

CEW AWARDS WINNER - CLIMATE ACTION - SPONSORED BY WILMOTT DIXON

PROJECT: Read Construction – 5yrs Leading Collaborative Climate Action

SUBMISSION DATE: February 2025

OVERVIEW

Read Construction has placed climate action at the heart of its operations, embedding sustainability into governance, procurement, design, and delivery. Since 2020, the company has been committed to achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030, advancing practical and measurable solutions across its projects.

Their approach goes beyond compliance, focusing on influencing behaviours, engaging supply chains, and creating meaningful environmental outcomes. With achievements including multiple EPC A+ ratings, Passivhaus delivery, and industry awards, Read has set a benchmark for climate-conscious construction in Wales and beyond.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Waste and Carbon Reduction at Scale

- 95%+ of all construction waste diverted from landfill, exceeding national targets. Digital design tools and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) used to minimise material use and travel miles. Over 52,000 travel miles saved by reuse strategies, removing 63,000kg CO₂ annually from logistics. Innovative reuse examples, such as reworking all spoil on a 2,500m² Flint project, eliminated 3,000 miles of truck movements.

Embedding the Circular Economy

- All design-and-build projects incorporate design deconstruction, ensuring materials can be reused at end of life.
- Partnered with WoodKnowledge Wales and Changing Streams to minimise embodied carbon and eliminate plastics in construction.
- Pioneering work in microplastic reduction has made Read a leader in addressing an often-overlooked environmental threat.

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CONSTRUCTING
EXCELLENCE
IN WALES



Net Zero Commitment with Proven Progress

- In 2020, Read committed to becoming a Net Zero Carbon business by 2030. Already achieved a 40% reduction in Scope
- 1 & 2 emissions since 2020, demonstrating a credible and results-driven pathway rather than a distant pledge. Integrated Carbon Reduction Plans into every project, embedding
- sustainability as a default, not an afterthought.

Fossil-Free Transport and Plant

- In 2020, Read committed to becoming a Net Zero Carbon business by 2030.
- Already achieved a 40% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions since 2020, demonstrating a credible and results-driven pathway rather than a distant pledge. Integrated Carbon
- Reduction Plans into every project, embedding sustainability as a default, not an afterthought.

Delivering Net Zero-Ready Projects

- Delivered multiple EPC A+ projects including Coleg Cambria, Coleg Menai, and Shropshire's Meole Brace Passivhaus building. Projects consistently meet or exceed Welsh
- Government sustainability standards, with operational Net Zero buildings that reduce whole-life carbon. Actively share lessons learned across frameworks and industry groups,
- accelerating sector-wide improvement.

PROJECT TEAM

- Read Construction – Main Contractor, leading climate action across projects.
- Iolo Rhys – Climate Champion, embedding sustainability across operations.
- Kasia Williamson – Climate Action support, governance and reporting.
- Darren Brimble – Project integration, embedding CA into design and development.
- Clients & Framework Partners – Only those aligned with climate action values.
- Specialist Advisors (project-specific) – WoodKnowledge Wales, SIP Designers, Structural Engineers, Carbon Assessors, Deconstruction Experts, Changing Streams (plastic minimisation specialists)



Clients &
Framework
Partners



SPECIALIST
ADVISORS

SME EXCELLENCE:

KHSGroupLtd, a42-strongmechanical and electrical SME in Abergele, North Wales, has been pivotal to Read Construction's climate action journey through sustainable building services in HVAC, refrigeration, and digital design. More than a subcontractor, KHS aligned with Read's "passive-first" principles, delivering tailored climate control solutions that enhance comfort while reducing energy demand, directly supporting Net Zero goals. Their involvement extended beyond delivery, with ongoing maintenance and post-occupancy evaluation ensuring long-term performance. Alongside technical innovation, KHS invests in local jobs, training, Welsh culture, and youth opportunities, embodying the Well-being of Future Generations Act and exemplifying community-focused, climate-conscious partnership.

CLIMATE ACTION IN PRACTISE:

Read Construction embeds climate action into every stage of delivery, using tools like LCA OneClick and BIM-enabled carbon trackers to inform low-carbon design decisions, while integrating circular economy principles through durable, reusable materials and design for deconstruction. Their partnership with Changing Streams has driven research and action on reducing plastics and microplastics in construction. On-site, Read has eliminated fossil fuels from its fleet, invested in eco accommodation, deployed temporary PV arrays, and sourced over 80% of suppliers within 20 miles to cut emissions and support local economies. These combined measures ensure every project delivers lower-carbon construction and long-term operational performance, embedding climate action across governance, operations, and collaboration with partners.



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