



Carbon Steering Group Bulletin

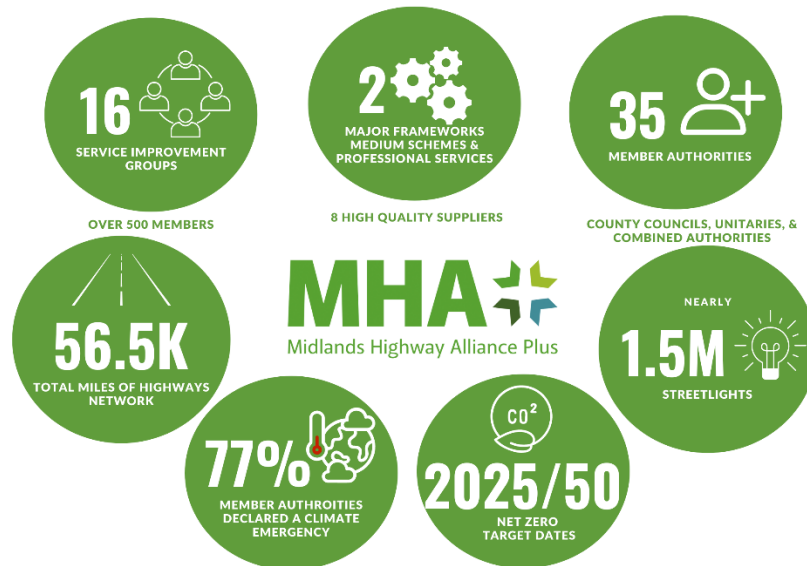
Autumn 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the new MHA+ Carbon 'Net Zero' bulletin, hosted by the MHA+ Carbon Steering Group.

This bulletin is designed to provide a regular focus and update for MHA+ Members about the wide and varied work going on in relation to the carbon reduction agenda in the Highways sector.

The MHA+ and its membership of 35 Local Authorities have a major impact in terms of their carbon footprint. This also provides for a strong opportunity to make a difference in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the highways sector.



MHA+ Carbon Steering Group (CSG) – So why a CSG?

Carbon reduction technologies and initiatives are rapidly increasing across all sectors. In this fast-paced environment, it is vital to help keep member authorities informed about developments in the highways sector and provide a means of sharing best practice in the drive to meet Net Zero.

The MHA+ Carbon Steering Group is a new group for members, chaired by Chris Green from Leicestershire County Council. Its purpose is to provide a focus for the MHA+ in relation to all matters pertaining to the carbon reduction agenda in the Highways sector.

Our work will include ensuring members are aware of the work being completed by Government and various organisations, such as the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG), ADEPT and the National Association of Construction Frameworks (NACF) etc. This alongside making sure the MHA+, on behalf of members, influences how the carbon agenda is shaped and developed both regionally and nationally. The Group will also seek to find and provide good examples of best practice in this rapidly developing area & reduce duplication of effort.

If you want more information about the Group, please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#) or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

What we're up to in the CSG:

As it's a new group for the MHA+, one of our first jobs is to get an understanding of what's going on in relation to Carbon, both with our members (that's you) and more broadly on the national and regional picture. We are, over the next few months, scoping out what is happening and taking on board examples of good practice with the aim of sharing it with you.

In parallel, we're looking at what's happening in the key groups and organisations who are involved in coordinating and often leading on critical areas (see more info below).

Other work we are starting, includes:

- **Big ticket carbon reduction items** – Identifying the key areas that have the greatest impact in helping reduce the carbon footprint in the highways sector, for example, materials whole life assessment and costing, transport and vehicle usage, streetlighting & re-cycling etc. Focussing on where the MHA+ and its members can and are adding value.
- **DfT Incentive Fund** - Asking you as members what you are doing in relation to the new DfT Self-Assessment Sustainability questions on carbon and biodiversity so we can share this with other MHA+ member authorities.
- **Developing and good practice** - Seeking out developing and good practice in carbon reduction work being completed by member authorities and other organisations.
- **National and regional picture** - Looking at the current position and ongoing work in relation to the national and regional picture on issues such as carbon

calculators and materials whole life use, in close liaison with organisations such as the Future Highways Research Group and other regional alliances.

- **MHA+ Frameworks** – we have two major frameworks, the Medium Schemes Framework (MSF4) and the Professional Services Partnership (PSP3), we will be seeking examples of key areas of carbon reduction activity and good practice from the suppliers and client MHA+ authorities and sharing these with you as members.

Watch this space.

Key legislation and policy

Are you aware of where all the Net Zero and Carbon agenda requirements came from and guidance and other documents out there? Detailed below is a quick guide to some of the key areas of legislation and policy in relation to the carbon reduction agenda:

| <p style="text-align: center;">Area of Legislation (Please click the hyperlink to find out more)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Brief</p> |
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| <p><u>Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 target amendment order, 2019).</u></p> | <p>The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are adapted to. The Act also establishes the framework to deliver on these requirements.</p> |
| <p><u>The Carbon Budget Order (2021).</u></p> | <p>The Carbon Budget Order 2021 set the carbon budget for the sixth budgetary period (the sixth carbon budget) at 965 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over the 5 years 2033 to 2037. This came into force on 24 June 2021.</p> |
| <p><u>Green House Gas Emissions Regulations (2021).</u></p> | <p>The GHG Protocol establishes comprehensive global standardized frameworks to measure and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions.</p> |
| <p><u>Net Zero Strategy, Build Back Greener (2021).</u></p> | <p>This is the UK Government strategy which sets out policies and proposals for</p> |

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| | decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet our net zero target by 2050. |
| <u>Decarbonising Transport: A Better Greener Britain (July 2021).</u> | The DfT's strategy for the decarbonisation of the UK's transport systems and reducing carbon therein. |
| <u>National Highways: Net Zero Highways (July 2021).</u> | National Highways plan for carbon reduction and detailed approach with targets through to 2050. |

Regional and National organisations

- [FHRG](#) – The Future Highways Research Group is currently researching a wide range of activities in relation to Climate change impact analysis, carbon measurement & reduction.
- [ADEPT Live Labs 1 & 2](#) – Live Labs 1 has now completed with several of the projects relating to carbon reduction. Live labs 2 is ongoing with 30 submissions, which are now being considered for a shortlist.
- [LCRIG](#) – This year's LCRIG conference Strictly Highways which took place recently, had four key themes one of which was carbon reduction and net zero.
- [UKRLG](#) - The UK Roads Leadership Group (UKRLG) brings together national and local government from across the UK to consider roads infrastructure engineering and operations matters.

News and developing best practice from across the UK

[EV charge point pilot](#) – nine councils (two MHA+ members) have successfully bid & secured funding for this pilot scheme.

[Graphene enhanced asphalt](#) – Kent County Council have been working with the University of Nottingham to assess the pros and cons of using Gipave to repair and resurface road pavements.

[Met Office, State of the UK Climate](#) – The latest report from the Met Office updated in July this year.

[Standardised approach to carbon emissions](#) - Devon County Council is helping pioneer a standardised approach to highways carbon emissions with the creation of a data dashboard and best practice guidance.

National Highways – An update of NH work on progress for its net zero goals.

Hydrogen powered fuel cell generator - Kier Highways is trialling a hydrogen-powered fuel cell for a generator at its site for the A585 Windy Harbour to Skip pool scheme.

Carbon neutral now - GW Highways has announced it will be the first UK highways contractor to go fully carbon neutral across its entire business operations.

New study into net zero roadworks started - Transport for London (TfL) and the UK's leading street works body have joined forces on a research project to minimise the impact of street and road works on climate change.

Electrifying fleet targets – Study shows many local authorities are still to start adding electric vehicles to their fleet.

Greener Highways – A group focussed on many things carbon related.

Wind powered streetlighting – Telford piloting wind powered streetlighting.

Carbon reduction journey – Volker Highways is currently working on a highway improvement scheme along the A343 Andover Road in Newbury, in partnership with West Berkshire Council. With a focus on reducing the amount of carbon produced as part of the scheme, and to determine the best way to reduce its carbon emissions.

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups Carbon reduction activity

With 16 SIGs and over 500 members there is a massive potential to tap into our collective expertise and reduce carbon across all areas of highway services.



Each SIG will be sharing information about carbon reduction, climate change adaptation/resilience and biodiversity initiatives in their areas of work. There will be an opportunity at each SIG meeting to focus on carbon reduction as well as the potential to bid for MHA Plus funding to develop best practice or trial innovative solutions that will benefit all member authorities.

MHA 

Midlands Highway Alliance Plus
MHA, MSIG, WMHA. Moving Forwards Together

