

COnstructZero BMF Business Champion – Wavin Video Transcript

Mike Ward – Territory Director UK & Ireland

❖ **Why is making progress on Net Zero important to Wavin UK?**

“Our Company’s purpose is to ‘Build healthy sustainable environments’. At the centre of our approach is a very clear target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 which is in line with the UK Construction Industry’s Zero Carbon Change Programme,

We want to play our part in helping to reduce emissions in the built environment. Ultimately, our ambition is to lead the industry in sustainability by 2025 and demonstrating significant progress towards reaching net zero will be key to achieving this’.

❖ **Which of the 9 priorities are more relevant to Wavin UK and its customers, and why?**

The areas which will have the biggest impact for us and our customers are those which concern the products that we sell. By reducing carbon in the products that we make and everything which concerns their manufacture will have the biggest impact on the built environment.

❖ **What is Wavin UK doing to make progress against the relevant priorities in the short and long-term?**

Transport

We have 135 company cars and started the journey towards a greener car fleet at the start of 2019. As from 1st Jan this year only fully electric vehicles will be available. Our aim is to reach a fully electric fleet by 2025.

At our manufacturing sites 40% of our forklift fleet uses Bio LPG, a propane generated from renewable feedstocks from plants and vegetable waste materials. The use of these has reduced the CO2 emissions by 80%. Also all four of our UK manufacturing sites run on 100% renewable energy, generated by UK wind farms. The new energy supply will see Wavin UK reduce CO2 emissions by 13,842 tonnes a year.

Transporting our products in the most sustainable way is another key focus and a wide range of measures are all helping to make significant CO2 savings. Our fleet uses low rolling resistance tyres, smart logistics to optimise journeys, and telematic systems and driver training initiatives to improve fuel efficiency and reduce fleet emissions.

Buildings

We provide high-performance solutions and smart technologies that enable efficient construction and provide optimal indoor climate and living conditions for people in their homes.

As part of this, we supply retro fit underfloor heating solutions to provide more energy-efficient ways of heating homes.

Construction Activity

Whenever we look at developing new products we always do so with a consideration to the full lifecycle of the product in terms of the recycling potential of the product. In addition to this we will look at the potential to utilise recycled material in the product – 70% of the recycled PVC we use is sourced from post consumer sources and the remaining from post industrial sources.

Our Aquacell range of geocellur units, a key component of effective surface water attenuation, are now manufactured from 100% recycled material.

Other products are also manufactured from 100% recycled material including our inspection chamber bases and our twinwall pipes.

In the case of our OSMA drain pipes, we use next generation Recycore Technology. A minimum of 50% of our Recycore pipe is now made from a core of advanced, recycled microcellular material, so the pipe uses less virgin plastic but still passes the same rigorous test standards.

Last but not least, our Hepworth Clay pipes are the perfect sustainable choice for any below ground drainage system as they're created from a 100% natural raw material that is strong, durable, inert and has total end-of-life recyclability.

We would like to reach a target of having 60 to 70% of products in our ranges manufactured from recycled material. Today we are at around 30%.

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

Our Supply Chain team works closely with suppliers to ensure they (and their suppliers) adhere to REACH and to the Wavin Supplier Code of Conduct. In order to rate the sustainability performance of our suppliers, we have developed the Wavin Sustainable Suppliers Procedure. With this procedure we map the level of sustainability of our key suppliers. Where possible we help them increase their level of sustainability.

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

I think the biggest challenge that Wavin and probably all businesses face when it comes to improving their sustainability is probably just pure economics. If it was more economical or cheaper to do something sustainably, we'd already be doing it to be honest so, the reality is, the push towards being more sustainable will probably involve some very difficult economic challenges and making decisions that maybe are not as profitable, maybe more costly to do, but I think it's something that we have to do.

Donna Baldwin - Supply Planning Manager – UK & Ireland

❖ What do your peers and wider employees within your company think about the businesses' approach to Net Zero?

Donna Baldwin - Supply Planning Manager – UK & Ireland

'We're all extremely proud to work for a Company that is truly committed to reducing carbon emissions and a Company that has such a strong sustainability-led Purpose.

❖ How are the younger generation within your business engaged in this?

We have many initiatives, and projects and forums which enable these younger people to contribute to the conversations concerning new products and services which will help address some of the effects of climate change.

❖ What more do you think your business could be doing against the 9 priorities?

"I actually think that we're already doing a lot and our plans are actually very ambitious, but we have to be pragmatic about what we can do and when. It really comes down to the speed in which we can make things happen and the availability of people and money to invest where's needed. I think there could be one or two areas we could look to accelerate but overall, I think we're doing a great job'

❖ What do you do in your daily life/job that makes a difference?

I'm already using an electric car when I'm visiting our sites, our customers and our suppliers. When I'm on site I'm looking at ways in which we can reduce our packaging and how we can incorporate waste into our products. When I'm visiting customers I'm explaining to them the sustainability-led purpose and roadmap that we have in place and how we can work collaboratively together.

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