be beneficial, particularly in helping companies access sustainable equipment.
- Another point was made about supporting trials and how companies could play a role in allowing customers to test new solutions.
- A concern was brought up that sustainability teams are often fully engaged, but site managers, with their own budgets and methods, may not align with these goals.
- Best practices were discussed, such as working collaboratively with on-site eco-drivers to reduce idling, which not only cuts costs but also addresses health risks associated with emissions. It was suggested that supervisors, rather than operators, be targeted for this education, as they are in a better position to influence practices.
- Education on proper idling practices is essential, as zero idling can sometimes backfire by causing equipment issues. Stage 5 engines, for example, require some level of idling, so training for both supervisors and operators is necessary.
- It was noted that customers typically engage sustainability consultants at the end of projects, but involving them at the beginning could help in designing the site and selecting appropriate equipment from the outset.
- Trials with telemetry to identify emissions hotspots and hydrogen generators were also mentioned as part of ongoing efforts to improve sustainability practices.

4 **New E-Learning: Sustainable Site Set-Up**

An update was provided on the new Sustainable Site Set-Up E-Learning with the storyboard and content now drafted. Feedback was requested on the case studies that should be used.

As we want to collect resources for the new E-Learning, we broke the group up into smaller groups and asked for responses to the following questions (using Jamboard):

1. What site archetypes exist when setting up a site?
2. What are the main challenges that exist with implementing sustainability with each of these sites? Please identify which site you're referring to when writing the challenge.
3. What solutions have you found to these challenges?

Please see the Plant Group Slides for an outline of the content to be covered and structure/format of the E-Learning.

Please see the Appendix for the results of the Jamboard.

For any Partners who have Case Studies they would like to include in the E-Learning please send these to sam.walker@actionsustainability.com

PARTNERS

For any Partners who would like to be included in the review of the E-Learning script please contact sam.walker@actionsustainability.com

PARTNERS

7 **AOB**

- CITB, along with support from CPA, Lynch and Flannery, are developing the Eco-Operator Training Standard. It is open for consultation review for 2 weeks and the proposed training standard for review is attached alongside the pre-read. Please send your feedback to chris.carter-Rowlands@citb.co.uk or Peter@cpa.uk.net

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal from the School’s Built Environment Against Slavery Group to develop due diligence guidance/awareness events to raise awareness of the modern slavery risks specifically related to lithium battery production in OEM supply chains and provide practical resources to help identify and address these risks. <i>We're not looking for any commitments at this stage. We're keen to hear your initial reactions, concerns or suggestions regarding this proposal. Do you see value in such guidance for your organisation or the industry as a whole?</i> 	
	<p><u>Virtual Conferences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting connected: Infrastructure and Technology Onsite 26th September - Register here Decarbonising our Energy: The Role of Hydrogen in Net Zero 5th November - Register here 	
	<p><u>2024/2025 Impact Survey</u></p> <p>We are now collecting responses for our 2024/2025 Impact Survey.</p> <p>Please spend some time completing the survey via the link below:</p> <p>2024/2025 Impact Survey</p>	<p>PARTNERS</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Next Meetings</u></p> <p>Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th December 10am-12pm</p>	

Appendix

Appendix A - Jamboard Results

SCHOL Sustainability on different sites: GROUP 1

What site archetypes exist when setting up a site?

- Urban site, remote countryside site
- Greenfield vs brownfield sites
- permits of the sites
- Environmental issues
- Local community feeling - eg sensitivity of the population to the site and its perceived impact
- Access to site - eg Shetland isles etc - by boat/helicopter access. Element of how easy it is for engineers/suppliers to service the site etc
- proximity to other stakeholders
- Principal contractors
- length of project
- Connectivity

What solutions have you found to these challenges?

- wifi boosters
- solar hybrid generators
- Working with client to review routes into site
- Design in on-site facilities/supplier areas in the site compound to allow equipment storage; ie reduce constant deliveries to site and take traffic off local roads
- Allow plant and equipment suppliers early engagement to help build the optimum site solution at a design/pre construction stage
- Engagement with local community
- No grid connection - BSUs combined with generators / solar

What are the main challenges that exist with implementing sustainability with each of these sites? Please identify which site you're referring to when writing the challenge.

- Country - limited electricity connection
- All site types Site compound size
- Budget
- Aligning motivations, bridging gaps in knowledge
- Encouraging early collaboration/partnership with all tiers to help design the right project solution, taking into account all site specific priorities/restrictions/commitments
- Project over running
- Customer Appetite for change
- Time sensitive projects, with a short planning stage
- commitment from clients
- Technology Availability
- biodiversity fuel availability
- Knowledge and understanding

SCHOL Sustainability on different sites: GROUP 2

What site archetypes exist when setting up a site?

- Urban site
- Brownfield sites
- Remote countryside site
- Quiet suburban sites
- Sites with existing infrastructure
- Underground sites (tunneling)

What solutions have you found to these challenges?

- (all sites) Surveying and understanding the site early and thoroughly

What are the main challenges that exist with implementing sustainability with each of these sites? Please identify which site you're referring to when writing the challenge.

- Limited electricity connection; large power draw required and no grid connection available
- Often existing infra is overlooked during the site set up phase or the opposite problem; existing infra is not fit for purpose as planned
- Existing underground infrastructure may not be properly removed
- Unique conservation and social aspects with undertaking heavy works in areas like nature reserves
- (all sites) Safety aspects of hydrogen and lithium batteries are challenging to overcome; especially training/qualifications of deploying, maintaining, and using them
- Traffic management and controlling pollution when travelling to and operating a site
- Restrictions data access, air flow, and increased risks

SCHOL Sustainability on different sites: GROUP 3

What site archetypes exist when setting up a site?

- Urban site, remote countryside site
- Need to cover site set ups from 1week to x years.
- Cover different geographic areas.
- Suggestions for emergency response.
- Sustainable procurement in planning
- Planning guidance/ check sheet in advance of starting on site

What solutions have you found to these challenges?

- Site set up rating system (Scottish Water) has an example.
- Short video's showing what can be achieved.
- Scottish Water has a short video from one of their partners re-site set up/reducing emissions on site.

What are the main challenges that exist with implementing sustainability with each of these sites? Please identify which site you're referring to when writing the challenge.

- Need to plan well ahead if waiting till on site too late.
- Common benchmark
- Existing frameworks may limit what can be done.
- Country - limited electricity connection

SCHOL Sustainability on different sites: GROUP 4

What site archetypes exist when setting up a site?

- Urban site, remote countryside site
- urban: ULEZ/LEZ
- length of project - proximity to local community etc.
- what stage of setup are you? e.g. temporary/modular - requirements different at each stage
- countryside: protected sites (SSSI, AONB), next to water,

What solutions have you found to these challenges?

- easy wins: rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling
- encourage looking at new technologies
- reduce overspecification
- do energy setup first to understand what is ACTUALLY needed - might be better than what they first thought
- using telemetry and data to better manage electricity/energy
- knowledge and awareness of maintenance requirements
- review of how the site is actually being used, to make any changes for improvement - to use less fuel, to make it more efficient - make those decisions by telemetry
- different types of hoarding for security, stakeholder engagement, living hoarding (but costly budget)

What are the main challenges that exist with implementing sustainability with each of these sites? Please identify which site you're referring to when writing the challenge.

- Country - limited electricity connection
- city centres-other issues too: e.g. renewables can be limited, positioning of equipment on site - e.g. solar panels that don't face the right way
- remote site - packages and capacity so e.g. reduced access to site and need to be full up less, visiting site less unnecessarily.
- rodents - countryside and urban - bins, skips
- location setup - understanding what's best for site
- overall security of site
- electricity connection go/no-decision
- drainage connections/ ecology mitigation, nuisance mitigation etc.
- links back in with careful consideration of equipment - dependent on site
- time of year - sun setting / solar panel positioning
- balance cost with sustainability
- urban-noise! can mitigate through renewables, reduction in generators