

Challenges:



nmcn has been a member of the School since 2015 – its strategic transition to a more sustainable business started with the launch of the Positive Impact Plan 2025 in 2019. This business wide sustainability strategy is made up of five priorities with measurable objectives.

The ‘Our Impact’ priority focuses on the environment, with the ambition to grow whilst reducing impact – including the **target to achieve a 34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025**.

nmcn’s Plant, Transport and Accommodation team provide an internal hire service to the company’s business units and is instrumental in reducing carbon emissions, so nmcn agreed a **minimum target of 25% fleet carbon reduction during the same period**.

Impact

- **Sustainability progress monitoring:** Whilst the Positive Impact Plan 2025 drives business impact, nmcn find the School’s self-assessment to be a great temperature track to see where they are and benchmark their knowledge against others in the industry
- **Company wide learning:** The School’s learning and resources frequently feature in internal awareness raising and communications. Topics often vary from virtual workshops on FIR or learning around biodiversity and how it fits in with projects
- **Bitesize learning:** The School’s “sustainability shorts” and other explanatory resources are very useful when building internal communications and articles.

Value gained:

- **Innovative thinking leading to the development of new products:** Resources accessed by colleagues inspired further innovative thinking, which resulted in the idea to build a low carbon accommodation unit, powered by fuel-free technology – the FC500 (see below)
- **Increased knowledge and business capacity:** The School has been a real catalyst in increasing company learning and sustainability knowledge
- **Modern Slavery understanding:** Information gained from attending workshops has enabled nmcn to better understand and utilise the tools that are available to combat modern slavery within the industry
- **Access to other industry programmes:** nmcn has combined their modern slavery learning within the School to join several industry programmes such as the GLAA Protocol and Stronger Together
- **Substantial learning possibilities:** nmcn has accessed over 100+ hours of sustainability resources in the past two years alone and have been able to gain the relevant CPD points for time spent

Fact box



Company

nmcn Plc

No of employees

1,800

HQ

Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire

Website

<https://nmcn.com/>

Key Contact

Michaela Skodova, Group Environmental Manager

Services

Construction and engineering

About

Founded in 1946, nmcn is a leading engineering and construction company in the UK. They offer multi-sector engineering and construction skills, technical innovation, design, and specialist fabrication.

They deliver major built environment and water industry projects across the UK – from buildings and highways to large-scale water networks and treatment plants. Nmcn now has 12 UK offices and four off-site manufacturing facilities.

The FC500:

Traditionally, site welfare units are powered by petrol, diesel or LPG using large amounts of fuel with subsequent carbon emissions. Some manufacturers have considered hydrogen fuel cells, but this has proven costly to run and arrangements have to be made to store hydrogen as it can become volatile if handled incorrectly.

- Devised by Rob Walsh, Plant & Transport Director, nmcn approached Genquip Groundhog to collaborate and develop **the FC500** - a sustainable alternative to typical diesel generators or hybrid solar, low emission welfare unit options.
- The FC500 uses **methanol fuel cells combined with lithium-ion batteries and solar panels** to power the units
- The FC500 has the **potential to provide almost totally emission free power** whilst being free of maintenance and fuel costs
- Recently **shortlisted at the Water Industry Awards 2021 and Construction News Awards 2021**
- Nmcn and Genquip Groundhog are now exploring the possibility of increasing the power outputs to bring greater environmental benefits by replacing other instances where diesel generators are currently used.



“We’re delighted to have the first ever diesel-free welfare unit in our fleet. This not only supports our ongoing commitment to the environment and ‘Our Impact’ priority for our Positive Impact Plan, it will also help us achieve our carbon reduction goals. The unit provides an immediate 100% reduction in nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides and diesel particulate as well as offering reliable and economic power that is safe and silent.” – Rob Walsh, Plant & Transport Director

Future Proofing:

nmcn would like to see the School remain current and be an essential source of learning. The topics covered on Modern Slavery, Biodiversity Net Gain and Sustainable Procurement (ISO 20400) are of particular interest.

Following the success of the FC500 Genquip Groundhog – recently shortlisted as a finalist at both the Water Industry Awards 2021 (Net Zero Carbon Initiative of the Year) and the Construction News Awards 2021 (Best Use of Technology) - nmcn can see the School’s contribution going beyond our business as usual and really driving improvements across the business.

“I would really recommend subscribing to the School both for the business benefit, as well as for personal and professional development in the area of sustainability.” – Michaela Skodova, Group Environmental Manager & Sustainability Lead