

The DE Group

Our Sustainability Vision

At the DE Group, we recognise that historically, the construction industry produced a high number of emissions, negatively impacting the environment and contributing to the acceleration of climate change caused by human impact.

As a response to this, we are committed to not only achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2035 but also to leaving behind a planet, environment, industry, and society that will enhance the lives of the next generation.

To achieve this, we will continuously monitor our business activities from cradle to cradle, applying the principles of Circular Economy and Sustainable thinking at every step of our service delivery.

We endeavor to work in collaboration with both our customers and our supply chain to ensure improvements in sustainability are driven at every step. We believe this approach will enable us to fully realise our intentions.

We have implemented a Group wide Road Map to enable us to achieve our targets.

Driving Change

The construction industry is high carbon and emission producing, the DE Group will work hard to reduce carbon emissions by ensuring that we challenge design and provide training and coaching at every stage of their operations from design through to training, coaching and advice relating efficient and effective use of assets when handed over to our clients.

We aim to review sustainability and the applied principles of Circular Economies at the following stages of project delivery:

- Use of raw materials – review the way in which we design products enabling renewable resources to be used at every opportunity; where possible reuse construction material – particularly those made from raw, non-renewable materials.
- Design activities - this not only refers to product make up, material input and efficiency of use, but also to maintenance and replacement of parts, ensuring longevity of products reducing the need to replace.
- Reviewing delivery and transportation activities – including both materials, personnel and any other resource required for project delivery.
- Review of efficiencies in construction process from the energy we use to the way in which we conduct our operations ensuring environmental control and sustainability are given as much focus as Health, Safety and Quality.
- Ensuring both the waste hierarchy and the hierarchy of circular economies is applied to all waste streams and this data is consistently and efficiently monitored and measured.
- The application of carbon off setting activities.

Managing Change

We have identified 7 areas where we will identify, implement, and deliver action and reduction management plans. These are:

- 1) Objectives, targets, measurement, and reporting
- 2) Strategic and financial options
- 3) Project bidding and tendering
- 4) Transport and mobile plant
- 5) Materials and technology solutions
- 6) Workplaces and Company asset management
- 7) Social values and community engagement.

Each area has been defined by defining, progressive and embedded actions – mapping our progress through to completion of vision of zero carbon. We have set a road map, individual action plans and clear objectives and targets to enable us to not only reduce our impact on the environment and promote sustainability but also to become industry leaders, setting the gold standard for sustainable construction activities.

To enable the delivery of this ambitious vision, we will provide the resource, support and emphasis required to establish, implement, and embed the steps required to achieve our carbon neutral status. This required support is provided from Board level and cascades throughout the Group. Progress will be reviewed and monitored through our Sustainability and Charities committees, this is attended by representation from the SMT. Performance information, lessons learnt, and resource requirements will be escalated to Board level.

Carbon Reduction Initiatives

In line with our Sustainability Road Map, we have set the following carbon reduction initiatives:

- Introduction of electric vehicles as an option for all Company Car drivers.
- Review of biofuel use for our mobile plant, starting with piling operations.
- All projects to be managed as per BREEAM requirements.
- Application of principles of circular economies throughout all operations.
- Use of on-site water harvesting, where possible and practicable.
- Implementation of social values and engagement activities for all projects – these will be defined through collaborative working with local neighborhoods, and, in support of our clients own social engagement aspirations.
- Carbon monitoring throughout the life of the project with real time CO₂e / per person hour reduction initiatives.
- The use of ecofriendly concrete-based products, as applicable.
- Engaging with the next generation through school visits, career talks and escorted visits around our live construction sites.



Paul Ford
Group Chairman
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