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Slavery, Inclusion and Community Are Top 3 Supply Chain Issues 2019

Supply Chain Sustainability School Survey Shows Areas of Improvement for Built Environment

Modern Slavery, as well as Fairness, Inclusion and Respect (FIR), plus Community Engagement have emerged as standout areas of achievement and improvement for **construction and infrastructure** over the last year — according to the annual industry-wide survey of built-environment contracting organisations and supply-chain companies, undertaken by the **Supply Chain Sustainability School**.

The findings of the second **Impact Survey** reveal that the leadership, learning and support provided by the School is clearly and consistently credited with having a significant positive influence.

In the survey, nearly 9 out of every 10 companies achieving improved understanding of both **Modern Slavery** (86%) and **Fairness, Inclusion & Respect (FIR)** (87%) state that the School has helped them achieve these results. In addition, the proportion that attributed their increased levels of **Community Engagement** to assistance received from the School also rose year-on-year some 15% to 72%, in total.

In broad terms, the Impact Survey shows how the School engages with the sector as a whole, helping align expectations and aspirations, says **Graham Arden, Procurement Lead, Skanska**:

“Supporting the School helps generate meaningful improvements in the sustainability understanding of our supply chain and the wider industry. It is also wholly consistent with our purpose and values. plus contributes to ensuring we meet the needs of our customers.”

For **Graham Edgell, Director of Sustainability and Procurement, at Morgan Sindall Group**, the unbiased, free-at-source service provided by the School — supported by face-to-face targeted collaborative supplier days — is the mainstay of keeping businesses up to speed:

“The meteoric rise of the Supply Chain Sustainability School continues — a truly collaborative initiative that has unified the major stakeholders in the construction sector, whilst simultaneously becoming accepted by the supply chain as the rallying place for learning and best practice.”

The School’s focus on core topics is vital, agrees **Phil Wright, Sustainability Advisor, WP Group**:

“Having a well-structured sustainability strategy is critical to any organisation, regardless of size. The Impact Survey results are testament to the School’s excellent support and leadership in addressing the key issues that industry is facing, such as modern slavery.”

These results effectively tell the tale of the School’s success, says **Dave Farebrother, Environment & Sustainability Manager, Bouygues E&S UK**:

“The numbers speak for themselves: membership of the School helps companies to better understand and deliver in terms of their performance regarding sustainability. We always urge our suppliers to become part of the family.”

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In particular, the report highlights the great value placed on the support received from the School, given its unique understanding of the themes, the market and the environment in which organisations operate, suggests **Andrew Keighley, Senior Buyer, J. Murphy & Sons Limited**:

“The Impact Survey illustrates the growing momentum within the industry to better understand sustainability and the value of initiatives that will allow us to strategically tackle key subjects head-on through education and improved business processes.”

The findings also emphasise the importance of the School in combining resources and knowledge that is shared collaboratively for the greater good, adds **Gareth Morris, Group Director, Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Compliance, Morson International**:

“The Impact Survey provides evidence of where we are on our sustainability roadmap, with great progress made in understanding of Fairness, Inclusion and Respect (FIR), as well as modern slavery. It’s good to see we are all on the same path, but there is still a long way to go.”

In total last year, the Supply Chain Sustainability School delivered **5,723 individual learners** from **3,036 companies**. Furthermore, the School continues to grow, with some **86 Partners** now supporting the shared mission of *world class collaboration to enable a sustainable built environment*.

Once again, though, the survey deliberately tackled some 'must-try-harder' topics, where responses confirmed the built environment sector remains slow or perhaps reluctant to address responsibilities and seize opportunities. Nevertheless, the School’s impact was strongly in evidence here, too.

Although the number of respondents reducing **Carbon Emissions** fell slightly to just 34%, the proportion that indicated the School helped them actually went up by 10%. Similarly, whilst only 20% improved on **Air Quality**, that figure was up 5% on 2018, with the percentage crediting the School for assisting them jumping some 15% to 70%, in total.

Success notwithstanding, there is clearly no room for complacency and still some for improvement, concludes **Chair of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, Shaun McCarthy OBE**:

“Our second Impact Survey presents compelling evidence that the Supply Chain Sustainability School makes a positive difference. It also enables us to learn and improve. Despite excellent results overall, I was disappointed to see relatively low figures on air quality and that the rate of carbon savings has actually gone down. These are two issues critical to our wellbeing and to the future of society as we know it. We shall therefore be making a determined effort to focus attention on these areas in the coming year, as we look to build on our impressive performance across the board.”

Sustainability Stats: 6 Key Findings from the Impact Survey 2019

Major themes:

- **71%** have an improved understanding of **Modern Slavery** issues — **up 8%** on 2018 — and **86%** agree that the School has helped them achieve this progress (**up 4%**);

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- **63%** have an improved understanding of **Fairness, Inclusion & Respect (FIR)** — **up 15%** on 2018 — and **87%** agree that the School has helped them achieve this (**up 2%**); plus
- **45%** have an increased level of **Community Engagement** — no change on 2018 — and **72% (up 6%)** agree that the School has helped them achieve this.

‘Must-try-harder’ topics:

- Just **34%** are reducing **Carbon Emissions** — **down 3%** on 2018 — but **58%** agree the School has helped them do so (**up 10%**);
- Of the **20%** that improved on **Air Quality** — **up 5%** on 2018 — **70%** agree the School helped them (**up 15%**);
- Of only **16%** that reduced their water consumption — **down 2%** on 2018 — **53%** agree the School helped them do so (**up 3%**).

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Notes for Editors:

About the Supply Chain Sustainability School

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is a multi-award-winning initiative which represents a common approach to addressing sustainability within supply chains. With more than 35,000 registered users, the School provides free practical support in the form of e-learning modules, tailored self-assessment and action plans, sustainability training, events and networking.

The School is delivered by an independent third-party consultancy, Action Sustainability. Leadership is provided by a School Board comprising elected representatives of Partners, responsible for fiscal governance and strategic direction. A Code of Ethics is signed by all Partners as part of the School Constitution.

Partners: A Plant, Abellio, Advante, Aggregate Industries, Alstom, Anglian Water, Arnold Laver, Balfour Beatty, BAM, Barratt Developments, Berkeley Group, Bouygues, Bouygues Energies & Services, Bovis Homes, BRE, Buckingham Group, Build Offsite, Canary Wharf Group, Carmichael, CITB, Colas, Costain, Danny Sullivan, Elliott, EMCOR UK, ENGIE, Flannery Plant Hire, Fortel, Galliford Try, GAP Group, Georg Fischer, Go Ahead Group, Graham Construction, Grosvenor, Hanson, HE SIMM, Heathrow Airport, Hercules Construction, Highways England, HOCHTIEF UK, Home Builders Federation, HS2, ISG, J Coffey & Sons, J Murphy & Sons, Jackson Civil Engineering, John Sisk & Sons, Kier, Kilnbridge, Laing O'Rourke, Lendlease, L Lynch, Lundy Projects, Marshalls, McAvoy Group, McGinley Group, Menfor Group, Morgan Sindall, Morson, National Grid, Network Rail, NG Bailey, NPTC Group, O'Neill & Brennan, Osborne, Prater, Redrow, Robertson Group, SEWSCAP, Sir Robert McAlpine, Skanska, Speedy Services, Stroma, Tarmac, Taylor Wimpey, Telford Homes, TFL, Tobermore, United Utilities, VGC Group, Vinci, Volker Wessels, Wates, Welsh Water, Willmott Dixon, WP Group, Yorkshire Water, Zero Waste Scotland

Supply Chain Sustainability School website: <http://www.supplychainschool.co.uk>

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