



## CARBON EMISSIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TALK

### What is the issue?

The construction industry is a large producer of carbon, accounting for between 25-40% of global emissions. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, which contributes to global warming. The current focus is to limit global warming to 2°C. In order to do so, the construction industry plays a role to reduce its carbon emissions and contribute towards lowering the global warming effect.

Carbon management identifies the major sources of carbon emissions and explores ways to reduce them. It pinpoints where carbon can be saved on energy, heating, waste, raw materials and fuel together with ideas to reduce this wastage.

### Why is this important?

**Avoid Environmental harm:** Carbon emissions are continuing to have negative effects on the Earth's climate and contribute towards global warming.

**Avoid Environmental harm:** If action is not taken, studies suggest that sea levels rising, biodiversity loss and animal/plant extinctions may result from global warming.

**Avoid prosecution:** It is mandatory to monitor, record and reduce carbon emissions

**Reduce costs:** By wasting energy and resources which have a carbon expense, also represents a big cost to site.

### What can be done?

McGee has committed to achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2040. This means that by 2040, the amount of carbon produced from site activities, is the same as the amount of carbon that is removed from the atmosphere. A Carbon Reduction Plan has been created which states how McGee will achieve this, companywide and on-site action

Continued investment into technology helps to drive the reduction in emissions. Upgrading the fleet of HGVs so that 100% are Euro 6 engines, the most fuel-efficient engine. Optimal route planning and real time vehicle tracking avoids congestion, and therefore reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. McGee have bought 9 hybrid excavators, and use other hybrid plant site further reduces the use of diesel and associated emissions. PIRs and LED lighting is actively used on site to save energy. Reusing materials such as steel props save the carbon emissions associated with creating them. Plans to invest in tree planting schemes will offset McGee's carbon emissions and help achieve the net zero status.

On site, it is possible to reduce the amount of carbon produced to help achieve the net zero target. On site, ensuring all lighting/heating/electrical equipment is switched off when not in use will limit the use of energy. Avoiding unnecessary vehicle movements and journeys, as well as cycling/walking to work will reduce carbon emissions from vehicles. Using electric plant when possible, using appropriate power and minimising idling time will help to reduce carbon from plant. Using local materials, and limiting waste from rebar or concrete will also make a big impact.

### Questions

- 1) What is the target to limit global warming by?
- 2) What have McGee Invested into to reduce emissions?
- 3) What activities on site can reduce carbon emissions?

