

'Zero Carbon' Business Champions (and emerging leaders) from the engineering services sector. ECA nomination.

ECA Nominated Business Champion – **Paul Newby**, Engineering Services Director at **SES Engineering Services**

www.ses-ltd.co.uk/

Paul Newby has also nominated an Emerging Leader – **James Kearns**.

“James is an Electrical Engineering Manager within SES and is involved in the design and development of NZC buildings. He is also part of our smart buildings and clean energy propositions; both of which are significant contributors to our corporate NZC ambitions. I have nominated James as an Emerging Leader as his future potential is significant and he has the right combination of people skills, behavioural and technical competencies to be an industry influencer.

With his electrical engineering and electronics background, he would also make a valuable contribution to the ECA's Zero Carbon group”.

The answers to Paul's interview questions are shown below.

- [Why is making progress on Net Zero Carbon \(NZC\) important to your business?](#)

We have our own NZC carbon commitments as a sustainable business and employer; our customers are now expecting that we can both demonstrate our own credentials as well as supporting them in reducing their own carbon emissions. Finally, NZC is woven through our business propositions and plans as part of our strategy.

- [Which of the CLC's nine priorities are most relevant to your business/clients, and why?](#)

4 – Our Living Space business operates in the social housing space and are developing our own NZC retrofit strategy. We also work strategically with the Government.

5 - Our MEP businesses are well versed in low carbon heating systems and we are working with developers on energy park opportunities that embrace hydrogen, solar and energy storage to create clean energy and demand-side response propositions

6 – We have used building physics engineering and digital engineering in SES for many years to drive optimal design solutions. With the advent of smart buildings and designing for performance principles we have a strong desire to have a lifecycle relationship with the buildings we are involved with and create a circular model where we can improve through learning and data.

7 – We operate across a significant number of sites and we are measuring our carbon on site and developing carbon reduction strategies for our sites as part of reducing our scope emissions. By using smart buildings principles and data analytics our maintenance businesses goal is to reduce both embodied and operation carbon impacts.

8 – Design is at the heart of our business and we are already focused on low carbon design, reducing embodied carbon and predicting energy and carbon. But this is still in the context of a very traditional construction industry and we would like to be part of creating a step-change in approach, behaviours and culture that demonstrably shift construction towards a low carbon future.

9 – Sustainable procurement is a key tenet of our sustainability strategy (see also below). The Construction part of our business uses significant volume of steel and concrete and our PRISM business is an off-site manufacturing facility. We trust that our broad knowledge and experience could make a worthy contribution to the NZC debate and actions and help to influence the future.

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

We have a macro 2025 Scope 1 & 2 Emissions NZC strategy that is declared and that we measure against. We are engaged with the Carbon Trust on measuring and disclosing our Scope 1 & 2 emissions and are on our journey to carbon neutrality. Our individual business strategies embrace the relevant priorities. Importantly, our Net Zero Carbon strategy is part of our Zero Harm strategy which considers the broader environmental impact of our business and projects.

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

This is a real challenge...as stated above, we have implemented our sustainable procurement strategy which has carbon and data as a major thread. By collaborating with a supply chain who have their own low, near or net zero carbon strategies we believe we will inherently reduce emissions, but importantly also create a new culture and focus on the total carbon in our procurement practices and decision making. The reality will mean 'doing more with less'.

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

Hyperbole - and understanding what net zero carbon really means, and what is realistically achievable.

- **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?**

We need to change both industry culture and identity – we need to foster and encourage new ways of procuring, and increase diversity, inclusion and the use of technology to facilitate collaboration, creativity and efficiency.

ECA nomination contact: Paul Reeve CE_{env}, Director of CSR

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