

Carbon Innovation Hopper now open to support Network Rail Decarbonisation Programme

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Overview

Network Rail is aligned to the UK Government commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This includes the carbon emissions that we directly control or influence from our fossil fuel combustion or electricity consumption, but also embraces all the indirect carbon emissions linked to other activities that support the management and growth of our business, such as the design, construction, upkeep and the end-of-life fate of rail infrastructure.

Workstream 13 of the Network Rail Decarbonisation Programme aims to position low whole-life carbon outcomes prominently in Network Rail's culture, ways of working, and decision-making for new, renewed or refurbished infrastructure. WS13 will integrate best practice whole-life carbon quantification and innovation into the design and delivery of infrastructure. It is hoped that this transformation will ultimately enable Network Rail and our value chain partners to be acknowledged as global leaders in the design and delivery of low whole-carbon rail infrastructure.

Workstream 13 activities will include:

- Promoting and supporting innovation and pilot schemes that demonstrate carbon reduction
- Integrating best practice low carbon requirements into Network Rail's business processes and standards
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for those who can influence and manage low carbon outcomes
- Establishing competence frameworks and development plans to enable staff to deliver low carbon outcomes
- Providing the tools, information and data needed to support carbon measurement and reduction across the business
- Promoting the value chain collaboration and capability needed for delivering low carbon outcomes
- Benchmarking our carbon management processes with respected external schemes i.e. BREEAM, CEEQUAL, PAS2080, MaGIC, etc.

Discussion points

Carbon Innovation Hopper

The Carbon Innovation Hopper is an initiative to promote ideas for reducing the whole-life carbon footprint of rail infrastructure and use Decarbonisation Programme funding to accelerate the implementation of ideas where significant, scalable carbon reduction is viable. It's a bit like a 'Dragon's Den' but with a specific focus on infrastructure carbon reduction. Infrastructure includes all physical structures, buildings and assets that directly or indirectly support the operation of the business and railway network.

Opportunities for innovation can include any change to an existing conventional solution that would deliver a reduction in carbon emissions across the life of the asset, such as, alternative materials/products, changes to the design of key components, lean improvements to process or process logistics, etc.

The Carbon Innovation Hopper will initially be open for two periods from 1st April to 31st May 2020.

A **Carbon Innovation Funding Request (CIFR)** form is available to standardise the format of carbon reduction proposals. To submit a proposal please complete all parts of the CIFR form to enable your idea to be assessed. You may be contacted for further information after the proposal has been submitted.

For further details about the application process and access to the CIFR template please refer to [Safety Central](#).

If you have any queries please contact Clive.Jones@networkrail.co.uk.

Alternatively you could post on the Yammer sites for Environment and Sustainable Development.