

- ❖ Why is making progress on Net Zero important to your business?

CEF was established in 1951, and the economic, social and environmental footprint of our business activity is a fundamental consideration in our commitment to responsible and sustainable growth. Climate change is a key part of the sustainability strategy we are currently developing and meeting Net Zero will be instrumental within it.

As a responsible supplier, we are also committed to delivering carbon reduction as well as wider sustainability gains for our customers.

- ❖ Which of the 9 priorities are more relevant to your business and clients and why?

We have identified the following priorities as the most relevant for our business:

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

Many of our current customers include housing associations and the Public Sector. As well as the wide range of energy efficient products and solutions we currently offer to retrofit homes, we are continuously increasing our range of energy efficient and renewable energy solutions and smart / connected products. Lighting, heating and ventilation offer significant opportunities.

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

We continue to provide energy efficient solutions to all customers, allowing higher operational energy efficiency standards. As well as the wide range of energy efficient products and solutions we currently offer, we are continuously increasing our range of energy efficient and renewable energy solutions and smart / connected products. Lighting and heating offer significant opportunities.

Priority 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.*

Building on our established Electrical Waste Recycling Group offer we are committed to increasing our circular economy proposition – reducing the volume of raw materials from natural resources and utilising the principles of urban mining.

- ❖ What are you doing to make progress against the relevant priorities (of the 9) in the short and long-term? (Could include targets or milestones)

CEF is ISO 14001 certified and we continue to reduce our environmental impact through the standard. We have also recently appointed a full-time head of sustainability to coordinate and accelerate our activity. Consequently, we are developing an ambitious sustainability strategy [externally available late 2021]. We have signed up to externally verify our carbon footprint and have committed to year-on-year carbon reduction targets. Additionally, we are in the process of collaborating with our strategic supplier partners to help improve our economic, social and environmental impact.

- ❖ How have you helped your supply chain understand what is required against the 9 priorities?

We are currently initiating an education and an external auditing process with our core suppliers and upskilling our procurement team to help with this. The plan is to roll this out during Q3 2021 onwards

- ❖ As a business leader what do you think the biggest challenge is and how are you working to overcome it?

Sustainability is often sacrificed ahead of economic considerations and currently sustainable products are generally more expensive due to increased supply chain costs and lower economies of scale. This will change as sustainable products become more widespread but in the interim, we are trying to increase customer awareness and focus on lifetime value where applicable.

- ❖ 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?

Creating a more circular economy will undoubtedly have the biggest impact in the construction sector – alongside a focus on energy reduction. Designing out carbon and being able to account for more of the carbon emitted from raw materials through urban mining will have a sizeable impact on carbon reduction.