

ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

Main contact name	Lucy O'Connell
Email	lucy.oconnell@cheshireeasthighways.org
Award category	Delivering Clean Growth
Project Title	Delivering a Lower Carbon Highway Service – the Road to Net Zero – Cheshire East Highways
Local authority entrant	Ringway Jacobs/Cheshire East Highways

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Cheshire East Highways' Road to Net Zero, delivering a Lower Carbon Service- investing in electric fleet, sustainable materials & STEM education.

Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://youtu.be/Pv6SaM2-0jU>

Delivering clean growth: How is this project delivering clean growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and future proofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

We are embracing clean growth by adopting new technologies and practices that reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. By working collaboratively with Cheshire East Council's (CEC's) sustainable mode of transport strategy, we have promoted sustainable travel options by delivering 15 walking and cycling schemes along with four public transport development schemes across the last 12 months at Cheshire East Highways (CEH). Investment in electric vehicle infrastructure has been paramount with 36 vehicles now being fully electric and plans are underway for fuels such as HVO for those that are not viable for electrification just yet.

To ensure a sustainable future, we are focused on future-proofing growth by promoting STEM education with 16 current employees on approved training programmes. This will develop the skills necessary for emerging technologies and practices and we are looking to invest in 9 new employees over the next 12 months.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

As we work towards CEC's target to be carbon neutral by 2025, we have implemented various measures across the business. We have recently demonstrated a ultra-low carbon site with 100% emission-free plant at Marthall Lane, Ollerton. The site contains a hybrid hydrogen and solar powered welfare unit, an electric belle cement mixer, an instagrid battery pack, electric tracked dumper, drills and electric fleet ensuring all commutes and site visits will be in electric vehicles.

By working closely with manufacturers, technology providers and multiple supply chain partners, and with careful planning, ensured the ultra-low carbon site was achieved.

In 2022, 79% of all asphalt laid for schemes was lower temperature asphalt, delivering a carbon saving of 84tCO₂e. We continue to work with our supply chain to continue to drive this forward and

demonstrate our commitment to collaborative working and partnership building to achieve long-lasting clean growth that benefits Cheshire East.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)

We proactively engage across departments and with other local authorities and businesses to tackle problems and find solutions in support of CEC promoting clean growth. This includes:

- presenting at the 'Achieving Net Zero' conference at Reaseheath College,
- Leading Ringway Jacobs's cross-contract 'carbon focus' group to align and share ideas with other local authorities and stakeholders,
- proactively meeting with supply chain partners, manufacturers, and businesses to ensure sustainable plant and materials are acquired by CEH with innovation being integral in our company values.

We always engage with external stakeholders and suppliers to promote sustainable innovations. We have showcased an electric excavator on the network to a Ward Councillor who was invited to site to witness our commitment to sustainable construction and promoting the innovative plant solutions we are investing in.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)

We are going beyond the traditional 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges by adopting long-term planning and innovative funding solutions alongside CEC. This includes developing strategic plans that anticipate future highway needs.

Additionally, we are adopting a risk-based approach to planning, which takes into account the potential impact of climate change and other future challenges. This involves investing in resilient and adaptable infrastructure that can withstand future impacts. An example of this was when we successfully obtained Salix funding to install Solar Panels and LED light conversions within our operational depots.

Overall, we are taking a forward-thinking approach to our highway service planning and funding, which enables us to prepare for future challenges and promote sustainable growth. By adopting innovative funding solutions and long-term planning, we can ensure that we continue to deliver high-quality highways maintenance that benefits communities and supports economic growth.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

In just one month (October 2021), a 79% energy saving and reduction of 153kg of CO₂e was realised at the Wardle depot once solar panels were installed. A saving of 164kg of CO₂e was realised at Macclesfield/Lyme Green depot after a month of installation. During summer when days are longer, all costs of depot electricity are covered.