

Infrastructure Leadership Group

18th January 2022

Welcome & Introductions:

The group was informed of the new Partners that have joined the school:



People Matter Charter Case Study:

Nathalie Ritchie from National Grid was introduced to the group and presented to the group how the People Matter Charter is embedded in National Grid. The People Matter Charter was created to help organisations up and down the supply chain address diversity, exploitation, wellbeing, employment conditions and training & skills challenges together, in one workforce strategy. National Grid was the first client to sign the People Matter Charter. With the charter currently having 121 signatories.

The charter is for any organisation who employs people, becoming a signatory is free and the commitment to the charter is annually. Organisations can complete a People assessment to assess their knowledge on the various people topics.

Signatories to the Charter must:

- Already be at least level 1 in 6 of the 8 commitments outlined in the People assessment
- Be committed to embedding the People Matter Charter in your organisation
- Be committed to working with your supply chain and embedding the Charter's commitments in your supply chain requirements
- Provide the School with one written case study per year, providing either qualitative or quantitative evidence on the impact the Charter is having on your organisation and / or supply

National Grid have implemented the charter and being a signatory into their RIIO-T2 Sustainability Commitments as well as a People Matter Charter roadmap for employment and skills and training. In the future National Grid are looking to report on supply chain adoption and progress against commitments as well as developing a metric collection & analysis.

Nathalie emphasised to the group that being a signatory to the People Matter Charter satisfies a number of criteria in National Grid's pre-qualification and tender requirements, making it simpler for both buyer and supplier. Nathalie recommended that suppliers to National Grid or those who aspire to supply National Grid should sign up and get involved.

Actions:

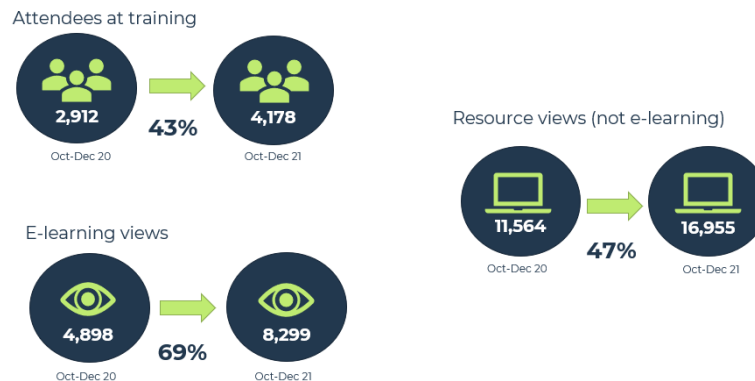
- Organisations to commit/recommit to the People Matter Charter
- Partners to join the Labour group to inform the agenda going forward

For information about the People Matter Charter and the Labour group please contact Helen@actionsustainability.com

General School Update:

The School now has 151 Partners.

The group was informed of the School's engagement in comparison to Oct – Dec 2020:



The group was informed that the Fairness, Inclusion and Respect (FIR) programme has a new home on the [Supply Chain Sustainability School website](#) as FIR is now topic. This means it is now easier to navigate between the FIR pages. A FIR assessment is now available for all members to access. The [FIR Assessment](#) offers organisations a structured way to develop and embed fairness, inclusion and respect (FIR) in their company. This approach allows employers to support their workers and grow their business whilst incorporating FIR principles. Benchmark your knowledge to understand your best practice and areas for improvement.

Business Planning:

The group was also reminded of the business planning session which was conducted in December 2021. As a result of this session the group selected their top 5 learning priorities:

- Sustainability Strategy
- Social Value
- Energy & Carbon
- Sustainable Procurement
- Training & Skills

Action: Partners provide ideas for any training sessions that they would like to deliver in the School in relation to the top 5 learning priorities.

Social Value Group:

Vaishali Baid, Social Value Consultant was introduced to the group and provided an update on the Social Value Group. The group was informed of the Social Value resources that have been added to the School's resource library along with the training sessions that the School delivers on Social Value (Please refer to the pre-read for further information). The group is also producing a book on SME guidance for Social Value. The process of this involves forming a focus group with both buyer organisations and SME's. The group is also going to be conducting an independent analysis of social value tools which will then be converted into a report.

Actions:

- Partners to contact Vaishali@actionsustainability.com if they would like to be involved in the focus group for the SME guidance book.
- Partners to contact Jenny@supplychainschool.co.uk if they would like to be involved in the Social Value group
- Vaishali to contact Vip Gandhi from Keltbray and Janet Hector from McGinley in regards to the SV group.

Utilities learning pathways & performance metric group update:

Robyn Conway, Knowledge Manager at the School was introduced to the group and provided an update on the work that two of the utilities group have been completing.

Performance Measurement:

The purpose of the performance measurement group is to produce a guidance suite of metrics that Utilities sector organisations can pick and choose from for KPIs, tenders, and more. The groups current activities include:

1. Started from template of National Highways metrics and indicators
2. Group members discussed the set of metrics/indicators with colleagues and gathering feedback
3. The group was missing the perspective of a TO or DNO so SSE were invited to provide feedback additionally
4. Mapping against OFGEM, OFWAT, AER document and T2 requirements and commitments are being looked at also
5. Social Value metrics will be aligned with National TOMs

The next steps for the group are:

1. To finalise feedback and submit
2. Next meeting TBC – early Feb – discuss feedback and finalise metrics
3. Investigate publication options

Learning Pathways:

The purpose of the learning pathways group is to create Learning Pathway(s) tailored to upskilling the Utilities sector in Sustainability. The groups current activities are:

1. Cross-reference of topics identified for Performance Measurement with most popular topics amongst Utilities Priority Suppliers
2. Agreed upon 9 key topics to cover
3. Considered existing School Learning Pathways that span these topics, looking at the resources included, learning outcomes, and what might be missing
4. Proposing following potential pathways
 - Carbon for Utilities (three levels?)
 - Sustainable Procurement for Utilities
 - Environmental Sustainability for Utilities
 - People in the Utilities Sector

The next steps for the group include:

1. Concluding Meeting on 19th January
2. Pathways to be built subsequently
3. Comms campaign in Spring

Infrastructure Client Carbon Reporting Group:

James Cadman, Lead Consultant at Action Sustainability provided the group with an update on the Climate Action Group. The group is a forum for proactive businesses to come together **and take action against CARBON EMISSIONS** in their own. The group was also made aware of the Carbon Calculator. The calculator is an online platform designed to manage supply chains and carbon data. It also identifies key carbon producing activities and helps organisations start to work on how these can be managed.

If you would like to find out more about the Carbon Calculator and how it can support you to measure your Scope 3 emissions, join our **introductory sessions** for **Partners**:

- [Wednesday, 16 February 2022, 3:00PM - 4:00PM](#)
- [Thursday, 24 March 2022, 11:00AM - 12:00 PM](#)

Finally, a reminder that the School continues to deliver **training sessions** for **Suppliers**:

- [Thursday, 24 February 2022, 2:00PM – 3:00PM](#)
- [Wednesday, 30 March 2022, 3:00PM – 4:00PM](#)

There is also free personal carbon calculator hosted by [CarbonFootprint](#), which covers all the main things easily: home, travel and purchases. You insert data based on your household bills and it calculates the carbon for you.

An update was also provided on the Infrastructure Client Carbon Reporting group. In December 2021 Naomi Pratt, Consultant Researcher at Action Sustainability conducted a desk based research exercise using publicly available information to map and compare the carbon reduction targets and related procurement requirements of 20 infrastructure client organisations. This research was conducted to understand commonalities, see where greater consistency and alignment could be created, and provide a simple handbook for suppliers on what they should expect when engaging with these organisations.

The research found that of the 20 clients analysed, all have publicly available environmental sustainability policies which include commitments to reduce GHG emissions. It also found that all organisations measure and report their emissions publicly to some degree. The research also provided information specifically around energy, water, transport and estates – please read the pre-read for further information.

As well as organisations carbon policies and reporting the research also looked at supply chain requirements. Of the 20 clients analysed, 15 (75%) have supply chain carbon expectations written into procurement statements or supply chain charters.

Next steps of the group include:

- Check the individual entries with each client organisation – *ongoing*
- Prepare the deck as a School resource for members – *ongoing*
- Engage clients on next steps:
 - Business bytes / L&Ls – e.g., “what we expect from the value chain”
 - How can we align more for a more consistent and efficient cross-sector approach to NZC?
 - Engage more widely for the Infra sector, e.g. CCC and other bodies

AOB: The next leadership group meeting is taking place on the 26th April – 10:00am -13:00pm on Microsoft Teams.