

Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment

Case Study – Morgan Sindall Construction

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Morgan Sindall Construction

Morgan Sindall Construction is part of Morgan Sindall Group plc, a leading UK construction and regeneration group with revenue of c.£3 billion and which operates through six divisions of Construction & Infrastructure, Fit Out, Property Services, Partnership Housing, Urban Regeneration and Investments.

www.morgansindallconstruction.com

Why did you sign up to the Code?

The Code presented an opportunity for us to test our carbon reduction ambitions, approach and activities, to ensure they stood up to scrutiny. Transparency is key to our approach, which is underpinned by Morgan Sindall Group's Responsible Business strategy. The strategy consists of five total commitments, one of which is named Improving the Environment. Our commitment – and ambition – is to consistently challenge ourselves and our stakeholders to responsibly deliver low-carbon, resource-efficient and nature-rich built assets over their entire lifecycle.

By reviewing the Code criteria against our carbon management system and our activities – such as the development of the CarboniCa whole life carbon assessment tool, and the 10 Tonne Carbon Challenge initiative – we identified that Champion status of the Code would also provide some recognition for the hard work our project teams have put in to decarbonising the built environment, and it supports our approach of influencing up and down the value chain to make a difference together.

As an organisation with reduction targets verified by the Science Based Targets Initiative, our approach requires us to leave no stone unturned in reducing carbon, leaving carbon removals as a last resort to reach net zero. The Code again affirms this approach.

What challenges did you face in signing up to the Code? How did you address/overcome them?

When we reviewed the contents of the Code, while we had plenty of carbon reduction processes and initiatives to drive carbon reduction and action within the organisation, we lacked an overarching carbon management standard as a framework to piece it all together. In authoring our

carbon management standard to support our Code submission, we found it hugely beneficial to put into words everything we do, and we can now use this document to explain to our stakeholders – both internal and external – how we manage carbon across the organisation.

We had the full support of our leadership team to apply for Champion status and this was also helped and encouraged by the NACF construction frameworks that we are part of.

What are a few key areas in your organisation where you are actively pursuing continuous improvement in carbon reduction?

CarboniCa, our in-house developed whole life carbon reduction tool, is independently verified to the RICS standard and has recently become BRE IMPACT compliant. This contractor-led tool is helping us to identify savings by enabling our teams to directly model the impacts of project design and procurement decisions and present the options to clients.

In our 10 Tonne Carbon Challenge, projects can make submissions to celebrate and share what they have achieved at a project level to reduce carbon, inspiring others. Our teams are encouraged to engage with the value chain – our clients, designers and suppliers – to root out the best solutions.

We have also created a supply chain carbon pledge, which includes a short online training module on climate change and carbon, followed by an opportunity for the organisation to commit to carbon reduction activities specific to their trade.

How do you see the Code evolving to enable industry transformation?

As the Code evolves, and as more awareness and mitigation options to reduce carbon become available within the industry, the requirements to achieve Champion status need to flex and move accordingly, and in line with climate science. The Carbon Code champions group should collaborate and strive to keep the Code current and challenging. This will ensure the Code stays at the leading edge, continuing to recognise organisations that are leading on carbon reduction to drive rapid change within the industry.

By collaborating with framework providers, there is an opportunity for the Code to become part of procurement processes, but it is also important for the Code to remain a motivation, not a barrier.

For more information, please contact carboncode-enquiries@eng.cam.ac.uk.