
BCM demonstrates commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through ISO accredited CEMARS certification

"As a leading international, national and railway industry concern, BCM has recognised that making a commitment to reducing our carbon emissions was an obvious environmental objective for the company with an added benefit of bringing cost savings to the organisation" **Adriaan Bekker, Environmental Manager, Operations Unit**

The Challenge

BCM Construction operates as a civils and railway construction company within England and Wales with operations concentrated in the South East of England and Greater London. As outlined in BCM's environmental policy, the organisation is committed to the prevention of pollution and the protection & minimisation of operations on the environment.

BCM aims to be an industry leader for sustainable construction and recognises the need to contribute to national and international efforts in the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Joining the Achilles carbonReduction programme and working towards CEMARS certification provides a demonstrable action to support GHG reductions.

The Results

From the process of gathering data to collate BCM's carbon footprint the organisation was able to identify that the main source of emissions, over 80%, were from diesel and fuel oil. These are the areas to be targeted for reductions moving forward as these sources can be directly controlled, influenced and reduced.

The Focus going Forward

BCM has set the baseline year against which to target emissions reductions as 2009/2010. The organisation has developed emissions reduction targets both long and short term, and are targetting absolute and relative scope 1 and 2 reductions.

BCM has set a target to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 4% against the baseline year by 2014/2015 and by 8% against the baseline year by 2020/2021. In terms of reducing the emissions intensity BCM aims to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by 8% against the baseline year by 2014/2015 and by 16% against the baseline year by 2020/2021.

The projects which are being developed to deliver emissions reductions include;

- Reducing vehicle fuel consumption through vehicle selection and driver training & monitoring
- Reducing fuel oil use through selection of energy efficient site cabins & machines
- Reducing electricity and natural gas through introduction of improved insulation and boiler blankets

Q & A with Adriaan Bekker, Environmental Manager, Operations Unit

Why did BCM Construction choose CEMARS?

A lot of companies claim to be reducing carbon emissions or at least be concerned about it with very little solid evidence of any actual reductions. BCM wants real, measurable results that we can report to our clients. CEMARS was a logical choice for presenting verified, accurate data on our carbon footprint and gave us confidence in the figures that we present to our clients and wider stakeholders.

How has CEMARS helped BCM Construction?

CEMARS, and the structure of the certification standard, helped us to get to grips with what to account for with regards to greenhouse gas emissions and how. Measuring carbon emissions can easily spin out of control if you overcomplicate things. Taking a methodical approach and following the CEMARS programme guidance helped to set structure around our measurements and reporting.

What advice do you have for other organisations working to measure their carbon footprint and make a reduction in emissions?

Get your accountants on board and make it simple for them to filter out and record the information you need!



Benefits to BCM Construction

- Certification to an ISO accredited, international carbon certification standard
- Identification of key emissions sources to target for reductions and energy efficiency
- Two on site audit visits with knowledgeable greenhouse gas assessor
- Credible demonstration of action to reduce emissions in alignment with BCM's Environmental Policy