

'Zero Carbon' Business Champions (and emerging leaders) from the M&E sector. ECA nomination.

ECA Nominated Business Champion – **Andrew Weston, Imtech**

Andrew has also nominated two Emerging Leaders – Billy Jamieson, an Imtech engineer significantly involved with low carbon projects/Tom Bigden, the main focus of business DfMA (design for manufacture and assembly). “Both Billy and Tom can bring a lot to the discussions and help develop future planning”.

The answers to Andrew's interview questions are shown below in italics.

The interview questions

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

Climate change is a priority for all of us and our businesses has a direct impact on future construction projects, both new build and refurbishments. The progress of Net Zero and being a part of it will affect business workflow and business earnings.

Which of the CLC's nine priorities are most relevant to your business and your clients, and why?

Transport

- 1. Zero emission vehicles – as part of group we have an EV charging company and can deliver EV charging to customers. EV can reduce GHG emissions and save money for customer and our business.*
- 2. Modern Methods of Construction – improves construction safety, improves efficiency, reduces waste, reduces programme and reduces risk.*
- 3. Championing developments and infrastructure investments – embodied carbon of a project can be reduced by using “final mile” EV distribution and delivery to project.*

Buildings

- 5. Industry capability to deliver low carbon heat solutions – carbon impact of heating is major contributor to GHG and climate change therefore alternative Net Zero solutions are critical to meet global requirements and government commitments.*
- 6. Enhancing energy performance – improved energy efficiency is first action point to help reduce the GHG emission, and it can reduce plant sizes, infrastructure and operational cost, helping cover additional cost for Net Zero technologies and solutions.*

Construction Activity

- 7. Implementing carbon measurement – construction carbon is approx. 2% of embodied carbon for a project so focus needs to be on production, in use, and operation.*
- 8. Become world leaders in designing out carbon – business objective to become leader of Net Zero carbon solutions and company of choice for customers for business growth*

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

Transport

1. *Zero emission vehicles – providing EV charge point solutions to customers and changing our business company car policy to low carbon alternatives.*
2. *Modern Methods of Construction – Set targets to implement on all projects and enhancing team capabilities to be able to deliver efficient MMC. We are also assessing supply chain partners to ensure best delivery model.*
3. *Championing developments and infrastructure investments – providing EV charge point solutions to customers and development of bus EV solutions with wider group.*

Buildings

5. *Industry capability to deliver low carbon heat solutions – provide solutions and roadmap to low carbon heat with all tender returns. Internal training to understand the technologies and importance of implementation.*
6. *Enhancing energy performance – primary focus on all projects to improve efficiency first and reduce energy use by the project. Providing alternative solutions to the customer.*

Construction Activity

7. *Implementing carbon measurement – supporting embodied calculations and move to improve data from supply chain.*
8. *Become world leaders in designing out carbon – provide Net Zero road map on all projects and identifying the GHG emissions impact plus ways to reduce.*

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

Supply chain engagement with embodied carbon of products and need to firstly understand the associated GHG emissions and secondly need to reduce them. We are also working with supply chain to look at utilising EV vehicles for “final mile” deliveries.

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

Biggest challenge is capitol cost increase to customer to cover the Net Zero requirements. We are working with customers to optimise selection of solutions and equipment to keep cost to minimum, suggesting other finance options, such as leasing, to spread cost and providing analysis of the long term operational whole life carbon and cost position.

Another major challenge is public understanding of the climate change crisis and still believing that is a problem we have until 2050 to overcome. Latest Carbon Budget issued Dec 2020 by Committee on Climate Change has done some work to refocus on 78% reduction by 2030 but more public awareness is required to understand we are likely to exceed

5/5/2021 Paul Reeve, ECA

1.5degC rise in temperature before 2030 and we need to increase the rate of significant action.

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?

Government need to implement legislation around carbon pricing and rebates for introduction of low carbon technologies. Unless there is a cost associated with carbon emission the industry alone is set to take too long to implement change.

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Please note, we have two good initial industry candidates and we will follow up with the second one in due course.

Ends