



## Carbon Steering Group bulletin November 2024

### Introduction

Welcome to the MHA+ Carbon 'Net Zero' bulletin, hosted by the MHA+ Carbon Steering Group (CSG), chaired by Chris Green from Leicestershire County Council.

This bulletin is designed to provide a focus and update for MHA+ members about the wide and varied work going on in relation to the carbon reduction agenda across the Highways sector.

The MHA+ and its membership of 36 Local Authorities has a major effect in relation to carbon impact. This also provides a strong opportunity to make a difference in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the highways sector.

If you want more information about the bulletin, to contribute, or to learn more about the MHA+ Carbon Steering Group, please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#) mobile: **07842 034616** or email [Kay Smith](#).

### CSG activity and upcoming events

The CSG continues to provide a focus for all things pertaining to carbon reduction and net zero for MHA+. So, what's going on in the CSG?

- **LiveLabs 2 (LL2) and Suppliers Carbon Events.** The CSG in September hosted a supplier event. This included presentations from Gary Schofield, Head of Technical at **Total Energies** on the use of Polymer Modified Bitumen (PMB) and Justin Osbourne, Business Development Manager at **Stabilised Pavements Ltd (SPL)** who covered in-situ roads.

- **Carbon News.** If you want to take a look back at key items and articles of interest, previous CSG bulletins are available on the [MHA+ website](#).
- **Aggregate Industries (AI) and OCL Regeneration.** Managing Director, Stuart Gready provided a fascinating presentation at the last CSG meeting covering the range of services OCL and AI provide focussing in on carbon reduction (CR) and efficiency benefits they deliver. In particular, their on-site and depot recycling, foam based products and case studies demonstrated a strong circular economy for local authority carbon reduction. [Take a look at the presentation](#), which also includes Stuart's contact details if you want to find out more.
- **LiveLabs 2.** Jake Murgatroyd from **Transport for West Midlands** provided an update on progress with the **Centre for Excellence (CoE)** and the work they are driving forward. This included the ongoing development of their Material Log, with over 420 materials already listed. The CoE is also developing a Knowledge Bank in relation to their work, trials and testing.
- **Annual Event 2024 "Carbon reduction through technology" workshop.** The themes at the annual event were skills and digital. The carbon workshop was standing room only and focussed on how technology and digital innovation can help address carbon reduction.
- The workshop had two cutting edge presentations, the first by Ruairi Charlesworth from **Highway Data Systems** covering the use of digital tech in asphalt production and installation - more details at this link: [HDS Digital Tech in Asphalt prod/Install](#).
- The second was by Jamie Missenden and Luke Winch from **Galliford Try**, covering the use of QFlow technology on the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Construction Scheme. Read more at [Galliford Try QFlow better data management/decision making](#).
- **Carbon Management Task and Finish Group (CMTFG).** This group has been created to look at providing a more consistent approach to the management of carbon in relation to projects in MHA+ Medium Schemes Framework 4. Simon Wilson from the **Future Highways Research Group** presented at the last group meeting detailing the **ADEPT/FHRG Carbon Calculator Assessment Standard**. This focussed on their development of a Scheme-based element. The CMTFG is exploring further the potential for its use for MHA+ MSF4 schemes.
- The next event will be a **joint LiveLabs 2 Centre of Excellence and MHA+ event on 26 November**. The topic includes the **LL2 trials on Asphalt Rejuvenation (AR)** and presentations from **Roadtech** Reclamite and **Colas** PenTack. If you want to find out more, or join the online event please contact [Kay Smith](#).

## Regional and national organisations update

What's happening out there with other key organisations. A brief round up of interesting and useful items.

The **Future Highways Research Group (FHRG)** held its Autumn member event recently. Topics covered included: carbon management reduction programme, resilience planning and delivery, value for money assessments (VfMA) and Live Labs 2 updates from Wessex, Liverpool and [CEDR](#). Simon Wilson detailed how the FHRG is developing a 'quick carbon footprint assessment' method and the data they were reviewing behind this, to ensure it was still reasonably sound in terms of rigour. The VfMA were showing a clear link between efficient work practices and carbon reduction. If you want to find out more, contact [Ian Bamforth](#).

The **Local Councils Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG)** hosted **Strictly Highways 2024** and brought the highways community together once again in Blackpool. This year's event focused on key industry themes such as leadership, legal trends, AI integration, decarbonisation, and building a future skills pipeline. Find out more here: [Strictly Highways 2024 in words](#).

The **Local Government Association (LGA)** has even more information on their [Sustainability Hub](#) and you can sign up to get their news bulletin there as well.



If you're looking at reducing your carbon impact at depots and other key buildings, then the LGA also recently updated their '[Renewable Energy Good Practice guidance](#)'. This provides useful information for PV solar panel info and detail on policy changes and other key information. Want to find out more on Climate Change? Then click head to the [Climate Change Support Hub](#).

## Carbon learning and related content from MHA+ learning gateway

A range of training content and presentations from MHA+ partners and suppliers is available via the [MHA+ Learning Gateway](#).



They include:

- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – via the **Partnership to Improve Pavement**
- Design Optimisation Carbon Impact Assessment (an **ORIS/AECOM** collaboration)
- **PSP 3** spotlight on carbon management plans, highlighting climate change action and supporting documents
- **Green Team** and **Sustainability at Home**.
- **Waterman Aspen** on "Delivering our net zero commitments." Presented by Dave Allen.
- Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain - a Training Module
- Lunch and Learn – Highways: Nature based, low carbon solutions for soil erosion, control and habitat. A presentation by Alex Clark from **Salix RSK**
- An introduction to Sustainability & Carbon Management - presented by Stephanie Upton from **Waterman Aspen**.



- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) has provided [recorded lectures](#) covering a vast range of civil engineering and topics and subjects. Use the search bar to refine as there are over 165 carbon related lectures.

## Industry news and developing best practice across the UK

## Net Zero/ Decarbonisation/ Government Guidance/ Plans and Policy

[Carbon Capture trial at Ferrybridge](#) by **Enfinium** is one of the first in UK.

**Wiltshire Highways** shortlisted for [carbon reduction award](#).

**Costain** pilots [Carbon Tracker](#).

**Middlesbrough** develop resilient Transport Plan: <https://highways-news.com/middlesbroughs-growth-ambitions-to-be-matched-by-resilient-transport-plan/>

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## Materials/Maintenance

Highest percentage recycling of materials by [FM Conway with 92% recycled road](#).

**Bath & North East Somerset** [in situ recycling uses just 3% new materials](#).

**Redbridge Council** trials carbon locking road material that [reduces carbon by 68%](#).

**National Highways** trials [graphene enhanced Asphalt](#) on the A12.

**National Highways** [extends the Biobinders Trial](#).

The **Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey** decries the [slow pace of decarbonisation](#).

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## Biodiversity/Climate/Adaptation

**National Highways** to use sound technology to map [biodiversity on Brownfield sites](#).

**Balfour Beatty** and **National Highways** in [habitat biodiversity improvement](#) in Bolder Mere, Norfolk.

**West Sussex** installs new [mammal shelf to help otters cross road](#) under the A272.

**Welsh Government** recovery plan includes [road verge management](#) to help roadsides bloom.

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## Electric Vehicles (EV) infrastructure

Five new [EV bus charging depots](#) introduced by **First Bus**.

Large variation noticed with [on-street parking provision study](#)

**Plymouth** plans major EV installation with [320 on-street charging points](#).

Research on Scottish 'Hot spots' for [zero emission freight](#).

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## Active travel

Transport for West Midlands and Solihull Council test [Smart Tech for pedestrian and cyclists crossings](#).

Louise Haigh, Secretary of State for Transport, [calls for 'unprecedented levels' of funding](#) for cycling.

Active Travel England publishes new ['Capability Ratings' for Councils](#).



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## MHA+ Service Improvement Groups (SIG)

This section highlights carbon-reduction activities across various SIGs. With 16 SIGs (listed below) and over 500 members, there is massive potential to tap into our collective expertise and reduce carbon across all areas of highway services.

A few examples of carbon reduction or climate related items groups have been involved with include:

### Highway Asset Management SIG



**LiveLabs2** presentation on the [LiveLabs Expo 2024](#). Giles Perkins provided an update on the progress of **LiveLabs2 Decarbonising Local Roads programme**.

The **National Audit Office** advised SIG members on Department for Transport guidance for strategic decarbonisation programmes, to ensure matched funding requirements and consistency between local authorities.

**Derby City Council** Highways consultants discussed engagement with the supply chain and a sustainability workshop on decarbonisation and supporting completion of a carbon change action plan, methods to agree carbon measurement as well as provision of initiatives from the supply chain based on "clarity, visibility and urgency".

### Street Lighting SIG

Meeting topics at the Street Lighting SIG included discussions on LiveLabs2 [high visual efficiency and low carbon lighting](#). Test beds have been developed with cameras monitoring traffic behaviour, with 23 in place by end of July. Feedback has been excellent, with thermal imaging and a carbon baseline provided, each column represents 2.25 tonnes of embedded carbon per annum.

### Winter Services SIG

Detailed information featured in the "**Salt Piles and Carbon Benefits**" presentation. This considered the investment in sustainable (non-corrosive) efficient salt storage. Details from a recent **Morgan Sindall** study on Salt Dome Co2e savings, suggested a reduction in round trips, a reduction of 55% (used) or 440 tonnes in lifecycle carbon.

A composite design for a dome was considered, with use of recycled content, less issues with degrading of timber walling - citing a further reduction in carbon footprint.

### The 16 SIGs in MHA+ are:

Casualty Reduction	Civil Parking Enforcement	Development Management	Flood Water Management	Highways Records & Searches
Highways Structures	Highways Asset Management	Low Carbon Travel & Transport	Street Lighting	Streetworks
Traffic Engineering	Traffic Signals	Transportation Data & Analysis	Term Maintenance	Third Party Claims
		Winter Services		

If you would like to join any of these Service Improvement Groups [please email us](#) at [MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk](mailto:MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk). New members are always welcome.

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## Carbon Literacy Training (CLT)

MHA+ members via the Programme Board and Carbon Steering Group had raised the issue that there was limited Highways specific CLT available for members. After some research we identified that the Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) had a suite of bespoke Highways focussed training, which was directly relevant to our members.

MHA+ has put in place arrangements (working in partnership with CIHT) for our members to have free access to the following three online courses:

- **Carbon Literacy - Accounting.**
- **Transport Decarbonisation – Introduction.**
- **Introduction to the FHRG Carbon Calculation & Accounting Standard (CCAS).**

You can request to complete these modules via the MHA+ Learning Management System (LMS).

If you do not have a MHA+ LMS account and want to complete these learning modules: click on the following link: <https://mhaplus.vc-enable.co.uk>.

If you already have a MHA+ LMS username and password then login to your [MHA+ LMS account](#).



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For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles, please contact [Ian Bamforth](#). If you have any colleagues who may not have received this email, please share it with them, so that they can contact us directly to confirm they wish to receive our bulletin. Alternatively, if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin, email [Midlands Highway Alliance Plus](#).

