Introduction

The North Wales Construction Partnership (NWCP) is committed to supporting the UK's transition to a low-carbon future and contributing to the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions. This strategy produced here, is based on the strategies of NWCP's lead authorities and summarises the steps that NWCP will take to support its clients in reducing their carbon footprint and delivering projects with minimal impact on the environment.

Background

NWCP has a long history of working towards carbon and waste reduction. Integrated within our community benefits/Social Value are measured targets aligned with Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023, specifically:

- A Prosperous Wales - 'An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change).'
- A Globally Responsible Wales – 'A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global wellbeing (landfill by reuse, repurpose or recycle).'
- Socially Responsible Procurement duty - A Contracting authority 'must seek to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by carrying out public procurement in a socially responsible way'.

The NWCP Carbon Reduction Policy Statement supports the goals outlined by NWCP lead authority strategies, including:

- Denbighshire County Council – Climate and Nature Strategy
- Conwy County Borough Council – Climate Challenge Programme
- Flintshire County Council – Climate Change Strategy
- Cyngor Gwynedd Council – Climate and Nature Emergency Plan
- Wrexham County Borough Council – Decarbonisation Plan (2021-2030)
- Isle of Anglesey County Council – Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan (2026-2031)

Vision

NWCP will work to support the transition of the construction industry to meet net zero carbon by 2045, recognising that the majority of cuts need to be made by 2030.

Key Commitments

- ✓ As a lead client and framework provider for the construction industry and a member of the National Association of Construction Frameworks, we will sign up to the Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment.
- ✓ We require our framework partners to publish plans to meet zero carbon by 2045 including annual commitments.
- ✓ We support and reasonably require our framework contractors and consultants to set interim targets to reduce their net direct and indirect (Scope 1, 2 and where appropriate Scope 3) carbon emissions for 2030.
- ✓ If offsetting is used, we will require our framework partners to make available their offsetting approach and the schemes they are using.
- ✓ By 2029, we will require our framework partners to implement a carbon literacy programme which includes those in leadership who have influence over the built environment.
- ✓ We will encourage our framework contractors to sign up to the Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment at a minimum of Pledger level.
- ✓ NWCP will work with regional partners to gain feedback on authority priorities in order to work to align the strategy and the outputs of NWCP to the needs of regional partners, with the following common areas within the aforementioned strategies considered for future development:
    - A framework of common regional sustainability requirements
    - Project-level carbon and building performance requirements
    - Proportionate supplier carbon commitments
    - Comparable project carbon data, KPIs, and contract management
    - Materials, waste and circular resource outcomes
    - Low carbon site transport and logistics
    - Nature positive and climate resilient project outcomes

NWCP will gather information on NWCP procured projects relevant to the environment, including:

- Waste generated and diverted from landfill (including qualifying material and standard material)
- Cubic metres of water saved through initiatives to reduce water consumption
- Air tightness (on new build construction projects)
- Embodied carbon

Encouraging collaboration

NWCP will encourage collaboration between clients, contractors, and suppliers to develop solutions that reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices, with support of outcome-based specifications and recommendation of best practice

commercial arrangements. NWCP will take an active role in other partnerships to identify and share best practice in sustainability, for example the National Association of Construction Frameworks Sustainability special interest group. NWCP is also proud to be a partner of the Supply Chain Sustainability School.

Monitoring and reporting

NWCP will monitor and report on the carbon emissions of projects procured via the NWCP frameworks by the application of KPIs within standard framework templates in line with direction from the National Association of Construction Frameworks, forming a carbon baseline initially, with reporting on no less than an annual basis, and will work towards the sharing of data on industry databases by 2027. NWCP will work towards having framework carbon data externally verified in line with ISO 14064-1. NWCP will also provide guidance on how to monitor and report on carbon emissions.

Continual improvement

NWCP will continuously review and improve its approach to sustainability and carbon reduction to ensure that it remains aligned with the latest developments in sustainability, circular economy, and low-carbon technologies. NWCP will also work with clients, contractors, and suppliers to identify areas for improvement and share best practices.

Conclusion

NWCP is committed to supporting the transition to a low-carbon future and contributing to the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions. By embedding sustainability into procurement processes, promoting low-carbon technologies, encouraging sustainable procurement practices, and monitoring and reporting on carbon emissions, NWCP will continue to play a leading role in reducing the carbon footprint of the construction industry.