

CEW AWARDS CLIMATE ACTION OF THE YEAR WINNER

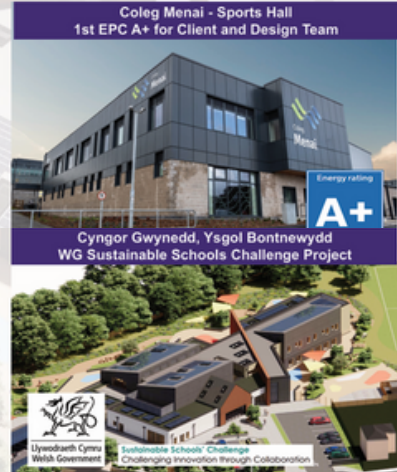
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PROJECT: Read Construction – 5yrs Leading Collaborative Climate Action

SUBMISSION DATE: February 2025

OVERVIEW

Read places Climate Change at the core of its business, shaping governance, operations and project delivery. The company works only with clients and suppliers who share its ambition to optimise sustainability and drive meaningful climate action beyond compliance and accreditation. In 2020, Read committed to becoming Net Zero by 2030, supported by a mature implementation plan that influences its supply chain and clients. Using tools such as carbon reduction planning, life cycle assessment and targeted training, Read delivers measurable outcomes including reduced emissions, waste elimination and circular resource use. Its leadership has been recognised through national awards, zero-fossil-fuel initiatives and significant carbon reductions.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Net Zero Leadership

- Board-led Climate Action strategy embedded across governance, operations and projects.
- Carbon Reduction Plan aligned with Welsh Government Climate Change Strategy and Net Zero 2030 commitment.
- Clear accountability through named Climate Champions driving measurable outcomes.

Zero Fossil Fuel Transition

- Zero-fossil-fuel fleet policy introduced in 2022 across cars, vans, plant and equipment.
- 100% of new cars are zero-emission EVs; all new plant operates on EV or HVO fuel only.
- Over 251,000kg CO₂ per year reduced, supported by driver training and digital mileage monitoring.

Circular Economy Leadership

- Design for deconstruction embedded in 100% of ECI Design and Build projects.
- Circular material selection focused on durability, reuse and reduced embodied carbon.
- Industry-leading work on plastic and microplastic reduction with specialist academic partners.

Net Zero Commitment with Proven Progress

- OneClick LCA used since 2021 to quantify embodied, operational and end-of-life carbon impacts.
- BIM-enabled carbon, waste and logistics tracking embedded at early design and delivery stages.
- Real-time monitoring of travel, energy use and site performance to prioritise carbon reduction actions.

Waste and MMC Innovation

- Longstanding MMC strategy delivering zero waste on site through off-site manufacture and preassembly.
- Logistics optimisation using BIM, aggregated deliveries and reuse strategies to reduce travel miles.
- Measured benefits include over 63,000kg CO₂ per annum saved and 52,000 miles eliminated.

PROJECT TEAM

- Read Construction - Main Contractor
- Wood Knowledge Wales - sustainable timber advisor
- Positive Planet - carbon assessment and sustainability consultancy
- One Click LCA - life cycle carbon assessment software
- Passivhaus Institut - Develop and certify Passivhaus building standards
- Baker Brown - sustainable architecture and urban environments
- Changing Streams - Research and reduce plastic pollution sources
- Element Sustainability - sustainability consulting and carbon expertise

SME EXCELLENCE:

KHS Group Ltd (KHS) is a local Mechanical and Electrical SME based in Abergele, North Wales. The company adopts an innovative, forward-thinking business model focused on sustainable MEP technologies and digital design tools to support climate action. Aligned with Read's climate-focused approach, KHS seeks to deliver projects sustainably through reduced energy demand, passive-first principles and real-world design modelling. KHS provides climate control solutions including ventilation, HVAC and refrigeration, alongside operation and maintenance services that ensure buildings perform as intended. They support post-occupancy evaluation to help achieve operational net zero and actively invest in local skills, culture and employment.

Early Design for Operational Net Zero

Read Construction embeds operational Net Zero principles from the earliest design stages, ensuring buildings achieve maximum energy efficiency and minimal carbon impact. Using passive design strategies—optimising natural heat, light, and ventilation—alongside robust insulation and thermal bridging analysis, projects consistently achieve EPC A+ ratings. Early Contractor Involvement allows Read to balance embedded and operational carbon, integrate renewable materials, and plan for future adaptability or repurposing. This proactive approach reduces long-term energy consumption and operational emissions while supporting whole-life carbon reduction. The methodology demonstrates how design-led decision making can deliver measurable, sustainable outcomes that benefit clients, occupants, and the wider environment.



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