



MHA+ Carbon Steering Group (CSG) bulletin June 2024

Introduction

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

The MHA+ and its membership of 36 Local Authorities have a major effect in relation to their carbon impact. This also provides a strong opportunity to make a difference in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the highways sector.

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.

If you want more information about the bulletin, to contribute, or to learn more about the MHA+ Carbon Steering Group, please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#) mob: **07842 034616** or [Kay Smith](#)

CSG activity over the last 3 months and looking ahead

The CSG continues to provide a focus for all things pertaining to carbon reduction and net zero for MHA+. So, what's going on in the CSG?

- **Carbon News** – If you want to take a look back at key items and articles of interest, previous CSG bulletins are available on the [MHA+ website](#).
- **The National Highways & Transport Network (NHT)** – Presented on progress with their 'Value of Carbon' Tool in Highways for Local Highway Authorities. In particular they discussed the results in relation to MHA+ member LAs who are also members of the NHT/CQC. Over the next few months MHA+ will be working with a small number of high scoring LA members and NHT on sharing their key

successes, challenges and approaches to how they deliver their services in relation to carbon and efficient management with all MHA+ members.

- **Live Labs 2** – Jake Murgatroyd from Transport for West Midlands provided an update on progress with the Centre for Excellence & the work they are driving forward. The Live Labs 2 National Expo event took place in the Midlands with over 200 in attendance. Find out more about the event by clicking the link: [Live labs 2 Expo Event - Highways Magazine](#).
- **UKRLG, Adaptation, Biodiversity & Climate Group** – John Lamb (Chair of the Group) provided an excellent presentation on the group, its purpose, key activities and challenges in terms of Climate change & links with Carbon reduction and the synergies therein.
- **Carbon Management Task & Finish Group** – Has been created to look at providing for a more consistent approach to the management of carbon in relation to projects in MHA+ Medium Schemes Framework 4. Duncan Healey (Galliford Try) is chairing the group which will provide regular updates on progress over the next few months.
- **Suppliers Carbon Event** – The CSG are linking in with the Live Labs 2 Centre of Excellence team, in providing a short focussed event on carbon related products. Watch this space for the announcement of a date shortly.

Local carbon spotlight

Each edition we're looking to provide a short focussed clip on an alternative carbon based approach from a MHA+ member. This month its Nottinghamshire, with an insight into a different approach to materials on Public Rights of Way.

In Nottinghamshire

Peter Wells from Via East Midlands working with Nottinghamshire County Council, have provided two interesting examples of low carbon surfacing solutions for Public Rights of Way in the County. You can read Peter's thoughts on his LinkedIn posts on [In-situ Recycling on an access road and PROW in Nottinghamshire](#) and the [Innovative 'Nuflex' scheme trialled on footpath in Nottinghamshire](#).

Regional and national organisations update

What's happening out there with other key organisations. A brief round up of interesting and useful items.

The Future Highways Research Group ([FHRG](#)) with the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) has produced **Carbon Calculation & Reporting Standard (CCAS) guidance for local roads**. The FHRG has also created a **CCAS kick-starter programme**, where they can work with local authorities to complete an assessment to aid the development of its carbon footprint statement for the highways and associated services.

The Local Council Roads Innovation Group ([LCRIG](#)) has announced their major **events for 2024** and published their **Net Zero report**.

The **Innovations & Learning Festival** will be held from 2 to 3 July at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire and the **Strictly Highways** event is on 1 to 3 October. Both events will no doubt have a wide range of carbon related items of interest as always.

LCRIG's 'Net Zero' report highlights a range of actions local councils can complete to help achieve their net zero ambitions.

[The Local Government Association](#) (LGA) has even more information on their [sustainability hub](#) and you can sign up to get their news bulletin. If you're looking at reducing your carbon impact at depots and other key buildings, then the LGA also recently updated their '[Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance](#)'. This guide provides useful information for PV solar panel info and detail on policy changes and other key information.

The LGA is hosting a **Decarbonising Transport** online event on Tuesday 11 June. Click the link to find out more and book your place. [LGA EV roundtable event link](#)

Carbon learning and related content from MHA+ learning gateway

A range of training content and presentations from MHA+ suppliers is available via the [MHA+ Learning Gateway](#).

They include:

- Roads Bitesize Training Programme. Partnership to improve Pavement design optimisation Carbon Impact Assessment (an ORIS/AECOM collaboration)
- PSP 3 Spotlight Carbon Management Plans
- PSP 3 Spotighting Climate change action and supporting documents
- Green Team and Sustainability at home.
- Waterman Aspen on "delivering our net zero commitments", presentation by Dave Allen.
- Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain training module
- Lunch and Learn – Highways: Nature based, low carbon solutions for soil erosion, control and habitat, presentation by Alex Clark from Salix RSK
- An introduction to Sustainability and Carbon Management, presentation by Stephanie Upton (WA)
- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) has provided a series of [recorded lectures](#) covering a vast range of civil engineering, topics and subjects. Use the search bar to refine as there are 165 carbon related lectures.
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News and developing best practice from across the UK



Electric Vehicles/equipment

UK's first bus depot to offer consumer electric vehicle charging opens: [Bus Depot - EV charging](#).
EV users will be able to get cheaper off peak electricity with smart charging, with nationwide rollout from Connected Kerb. [Smart EV charging coming to public networks](#)

Net Zero/ Decarbonisation/ Government Guidance/ Plans and Policy

Highways Sector Council develops Highways 'free to use' tool to help LAs and supply chain to align to PAS 2080.
[HS PAS 2080 Tool](#).

Construction Leadership Council bring together leaders from across the industry to sign pledges towards Net Zero.
[Big infrastructure companies sign decarbonisation pledge](#)

Highways Electrical Association looks at potential to cut energy use across the sector.
[HEA on the road to energy efficiency?](#)

National Infrastructure Commission Annual Review charts mixed picture on growth and ability to meet climate targets.
[Infrastructure catch up required to meet climate targets](#)

Materials/Maintenance

Research Partnership from biology, engineering, science and business industry creates Bio bitumen from 'Algae':
[Bio Bitumen created from Algae](#)

National Highways says supporting net zero construction and low carbon materials is key to its decarbonisation agenda.
[NH roads at the heart of its future Net Zero plans](#)

New materials recycling hub opens in Oxfordshire.
[Company opens materials recycling facility](#)

Tarmac launches new digital AI sensors to predict concrete strength.
[New Digital sensors optimise concrete mix and lower carbon emissions](#)

Biodiversity/Climate/Adaptation

UK Emissions Trading Scheme – expansion could help reduce UK wide economy emissions.

[UK Emissions trading scheme could reduce carbon impacts.](#)

National Highways on course to achieve its 'No Net Biodiversity Loss' goal for 2025.
[NH saves the biodiversity day](#)

Scottish Council details challenges Climate change will bring to roads resilience.
[Argyle & Bute detail challenges on resilient roads](#)

Essex develop green infrastructure scheme to reduce surface water flooding on residential street.
[Essex 'Make Rain Happy' scheme reduces flooding](#)

National Highways set to use AI and satellite mapping to track changes in biodiversity and habitat.
[NH innovative green mapping project](#)

DfT launched consultation on adaptation of UK transport system.
[DfT adaptation consultation](#)

South Gloucestershire's LL2 project looks at potential for using grass cuttings to produce biomethane fuel & surfacing material 'Biochar'.
[Carbon reduction scheme in South Gloucestershire](#)

Active travel

Hampshire promote a major 'walk to school' week for 352 schools.
[Hampshires walk to school week](#)

Active Mobility link secures planning approval in Oxford.
[Oxford Oxpens river bridge gets go ahead](#)

Stoke on Trent launch Local transport & Active Travel Plan.
[Green light for Active Travel Plan](#)

Warwick new cycle route works start, as a part of Warwickshires Local Cycling & Walking infrastructure Plan.
[New cycle route work starts](#)



Hydrogen Fuel

Honda debut hydrogen fuel truck cell concept at Advanced Clean Transportation Expo.
[New Truck hydrogen fuel cell concept](#)

Government considering allowing use of Hydrogen powered construction and Agricultural machinery on roads.
[Hydrogen powered machinery consultation](#)

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups (SIG) Carbon Reduction activity

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

A few examples of carbon reduction/climate related items groups have been involved with include:

Street Lighting

A group of SIG members attended a meeting and factory visit at [ASD Lighting](#) (Rotherham).

Leicestershire County Council streetlight dimming pilot (January – March 2024). Dimming Pilot – [FAQ](#) pilot(dimming to 30% intensity) programme on all roads (apart from those that have been identified via risk assessment) between 8pm – 7am; has provided £142k savings; equivalent 81 tonnes Co2. LCC advised that no complaints from members of the public/elected members have been received.

Live Labs 2: project update East Riding of Yorkshire Council: [High visual efficiency for low carbon lighting – decarbonising street lighting](#).

SIG advised on use of ambient lighting (from adjacent buildings) for external illumination.

Traffic Signals

SIG members accessing events to discuss on approaches to secure [traffic signal funding](#) to replace obsolete halogen bulbs with LED and more energy efficient solutions as well as signal improvements to reduce congestion across the network.

The 16 Service Improvement Groups in MHA+ are:

Casualty Reduction	Civil Parking Enforcement	Development Management	Flood Water Management	Highways Records & Searches
Highways Structures	Highways Asset Management	Low Carbon Travel & Transport	Street Lighting	Streetworks
Traffic Engineering	Traffic Signals	Transportation Data & Analysis	Term Maintenance	Third Party Claims
		Winter Services		

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles, please contact [Ian 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](#).

