

## Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment Case Study – SCF Construct

Author: *Emma Bull - Senior Framework Manager, SCF*



### **Southern Construction Frameworks (SCF)**

Southern Construction Frameworks (SCF) is a public sector owned organisation which provides procurement and delivery services for public sector clients in Southern England through a two-stage, fully collaborative process. Supporting its framework offerings, the organisation strives to offer continuous improvement and useful tools for its clients to facilitate delivery of sustainable buildings while working towards carbon net zero. <https://scfconstruct.org.uk>

### ***Why did you sign up to the Code and what benefits did it bring?***

During the development of its working group, the Carbon Emergency Response Group, SCF Construct recognised that a quantifiable measure of carbon reduction would be required, particularly around the design development/second-stage process.

As a framework and with the work the organisation is doing with the National Association Framework, we have influenced our 10 tier-1 contractors by involving them in the process. Signing up to the Code prompted the organisation to create its baseline carbon tool and helped to support the work that it is undertaking, along with the requirement to report annually on its achievements. Since becoming a PLEDGER to the Code, we are delighted that some of our Tier 1 contractor partners, Kier, Morgan Sindall and Willmott Dixon, have achieved Champion level compliance with the Code.

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

The major challenge was around quantification of carbon measurement on multiple projects that often have been pre-designed to varying levels. Utilising the specialists from our framework partners, SCF Construct created a simple product carbon baseline assessment around the more quantifiable aspects covered within scope A1-A3. These are monitored at the stage of project procurement to a contractor, prior to start on site and eventually post construction.

Applying for PLEDGER status to the Code meant we could participate in the Code's framework making a public commitment to and reporting on progress towards achieving net zero – directly supporting our desire to drive carbon-neutral buildings.

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

As a framework organisation representing both clients and Tier 1 contractors, SCF Construct actively promotes early considerations towards building and designing to carbon net zero. We have developed and shared extensively our client tool and started to monitor project

performance to identify both improvements and trends with standard building elements – for example, frame choices.

The organisation has minimised its travel and encouraged the use of public transport where possible and, in line with many local authorities in the UK, it has switched to mostly home-working.

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

SCF Construct already recognises that the actions of our Tier 1 partners show a positive interest in aligning to the Code, which requires a level of commitment in defining, measuring, and reporting performance.

The organisation considers the Code not as a badge, but as a serious commitment that requires real data, annual reporting and quantifiable improvements in businesses. As SCF Construct gathers more performance data, the Code is likely to expand to target specific improvements and/or areas of focus based on real-time data, thus providing a positive and meaningful impact.

For more information please contact [carboncode-enquiries@eng.cam.ac.uk](mailto:carboncode-enquiries@eng.cam.ac.uk).