



Sustainability Statement

Our Sustainability Journey

CGSL's mission is "Giving the Past a Future" to UK's valuable infrastructure to ensure its sustainability for generations to come. Our ethos means we persistently seek to reduce the environmental impact from our operations; ensuring the ecosystems we depend upon remain for future generations too.

Life in the dark ages

Before we started our sustainability journey, we often viewed, like many construction businesses, environmental management as a compliance requirement. This changed with a project for Scottish Power in 2010; and our mindset shifted as we saw the benefits of going beyond compliance. Coupling our innovative approach to structural repairs with greater knowledge of environmental issues, we achieved ISO14001 in 2010, and the Carbon Trust Standard in 2011. Our dedication led to our 2012 VIBES Award and being a Best-of-VIBES finalist in 2019.

Built on strong foundations – just like our repairs and refurbishments

In a decade, we have developed local supply chains and better procurement planning to reduce unnecessary logistics; implemented processes to analyse historic weather data to understand the potential climate change impacts, such as flooding and unseasonal temperatures; and designed mitigation measures, such as flood defenses, diversion channels, and material selection. Our actions help reduce material loss and pollution.

We constantly assess low carbon and circular economy alternatives for materials, such as recycled aggregates and low carbon concrete, and use innovative methods to lengthen an asset's life. In 2019 we invested in, with funding from Zero Waste Scotland, a PAM breaker to help reduce annual emissions for concrete repairs by 15%.

Striving towards a Sustainable Net Zero Future

Our robust systems, performance, and creative thinking, gained from delivering challenging projects in ecologically sensitive areas and large civic structures, places us in a strong position to tackle the challenges ahead. We are developing our Net Zero roadmap to reduce our carbon footprint by 45% by 2030, in line with science-based targets, and achieve absolute Net Zero by 2045.

This will require a step change in our operations from shifting to electric vehicles and plant; continuing online meetings; switching to low carbon materials; and assessing robotics and digital technology to reduce project waste and carbon intensive materials for concrete infrastructure. We are committed to reporting our emissions in accordance with a recognised standard in 2023.

All these actions not only support our Net Zero ambition, but also contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our SDGs reflect our focus on our people with Good Health (#3), Quality Education (#4), our clients with Innovation, and Infrastructure (#9), and Sustainable Cities (#11), and our planet with Responsible Resources (#12), and climate action (#13). We have developed an SDG action tracker and baseline and will review our progress annually.