



## CLC News Release

06.05.2021

### **Construction's Net Zero Carbon Business Champions Announced**

Champions from across the UK's construction industry have come together today to declare their commitment to support CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero, the construction industry's response to the climate emergency.

Announced at UK Construction Week, the Business Champions initiative enables companies to be role models in this industry change programme. They demonstrate a commitment towards the sector's drive towards reducing carbon emissions in the delivery and operation of the built environment. The first 14 companies have been drawn from across the UK's construction supply chain; and selected by the Construction Leadership Council (CLC).

Companies who want to be business champions are encouraged to commit to CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero, and can apply to become a Business Champion in an ongoing monthly recruitment drive.

As part of this industry change programme, business champions will work alongside the CLC and other major industry bodies to share innovations and best practice, acting as promoters and role models to support the industry's move to Net Zero Carbon.

From regional builders' merchants to major global firms, the first 14 companies span the entire industry; including major contractors, consultants, architects, engineers, materials suppliers and specialist subcontractors; and between them are responsible for the delivery of billions of pounds of construction work across the UK.

Each organisation has made a commitment that they will share tangible evidence of their net zero carbon plans against the nine CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero priorities, contribute to the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero industry reporting process and work together to support companies in the sector to develop their own plans.

#### **Andrew Griffith MP, the UK Net Zero Business Champion and Chair of the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero Advisory Board, said:**

*"This is a hugely significant moment for the UK's construction industry. As we look towards COP26 later this year, the whole sector must work together to drive real change. From global UK companies to the smallest local businesses, our business champions represent the best of the sector and will play a key role in helping to drive transformational change in how we deliver the built environment.*

*"We cannot deliver our ambitious national Net Zero Carbon ambitions without changing how we build – and our business champions will set a fantastic example for others to follow."*

From investing in the development of low carbon concrete to the adoption of electric vehicle fleets and using low carbon energy sources to heat homes, each of the Business Champions is committed to driving industry change in their specialist area and are working on projects across the country that are transforming the delivery and operation of the built environment.

The fourteen Business Champions are:

- [Keltbray](#)
- [Mace](#)
- [Mid Group](#)
- [Multiplex](#)
- [Laing O'Rourke](#)
- [Arcadis](#)
- [Bradfords Building Supplies](#)
- [Travis Perkins](#)
- [APP Wholesale](#)
- ACO Technologies – [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)
- [AICO](#)
- [Rider Levett Bucknall](#)
- [Turner & Townsend](#)
- [Buro Happold](#)

---

**Business Champion profiles:**

**Mace**, the global construction and consultancy company, is working across its portfolio of UK contracting and consulting projects to reduce embodied and operational carbon from the built environment. In 2020, the contractor achieved net zero carbon through a substantial reduction in emissions and the use of responsible offsets.

Through investing in cutting edge construction technology and processes, Mace is exploring the use of low-carbon 'Earth Friendly' concrete and hydrogen power to reduce emissions on site; and their consultancy teams are working with clients to reduce carbon across their estates; including supporting the construction of district heating networks in major UK cities.

Mark Reynolds, Mace Group Chief Executive, said:

*"CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero marks a hugely significant moment in our industry's journey towards a truly sustainable approach to the built environment. This is the greatest challenge our sector has ever faced, and so we're very proud to be a business champion. We need to see rapid investment in new technology across the industry to drive real change. No one company can achieve success by itself – we have to work together."*

**APP Wholesale**, a construction, heating and plumbing materials supplier, has introduced a 'Boiler Box' scheme to collect and responsibly recycle all end of life boilers for its customers. This is a nationwide scheme that allows customers to return the unwanted boiler in one of APP Wholesale's custom-made boxes, facilitating a clean and safe removal of the material.

Later this year, they will be introducing a Green Van option for all their customers in order for them to choose a slot that uses aggregated orders to maximise deliveries to postcodes anywhere in the UK. Their fleet of vans will be converted where applicable to zero emission vehicles as soon as the technology is viable.

Matthew Pierce, Marketing Director, from APP Wholesale, said:

*"APP Wholesale Ltd has signed up to be involved in CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero because we supply a substantial proportion of the heating market and have an obligation to try and mitigate some of these activities. CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero has come just at the right time when we are looking at these obligations and being part of a bigger movement is driving us to gain knowledge and having peers who we can emulate is amazing."*

**Bradfords Building Supplies**, a building supplies company based in Yeovil Somerset, and founded in 1770, are finding innovative solutions to provide low carbon solutions to their customers across the construction industry.

These include investing in an integrated electric vehicle charging system for their fleet and their customers and new equipment for their warehouse to reduce the use of plastic packaging for their goods. They are also working in partnership with architects and designers to help identify low carbon alternatives during the building design process.

Giles Bradford, Communications and Engagement Manager from Bradfords Building Supplies, said:

*"Bradfords has supported the communities in which we operate for over a quarter of a millennium. We see net zero as the next iteration in helping the sustainability of these, our, communities.*

*"The key CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero priority for Bradfords is priority four: 'supporting government to deliver retrofitting'. As a builders' merchant our proximity to the RMI market, trades and homeowners lends itself to this."*

**Buro Happold**, the integrated consulting engineers and advisers, are undertaking a number of engineering projects to reduce carbon across their work. In 2021, the company won CIBSE's 'Building Performance Consultancy of the Year' for the fourth year running, highlighting commitment to verifying operational energy use of its projects and closing any performance gaps.

These include the use of low carbon heating for homes and major landmarks –such as Bath Abbey – and supporting the development of the next stage in low/zero carbon flight options, including electric and hydrogen powered aircraft.

Sarah Prichard UK Managing Director, from Buro Happold, said:

*"Buro Happold has recognised the need to help lead in the engineering response to Net Zero and the Climate Emergency, as we work to create a sustainable and equitable future for people, places and planet. Working with the CLC on the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero campaign will enable us to achieve this collaboratively across the industry.*

*"Buro Happold are committed to measuring embodied and operational carbon on all projects we design, both new build and retrofit. We have created in-house building performance dashboards to allow us to report on modelled and measured carbon and have ambitious targets around driving down in use and embodied carbon in our work over the next ten years. In regularly reporting and holding ourselves accountable to our people and the wider industry as we strive to achieve these, we hope to inspire other organisations to join us on this journey."*

The other Business Champions and why they were chosen:

Keltbray is a leading construction engineering specialist. They focus on MMC, have implemented science-based targets and benefit from a network of Net Zero advocates across the business

Mid Group are a UK BIM Level 2 accredited, contracting and consulting company, who have adopted methods of reducing carbon such as completely omitting the use of concrete and using carbon sequestered timber frames. They are recognised by industry for their low-carbon activities and have won sustainability awards.

Laing O'Rourke is an international engineering enterprise. They aim to achieve operational net zero by 2030 (represents a reduction in carbon emissions across our directly controlled operations of at least 75%); they have invested in all electric fleet and the UK's first electric crane

Travis Perkins is the UK's largest builders' merchants. The company has set a target of net zero on scopes 1 and 2 by 2035. They are also developing a plan to use alternative fuels in existing vehicles and increase the number of electric vehicles in the fleet

Multiplex is an international construction contractor who demonstrate their commitment and support toward CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero priorities 6,7,8 and 9. They also published their European Net Zero Carbon Pathway in April this year

ACO Technologies plc is the UK division of the ACO Group. They focus on designing their production processes and products to reduce embodied carbon as well as transport and installation carbons.

ACIO an Ei Company, is a market leader in domestic fire and Carbon Monoxide (CO) protection. They use green practices and work closely with the social housing and local authorities in order to help them with achieving net zero.

RLB is an independent global construction and property consultancy providing management and advice throughout the built environment. The company have already signed up to Race to Zero, are committed to be a Net Zero business by 2025 and are taking action on all but one of the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero priorities

Arcadis is a leading global design & consultancy organization for natural and built asset. The company supports a number of CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero priorities, demonstrates a commitment to 1.5C Science Based Targets, and is working in partnership with UK GBC and World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Turner & Townsend is involved in the delivery of the Mayor of London's Retrofit Accelerator programmes, which have delivered low carbon retrofit measures to over 700 buildings and 35,000 homes in London alone. They have also established Science Based Targets and full evidence-based reporting that would be available for use for quarterly reporting.

## ENDS

---

Notes to editors:

Further information about the full list of Business Champions will be available on the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero website soon.

The CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero **Programme Board**, chaired by Hannah Vickers, CEO of the Association for Consultancy and Engineering, is responsible for oversight of the whole CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero agenda, including the performance framework and reporting.

The CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero **Advisory Board**, chaired by Andrew Griffith MP, the Prime Minister's UK Net Zero Champion, holds the Programme Board accountable and acts as a challenge forum on the broader ambitions of the programme. Its members provide external leadership and advocacy for the programme and encourage businesses across the sector to take action on Net Zero.

Alongside this, the **Green Construction Board**, the Construction Leadership Council's sustainability and net zero workstream, has and continues to provide technical expertise to identify milestones and key initiatives to develop technical solutions.

The broader **Construction Leadership Council Taskforce** will provide support to the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero programme and a network to test, engage and cascade advice to the broader construction supply chain across the UK.

The CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero 9 priorities are defined as follows:

### **Transport**

1. Accelerating the shift of the construction workforce to **zero emission vehicles and onsite plant**
2. Maximising use of **Modern Methods of Construction** and improved onsite logistics, reducing waste and transport to sites

**3. 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**

4. Work with Government to **deliver retrofitting to improve energy efficiency** of the existing housing stock

5. Scale up industry capability to deliver **low carbon heat solutions** in buildings, supporting heat pump deployment, trials of hydrogen heating systems and heat networks

6. Enhancing the **energy performance of new and existing buildings** through higher operational energy efficiency standards and better building energy performance monitoring

#### **Construction Activity**

7. **Implementing carbon measurement**, to support our construction projects in making quantifiable decisions to remove carbon

8. 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.

9. Support development of **innovative low carbon materials (prioritising concrete and steel)**, as well as advancing low carbon solutions for manufacturing production processes and distribution