

12th May 2026

Construct Zero Refreshed Programme

The Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) Construct Zero programme has today published its refreshed programme, following publication of the Committee for Climate Change (CCC) 7th Carbon Budget and the CLC's subsequent industry consultation.

Construct Zero, launched in November 2021, provided a Performance Framework comprising of 30 metrics across nine priority areas (underpinned against the CCC's 6th Carbon Budget), each of which told a story of how the sector was reducing its carbon emissions across construction activities; the resulting buildings and structures; and the transport of products and materials. The programme helps to support and inform businesses in the sector (and beyond) with their Net Zero plans, providing them with advice on how this will impact their clients and markets.

The new 7th Carbon Budget expands the focus from purely Net Zero and introduces areas which also deliver improved economic growth (by improving productivity and removing waste), energy security and resilience.

The refreshed CZ programme reflects this, incorporating the CCC's five decarbonisation pathways to net zero (set out below).

- Electricity: Electrification of industry, transport, heating & energy generation
- Low Carbon Fuels and CCUS: Hydrogen, Sustainable Aviation Fuel, ammonia, and CCUS
- Nature: Woodland creation and peatland restoration
- Engineered Removals: CO₂ transport and storage
- Demand: Efficiency, productivity, and low-carbon choices

The CLC will also continue to focus on surface transport decarbonisation; building standards and retrofit acceleration; and energy supply transformation, given the CCC's steer.

As a result, our revised six priorities are:

Buildings*

- Housing retrofit & energy efficiency
- Heat pumps & heat networks

- Operational energy standards

Transport and Plant

- Zero emission vehicles
- Zero diesel sites
- Low-carbon NRMM transition

Productivity-driven demand reduction

- End-to-end productivity measurement
- Minimise Construction waste
- Industrialised construction models

Climate Friendly choices*

- Carbon & biodiversity net gain measurement
- Innovative low-carbon materials

Enabling low-carbon energy infrastructure

- Delivery of Nuclear, heat networks, renewables & batteries
- Delivery of alternative fuels manufacturing

Investing in nature-based solutions*

- Biodiversity net gain
- Domestic tree planting

Those marked with an * will be delivered by the CLC's Green Construction Board (GCB), recognising legislation and existing work (led by the GCB) is already taking place in these areas. and reflects Construct Zero's role in "bringing people and businesses together to identify what is needed for the construction sector to deliver its target, together with consolidating collective actions and plans for the sector, driving sustainable long-term change".

The CLC will be working with the GCB, the wider industry and Government over the coming months to agree the underpinning metrics for the new priorities, with an updated Performance Framework due for publication in Autumn 2026.

We will therefore be refreshing the Business Champion & Partners programme to encourage networking and sharing of best practice in the new areas the industry will need to expand into. The CLC is today issuing a call to action for new Business Champions and Partners (and organisations with relevant initiatives) to come forward to join its existing cohort of around 300 companies who are providing tangible evidence of the steps they are taking to respond to the Net Zero carbon challenge and support the wider Construct Zero programme.

If you are delivering work in our new programme areas (as well as existing ones), and would like to join the free Construct Zero programme, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please email Stuart.Young@businessandtrade.gov.uk for further details.

In parallel, we are today opening our popular Business Champion programme for new applications, with a closing date of 1700 Monday 8th June. Further details, including how to apply are available at <https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/CZ-BC-Spring-recruitment.pdf>

Click here <https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/CZ-Refreshed-programme-slides.pdf> to view the refreshed programme and updated priorities.

Hannah Vickers (Managing Director at Built Confidence) said “Following the publication of the seventh carbon budget by the Committee for Climate Change (CCC) in February 2026, I’m pleased to share CO2nstruct Zero’s refreshed programme and updated priorities

“This enables the CLC to meet a new focus from the CCC, which has rightly expanded beyond Net Zero to introduce areas such as productivity/economic growth, energy security, and resilience, to its thinking.

“The six new priorities- buildings, transport and plant, productivity-driven demand reduction, climate-friendly choices, low carbon energy infrastructure, and nature-based solutions- will create a framework for the construction sector to continue to make progress and build on the achievements made since COP26.

“We must remain steadfast in our approach. The end-goal of a greener, more productive, and more resilient construction sector is within reach, as are the new opportunities this will create for infrastructure and the built environment, energy security, and economic growth”.

Notes to editors

About the Construction Leadership Council (CLC).

The CLC’s mission is to provide sector leadership to the construction industry. The expanded CLC has a series of workstreams that operate collaboratively to address the biggest issues facing the sector. Workstreams include skills and inclusion, building safety, Net Zero, and health and safety. The CLC is co-chaired by Chris McDonald MP (Minister for Industry at the Department for Business and Trade and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) and Mark Reynolds (Executive Chairman, Mace).

Construct Zero is overseen by Matt Palmer (CLC Industry Sponsor for Net Zero, Biodiversity and Circular Economy, and Executive Director, Lower Thames Crossing) and delivered jointly by Stuart Young (Head of Stakeholder Engagement, DBT Construction Team) and Hannah Vickers (Managing Director, Built Confidence).