

News

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Morgan Sindall Group halves carbon footprint over six years

Morgan Sindall is celebrating its contribution to Morgan Sindall Group reducing its carbon emissions by more than 50 per cent over six years, which has been certified by Achilles Carbon Emissions Management and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS).

Morgan Sindall Group is the first company to have received a gold certificate which is awarded to companies which achieve six successive years of carbon auditing by Achilles. Morgan Sindall Group recognises the impact carbon emissions have on climate change, so carbon reduction as a strategic objective is critical to its sustainable business model.

The Achilles CEMARS auditors verified that Morgan Sindall Group has consistently reduced its carbon footprint year on year and by 54% since 2010, with 9.1% in 2015 alone, repeatedly exceeding this environmental target. In 2010, it set a carbon reduction target of 20% by 2015 and achieved 54%. Similarly in 2015 it aimed to reduce carbon by 5% but actually achieved 9.1%.

The absolute carbon figures were:

2015 = 34,217.51 tonnes CO₂e

2014 = 37,626.61 tonnes CO₂e

2010 = 63,741.97 tonnes CO₂e (baseline year)

The company has achieved this impressive carbon reduction through a range of measures, including:

Careful transport management and logistics planning on projects to minimise wagon movements
Procuring and specifying energy efficient plant and equipment on projects, such as pumps, ventilation, lighting and heating

Using hybrid generators and excavators

Supplying fuel efficient and low carbon company cars, including hybrids

Reducing the need to travel by promoting the use of public transport, car sharing, Lync calls and video conferencing company-wide

Encouraging good driver behaviour through installing Visual Display Units on dashboards which immediately alert a driver when he or she is engaging in fuel-inefficient behaviour such as excessive braking or idling

Routinely engaging with customers and suppliers to assess and address options in which the company can assist in reducing the energy impact of the assets built, on a project by project basis

Incentivising good driver behaviour

Holding regular awareness raising Sustainability Days in 2015 which focused on how employees could do their bit to reduce fuel and electricity use

Specific projects on which Morgan Sindall has been successful in reducing carbon emissions include:

The A1 Leeming to Barton major highways project: saved 5,500t carbon, through large-scale waste minimisation, where 600,000 tonnes of spoil from the scheme was re-used as infill in a disused quarry, restoring the area back to agricultural use and creating a wildlife corridor to enhance local

biodiversity, rather than transporting waste to landfill

M1 Junctions 19-16 highways project: saved 170.29tCO₂ by processing and then reusing 20,000t of asphalt planings and concrete material on site, saving 116,292 disposal lorry miles

Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia: this was one of the first buildings to target both BREEAM Outstanding and Passivhaus accreditation. This 'green building' project used local materials wherever feasible in the project. For example, Corsican pine from the local forest 30 miles away was used for the first time in a building's frame while Norfolk straw was also sourced to wrap the building, using a world-first thatched timber cladding system

Tracker Challenge: Incentivising good driving behaviour by awarding a quarterly cash prize to the most fuel efficient and safe driving style.

Discussing Morgan Sindall Group's six year carbon reduction, Charmaine Morrell, senior sustainability advisor at Morgan Sindall, said: "It's not just what we build, but also how we build, that has the potential to have a huge impact on the environment, and this is a responsibility we take very seriously.

"As well as aiming to create energy efficient buildings and infrastructure, we've placed minimising our environmental impact during the construction process at the heart of what we do, demonstrated by the achievements made from having clear carbon reduction targets and plans in place.

"For us, it's necessary to make those low-carbon choices wherever possible, whether that's promoting fuel efficient vehicles, hybrid generators, eco cabins for site accommodation, retrofitting LED lighting in offices or by diverting waste from landfill to avoid unnecessary vehicle movements.

"We also recognise that our people, customers and supply chains are key to achieving our low carbon ambitions and invest a great deal of time and energy in working with them collaboratively to ensure that good environmental practice is applied to every aspect of our work."

Graham Edgell, Morgan Sindall Group director of procurement and sustainability said: "We have shown a real commitment to making reductions in carbon emissions and have succeeded in embedding low carbon ways of working across the divisions.

"Achilles' assessments are both independent and very rigorous, meaning that there is no scope for 'greenwashing'. We have not only met, but exceeded the targets we have set ourselves and I have no doubt that we will continue to drive environmental improvements. "

Fareita Udoh, Head of Carbon Programme at Achilles, said: "CEMARS is one of the most rigorous and respected carbon standards in the world, so achieving accreditation six years running makes Morgan Sindall Group a role model in carbon reduction - for the programme, and the infrastructure sector as a whole."

You may wish to read an Achilles case study on our carbon reduction.

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