

Case study: Anglian Water @One Alliance

“I know now that I will include carbon cutting, just as I include cost cutting in my design.”

“It is good to know there are others throughout the organisation who care as much as I do.”

General overview of organisation

Anglian Water is, geographically, the largest water company in the UK, covering 27,500 square kilometres from the Humber in the north to the Thames in the south, and from Daventry in the west to Lowestoft in the east. Anglian Water serves the drinking water and wastewater needs of around six million industrial, commercial and domestic customers.

The @one Alliance is a collaborative, virtual joint venture formed to deliver a large part of the Anglian Water capital investment programmes. Alliance partners are: Anglian Water Asset Delivery, Balfour Beatty, Barhale, MMB, SWECO, Skanska and Stantec Treatment. The sessions were delivered by a partnership between SWECO and The Surefoot Effect, and the SWECO engineer involved created water industry specific games and activities to supplement the standard CC activities.

Number and format of sessions

3 sessions (each with 2 CC sessions) of 6 hours each with a group lunch in the middle of the day. Sessions were scheduled to ensure maximum attendance by the very busy group individuals (8 people), and had approximately a 1 month gap between them, much longer than the usual sessions. Each session covered both home and workplace considerations and the final session focussed on action planning and recommendations for the work place.

Sustainability work outside of Carbon Conversations

SWECO brought its low carbon infrastructure expertise to the @One Alliance and a focus on the carbon embodied in the large infrastructure implementations necessary to provide safe and clean water to people and back into the environment. Anglian Water has set targets to reduce its embodied and annually expended CO₂e emissions.

Impetus for including CCs in the organisation's work

The sessions were designed to give carbon literacy to a range of people throughout the organisation, so that they could incorporate a carbon literate approach to the design and implementation of large infrastructure projects.

Update: In 2018 SWECO won an award for this initiative: <https://www.sweco.co.uk/news/news-container/sweco-wins-acclaim-for-carbon-conversations/>