

Business Champions – launch interviews.

The following questions have been developed as a structured interview to capture the approach and commitment of businesses across the sector to achieving Net Zero by 2050 in line with the COConstructZero priorities.

The interview can be captured in writing or filmed and shared with Stuart Young (Stuart.Young@beis.gov.uk) by the 15th of each mon, starting in April.

Interviewees are encouraged to provide photos and diagrams to illustrate their story, but also to keep to a concise response to the questions.

The interview and company logo will be featured on the CLC website and as part of your ongoing role as a business champion you will be invited to speak and share your story with your peers and Government stakeholders.

Feature interview questions

Questions to the business leader:

- Why is making progress on Net Zero important to your business
 - We deal within the social housing and local authority As of 6th October 2020, 74% (300 out of 404) of all UK local authorities have declared a climate emergency along with a further 8 combined authorities and city regions. They will expect their housing associations and suppliers to be able to demonstrate the ways in which they intend to lead on this agenda. CSR is also a vital part of our organisation. Being able to reduce the negative impacts on the planet as well as the positive impacts on the community is key to corporate social responsibility
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- ❖ Which of the 9 priorities are more relevant to your business and clients and why?
 - Championing developments and infrastructure investments. Someone has to lead the way, as a market leader, we should be at the forefront of technology. Transport has the biggest impact on our carbon footprint, so this is the area that needs to be developed,
 - Enhancing the energy performance of new and existing buildings – our new HQ is a local landmark in a predominantly rural area. Keeping in touch with the latest technology ensuring we are always leading the way in reducing our environmental impact is vital for us.
- ❖ What are doing to make progress against the relevant priorities (of the 9) in the short and long-term? (Could include targets or milestones)
 - We have committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2030
 - We have engaged an energy assessor to support through the 10-year journey
 - We have had a feasibility study carried out to determine a road map to carbon neutrality
 - We are working with a number of organisations to support this agenda and support their aligning agenda
 - We have carried out a feasibility study on the use of electric vehicles in our commercial fleet
 - We have installed a PV array on the roof of our new HQ and looking to extend
 - We have used green practices and installed the most energy efficient equipment within our new building.
- ❖ How have you helped your supply chain understand what is required against the 9 priorities?
 - We are working alongside our transport partner to gain an understanding of their impact.
 - We are producing a programme for our TV channel to educate our customer base on the issues

- ❖ As a business leader what do you think the biggest challenge is and how are you working to overcome it?
 - the switch to electric vehicles – a huge mindset change is required in the way people will work and the way they will manage their fleet. To overcome this we are working to communicate to our colleagues the advantages and work with them to determine how we proceed. Bringing them along rather than pushing them into it.
- ❖ In your view what is the one innovation or change that is going to have the biggest impact on carbon or progress in our industry?
 - Solar Power. As technology develops, prices will reduce, efficiency of Solar panels will improve and more organisations will be able to harness the power of renewable energy.

Questions to the emerging leader:

- ❖ What do your peers and wider employees within your company think about the businesses' approach to Net Zero?
 - It is widely received as a positive, we have a reputation for doing good in the local community and CSR is woven into the fabric of our organisation. This is the next step in that journey. Taking responsibility for our impact on the planet and using our position in the market to take the lead is seen positive by all.
- ❖ How are the younger generation within your business engaged in this?
 - The majority of our team are younger than 40, many are apprentices or have recently move from apprenticeships to full times roles. The engagement amongst all colleagues, and the younger members in particular is high with all CSR works we do. Our carbon neutral agenda is another piece of our CSR programme and is received with equal enthusiasm
- ❖ What more do you think your business could be doing against the 9 priorities?
 - We could potentially move quicker in terms of growing our usage of renewable energy, our hesitance is connected to the speed technology advances. We want to ensure we have the best system for our investment. We need to continue to champion the agenda and communicate this via all of media
- ❖ A Youth Voice COP climate is being organised in Milan to bring together young people globally- what would be your key issue to raise?
 - The infrastructure for electric vehicles in rural areas. We work and live in a rural area, the infrastructure is poor and if colleagues were to make the transition to electrified vehicles, its this poor infrastructure which leads to the mindset against EV's
- ❖ what do you do in your daily life/job that makes a difference?
 - Drive a hybrid vehicle
 - Recycle
 - Use recycled materials in all business operations

Construct Zero Priorities

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

(EDA)