



Carbon Steering Group Bulletin

May 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the MHA+ Carbon 'Net Zero' bulletin, hosted by the MHA+ Carbon Steering Group chaired by Chris Green from Leicestershire County Council.

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 across the Highways sector.

The MHA+ and its membership of 37 Local Authorities have a major impact in terms of their carbon footprint. This also provides a strong opportunity to make a difference in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the highways sector.

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

CSG activity over the last three months & looking ahead:

The CSG continues to provide a focus for all things pertaining to Carbon Reduction & Net Zero for MHA+. So, what's going on in the CSG? See below for some of the items covered at the last meeting & topics coming up at future meetings:

- **The National Highways & Transport Network (NHT)** - are liaising with the CSG membership over their development of a carbon tool to assess the 'Value of Carbon' in Highways for Local Highway Authorities. They provided an update on progress at the last CSG meeting.
- **MEON Highways Project Highways Zero** - provided an interesting presentation on their Project Highways Zero, based around significantly reducing carbon impacts, in particular, in relation to lining and defects management. Items covered included: a 60% reduction in carbon emissions, sustainability and durability, improved night-time visibility, lower wet night risk, and reduced requirement for repeat visits and associated TM, etc.

- **Lancashire County Council Bio Asphalt** - provided an update on its Bio asphalt materials trials with three sites due to be completed in May, more updates to follow.
- **Active Travel** – was a key topic discussed with a significant focus on this vital issue planned over the next few months.
- **Local Authority Development Design Guides** – another key topic up and coming will be a detailed look at how LA Design guides make and can improve their contribution to the carbon reduction agenda.
- **Devon County Council Carbon Measurement** – Victoria Walsh will be attending the next meeting to provide an update on Devon's ground-breaking approach to measuring carbon in relation to all things Highways.

Key Legislation & Policy

If you want to find out more about Carbon & Net Zero related legislation & policy, please visit our Autumn 2022 [CSG Bulletin](#).

Regional and National Organisations update

FHRG – The Future Highways Research Group held its Waypoint meeting recently, key topics covered included an update on the Carbon Calculation & Accounting Standard and the Web App analyser. This detailed the next stage of further development of a programme and project analyser tool.

FHRG also covered the intended launch of the accounting standard & process therein. The intention is to launch the Standard to the Pioneer Group initially in Late May/June, to FHRG members during the summer then subsequently to all ADEPT members. Watch this space.

ADEPT: Live Labs 2 – All seven shortlisted Live Labs 2 projects have successfully met the criteria to move to the deployment and procurement phase under the £30m Government-funded innovation programme. The seven schemes will embark on a three-year innovation and discovery process under the theme of 'decarbonising local roads' working across four interconnected areas, being: A UK centre of excellence for materials, a green carbon laboratory, a future lighting testbed and corridor and place-based decarbonisation approach.

LCRIG – The Local Councils Roads Innovation Group, Innovation Festival takes place in July. It will without a doubt have a range of innovations that link to carbon reduction and associated activities. If you want to find out more and get an update on the latest news and key articles available on the LCRIG website, click the link in green.

[Local Government Association](#) – Hosts an LGA Climate Change Hub (see below) covering a wide variety of Net Zero activity in relation to Local Councils across the country including transport and highways.

News and developing best practice from across the UK

Electric Vehicles



Surrey CC roll out of 10,000 EV charge points begins – See more [here](#).

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Levy fund – The Government announces £381m to fund EV charging points as a part of its Energy Security Plan. See more [here](#).

Derbyshire EV charging lampposts – Read more [here](#).

Materials/Maintenance

A30 Low carbon asphalt trials – Hanson are trialling two biogenic binders on the A30 strategic network. Read more [here](#).

Milestone with OCL Regeneration recycling materials - 30,000 tonnes highways maintenance materials recycled saving more than 500 tonnes of carbon. See more [here](#).



Smart Tag system for carbon calculation in road surfacing – Knowsley MBC working with Asphalt IQ to smart tag roads and measure the carbon stored within the road itself. See more [here](#).

Staffordshire collaboration has community and carbon at its core – working with Amey and Multevo, Staffs long running partnership including increasing its focus on carbon reduction in its operations. See more [here](#).

Transport

Local Government Association, Decarbonising Transport Action learning - Following the LGA's Decarbonising Transport Action Learning Sets programme, councils have shared their learnings and outputs to showcase what decarbonising transport looks like in their area. See more [here](#).

LGA Event, Accelerating Decarbonisation through procurement – See more [here](#).

Active travel

Highest performing Active Travel Councils named – See more [here](#).

Newport City Council, Active Light project – The City Council are working hard to upgrade their Active Travel routes, including Tredegar Park a 4km footpath with lighting. See more [here](#).

HVO/Alternative Fuels



Hydrogen powered 7.5 tonne lorry from JCB – See more [here](#).

Balfour Beatty looks to Hydrogen power for heavy plant – read more [here](#).

Biodiversity

At loggerheads over trees – The variety of issues about the challenges and benefits trees can provide. See more [here](#).

Biodiversity App – Online project with Hill & Smith Infrastructure around biodiversity and our roads. See more [here](#).

Streetlighting

Milton Keynes smart street lighting – The City Council offsets rising energy prices by using Telensa smart street lighting. Read more [here](#).

New Solar technology for mobile traffic signals – SRL Traffic Systems launch new solar traffic signals. See more [here](#).



Government/Guidance/Plans

DfT carbon emissions recount – Transport Decarbonisation Plan Carbon figures have been revised upwards. Read more [here](#).

Decarbonising the construction value chain – A key report that details findings about decarbonisation, particularly in relation to embodied carbon. Read more [here](#).

Climate Change

Climate Change Committee – 2023 Progress report. See more [here](#).

ICE calls for infrastructure plans for Climate Change – See more [here](#).

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups Carbon Reduction activity

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

A few examples of Carbon Reduction related items groups have been working on and looking ahead, include:

- **Highways Structures** – Presentation from Kieran O'Connor (Amey) at the meeting in March 2023 about the Net Zero Bridges Group and how structures engineers can use the following hierarchy to consider when designing a new bridge/structure; build nothing, build less, build clever, build efficiently. Managing existing structures assets better to avoid the need to build new structures is key to reducing the carbon impact of bridges. Improving inspections, resilience and proactive maintenance can all play a part in prolonging the life of an existing asset.

Early design decisions can make a significant impact in terms of carbon reduction as can use of low carbon materials and construction practices.

- **Street Lighting** – Planning to include a presentation from OG2 Lighting the October 2023 meeting on solar powered lighting. Some member authorities are already trialling solar lighting in parks (Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin) and rural areas (Derbyshire CC).
- **Winter Services** – At the recent Winter Services SIG workshop, Derby City Council shared information about the use of Safecote treated salt which has resulted in savings both in terms of salt usage and carbon emissions. Using salt treated with Safecote (a product derived from molasses) on the network allows reduced spread-rates, when compared to untreated salt, which means in turn that there are less vehicle movements made for salt deliveries during preparations for the winter season.
- **Traffic Signals** – Group chair Gafoor Din is currently liaising with DfT to explore the possibility of grant funding for local authorities to replace remaining any remaining halogen lamps with LED's. Group members have been advised to put an inventory together of all the sites they have where halogen lamps are still in use. This will enable the DfT to understand the scale of the issue and how much funding is potentially required.





For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles, please contact **lan Bamforth**. If you have any colleagues who may not have received this email, please share it with them, so that they can contact us directly to confirm they wish to receive our bulletin. Alternatively, if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin, email the **Midlands Highway Alliance Plus**.