



ZERO CARBON CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Association of Specialist Underpinning Contractors (ASUC) is committed to the goal of environmentally sound and sustainable development, and the conservation of nature and natural resources in the full range of its activities.

Climate change is a real and demonstrable issue that affects us all, and every industry, including underpinning, subsidence repair, and foundation solutions, has a significant role to play in combatting this.

One of the most important steps towards this goal, as recognized elsewhere in the construction industry, is committing to a zero carbon policy. The UK Government has made clear its intention to reach Net Zero by 2050, outlining a ten-step plan to reach this, in November 2020. In line with this, the Climate Change Committee have independently put forward their Sixth Carbon Budget, required under the Climate Change Act, which provides the government with advice about the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit between 2033 and 2037. This has been used as a template by the construction industry for its own self-imposed commitments to change.

The Association recognises that environmental and social sustainability is a fundamental aspect of achieving its outcomes, and projects that foster environmental and social sustainability should be within the highest priorities of the Association's activities. Minimization and mitigation are key in dealing with environmental and social issues; where necessary, restoration and enhancement should also be undertaken.

ASUC recognizes that, in and of itself, it is not a developer of carbon-neutral solutions and technology; however, the Association feels strongly that it has a crucial role to play in contributing towards the industry's drive to zero carbon emissions, and spreading awareness of the need for this within its workforce, contractors, and clients.

The following are the areas in which ASUC will focus, in order to realise the goals outlined above. The Association will undertake to:

- work in conjunction with the government and local authorities to improve energy efficiency across all construction projects, both new-build and retrofit
- work with other industry bodies and associations towards increased capability for low-carbon building solutions
- work towards the enhancement of efficiency and performance through work undertaken on both new and existing buildings
- encourage a rapid movement towards zero emission vehicles and equipment onsite
- encourage the use of optimal sustainable methods of working and construction onsite, so as to avoid wastage and unnecessary use of transport
- encourage integrated infrastructure that makes use of the above, and which incorporates low-carbon transport, machinery, and construction methods, as a transition towards zero-carbon transport, machinery, and construction methods



Underpinning & Subsidence Repair Techniques / Engineered Foundation Solutions / Retrofit Basement Construction

- embrace carbon measurement, in order to quantify carbon emissions, and to take steps to remedy these where mitigation is required
- embrace the designing-out of carbon and, wherever possible, encourage commercial models to reward this, as well as promoting this amongst the Association's workforce, contractors, and clients
- champion innovation and the development of low-carbon and zero-carbon materials, manufacture, installation, and process.

ASUC will assign specific personnel to monitor these undertakings, and to keep track of our successes on the path to becoming carbon-neutral. We welcome collaboration with like-minded industry bodies, and invite comments from the industry on how best we may address any areas we have previously overlooked.