UKCG Built Environment Commitment

The UK Contractors Group (UKCG) represents some 30 major construction contractors who collectively account for a third of UK construction industry output.

The UKCG commitment brings together the collective work of UKCG members represented through the UKCG Environment Group. UKCG is pleased to support the WRAP Built Environment Commitment (below):

We commit to take action that contributes to a lower carbon, resource efficient built environment.

We will make best use of materials, water and energy over the lifecycle of built assets to minimise embodied and operational carbon impacts.

Our commitments support the ambitions of the construction industrial strategy (Construction 2025) for greater resource efficiency and of a ‘50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment’ by 2025. The Construction 2025 targets support the trajectory set out in the Green Construction Board’s Low Carbon Routemap for longer term carbon reductions.

In addition, by achieving reductions in carbon and efficiencies in the use resources, UKCG members can realise savings and contribute to the Construction 2025 ambition of 33% lower construction costs.

To deliver our commitment, UKCG members will work collectively with our supply chain partners towards achieving the following goals:

- **Reduce direct emissions** from onsite construction and related activities, with an aim to take at least 0.5MT CO2e out of our processes by 2025 and to contribute to wider measurable reductions in capital carbon (e.g. a share of the 17MT CO2e attributed to embodied impacts of materials).

- **Halve construction waste production** by 2020, relative to turnover, compared to 2010.

- Continue work to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, and have set collective targets for 2020.

- Continue to implement agreed member protocol giving “preference to procuring products which are able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme”, and supplementary commitment on sustainable timber procurement.

- **Report use of water** (potable water through the mains plus abstracted and tankered water), and continue to take steps to promote effective water management, including use of alternative approaches that negate need for use of potable water in construction.

- More widely, UKCG will promote the concept of the ‘circular economy’ and greater efficiency in the use of resources and materials over the product lifecycle.
Progress will be monitored by **UKCG members reporting data** on carbon, waste, timber and water through the WRAP MeasuRE portal.

The UKCG statement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed (on behalf of UKCG)

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**Rob Lambe**  
Managing Director, Willmott Dixon Energy Services Limited  
Chair UKCG Environment Group

The full list of UKCG members can be found at: [http://www.ukcg.org.uk/about-us/members/](http://www.ukcg.org.uk/about-us/members/)

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September 2014
Further details on UKCG’s Built Environment Commitment

UKCG members recognise their responsibility to take a lead in promoting environmental best practice within their own organisations and through working with their supply chains.

The UKCG Environment Group brings together experts and practitioners from within member companies, and operates seven expert task groups on biodiversity, carbon, community, environmental training, materials, waste, and water. Its’ work focuses on three key areas:

- Setting standards for UKCG firms – to maintain best practice in environmental performance amongst members
- Working closely with government and industry stakeholders on environmental issues, and using collective turnover of UKCG members to influence the market for sustainable materials and solutions
- Improving UKCG reporting on environmental performance to provide more consistent data on resource efficiency and carbon reduction.

UKCG members are also actively involved with the Supply Chain Sustainability School which is promoting environmental knowledge and best practice through the supply chain.

Further details on UKCG’s work on carbon reduction and key areas of resource efficiency, and how this will meet our agreed commitments, is provided below.

Carbon
UKCG is committed to continue the good work already done to work towards delivering the reductions identified within the Green Construction Board’s low carbon route map and the Construction 2025 strategy. In particular, we will:

- Take steps to further reduce emissions from on-site construction operations, and encourage wider take-up of best practices across the sector which lead to cost and carbon savings.
- Reduce emissions from onsite construction and related activities with an aim to take at least 0.5MT CO2e out of the process by 2025 (currently based on 2012/13 baseline and taking into account construction output)
- Develop sector specific carbon benchmarks (including domestic, non-domestic and infrastructure, new build and refurbishment & maintenance projects)
- Set reduction targets against specific benchmarks from 2015 towards 2025.

In practice emissions from construction are expected to grow (due to increased spending on refurbishment, infrastructure etc.) so the challenge is to achieve growth while reducing emissions on a relative basis.

We will continue to measure and benchmark energy use and emissions on site and will track our performance through WRAP’s resource efficiency portal, MeasuRE.

We are also committed to reducing wider capital and operational carbon identified within the low carbon route map through:

- engaging and working with our supply chain to reduce the impact of materials sourcing, manufacture and production (reducing embodied impacts of materials as part of ‘capital’ carbon estimated as contributing 17MT CO2e in 2012)
• working with the design community to improve efficiencies of design and specification, including the use of BIM, to drive out waste, and so reduce both cost and carbon (in particular playing our part to reduce capital carbon through reducing quantity of materials used and also reducing the embodied carbon from wasted materials, which could be more than double the size of on-site emissions)

• reducing the operational impact of buildings, through promoting a soft landings approach, improved commissioning and better understanding of how they perform in use through promotion of building performance evaluation and knowledge sharing

• closing the material life-cycle loop to improve resource efficiency and reduce the whole life impact of buildings and infrastructure, through developing circular economy business models.

Waste
UKCG members supported WRAP’s Halving Waste to Landfill commitment, and working with our supply chains exceeded our targets. From a baseline of 70% in 2008, UKCG members diverted 91% of waste away from landfill in 2012 (against target of 85%).

UKCG members have agreed to monitor and record waste production and diversion from landfill through the WRAP portal, and in accordance with the ENCORD Waste Measurement Protocol (developed with support of UKCG members).

In 2013, UKCG members agreed the following targets:

• ‘Divert at least 90% of construction and demolition (C&D) waste away from landfill, with the aspiration of achieving zero non-hazardous C&D waste to landfill by 2020’

• ‘Halve construction waste production by 2020 (based on a 2010 baseline of 10.6t/£100k)’

To support members in achieving these targets, the UKCG Waste Task Group will:

• Ensure consistent member reporting into the WRAP MeasuRE portal.

• Set standards on waste management for sub-contractors and waste management contractors.

• Work with the demolition industry to increase the number of pre-demolition audits.

• Work with WRAP & the Green Construction Board to roll out Resource Management Plans.

Materials
To promote the ethical and sustainable procurement of materials, in April 2012 UKCG members agreed a procurement statement to “support and give preference to procuring products which are able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme, certified by a third party”. UKCG members will continue to implement this approach.

In addition, members agreed a specific timber protocol which stated that, “All timber products purchased for either temporary or permanent inclusion in the works on UKCG member sites shall be certified as legally and sustainably sourced”. Members also agreed a timber
reporting protocol to demonstrate compliance with the timber statement. Annual data for 2013 shows 97% of timber reported by members was legal and sustainable.


UKCG members have also supported the government backed, and industry-led, Grown in Britain campaign to procure more British grown timber where feasible.

UKCG members have also agreed a statement on the ethical procurement of dimensional stone, which states that members will, “give preference to suppliers demonstrating leadership in the ethical stewardship of their supply chain. This can be evidenced through compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme, or certified by a third party. We also recognise membership of and participation in the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI Stone Group), the TFT Responsible Stone Program, or the United Nations Global Compact and membership of the Stone Federation GB.”

The UKCG Materials Task Group will continue to drive forward the market preference for responsible sourcing of materials working with product suppliers and relevant trade associations.

**Water**

To promote more efficient use of water, the UKCG Water Task Group will:

- Promote UKCG member commitment to water reporting and improve UKCG reporting guidance, as well as develop measurement protocols working with ENCORD
- Promote measures to educate/help reduce water use (e.g.: http://www.greenconstructionboard.org/index.php/resources/water-management-planning/introduction)
- Work with members to take further steps on surface water impact measures and supply chain engagement on innovation

**Wider UKCG work**

UKCG will act as strong advocates of the circular economy - sharing supply chain innovation, promoting more efficient use of resources across the product life-cycle, and working with suppliers and contractors to close the loop on recycling.

In addition, UKCG will take the following steps to improve environmental performance:

- **Environmental Training**: UKCG members have taken the lead in developing an Environment Training Standard and the CITB accredited Site Environmental Awareness Training Scheme (SEATS) to improve environmental awareness and performance for people and organisations working on UKCG member sites. The Environmental Training Standard will take effect in March 2015 and set a minimum standard of environmental training for those working on UKCG sites.

- **Biodiversity**: UKCG members will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including government, NGOs, research organisations and professional bodies, on key wildlife and biodiversity topics, in particular biodiversity offsetting, natural capital and ecological surveys/records.

- **Community**: UKCG will continue to work with Considerate Constructors Scheme and other partners to develop best practice to reduce the environmental impact of
construction sites on local communities and to promote good relations with local residents.