



Press Release

Immed. 3 November 2021

CECA: Construction Industry Launches Vision For Net Zero Roads

To mark the start of Highways UK, civil engineering contractors have today published a route map to achieve net zero targets in highways maintenance and construction.

Roads still form the critical backbone of our economy. Sectors heavily dependent on the Strategic Road Network already contribute £314 billion in GVA to England's economy and will grow with further investment.

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)'s *Building Net Zero Roads* recognises that we are living in a climate emergency and addresses how industry can work with Government and clients to deliver a sustainable road network for the long term.

There are five ways to achieve net zero roads, but the key is by reforming the procurement process.

CECA believes we must work together to:

- **Define net zero;**
- **Deliver net zero via procurement and Most Advantageous Tender not lowest price and by reforming our frameworks;**
- **Invest in innovative solutions;**
- **Include net zero in standards and accreditations; and**
- **Create a smoother transition to greener plant and machinery.**

CECA's paper is complemented by a practical guide for SMEs on how they can also be part of the low carbon solution.

Commenting on today's publication, CECA Director of External Affairs Marie-Claude Hemming said: "The challenges of climate change cannot be overestimated, and how we build and maintain our roads plays a key role in futureproofing our planet.

"A key avenue for change is procurement reform, and the forthcoming Procurement Bill which will soon be published for Parliament's approval offers the perfect opportunity to embed the principles of whole life asset cost into the procurement process, combined with innovative delivery.

"But we cannot do this alone. Our drive to net zero roads, is one small part of a combined national and global effort to reduce emissions.

"As such CECA will continue to work closely with governments and public bodies on how can sustainably build the world class infrastructure we so urgently need."

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Notes to Editors

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. Our members build infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.
2. CECA's *Building Net Zero Roads* is available to download at: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-building-net-zero-roads-november-2021/>.

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