

FactSheet

www.islandroads.com

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Caring for the environment

A guide to how we are reducing our carbon footprint and supporting sustainability

We take our responsibilities to the environment seriously and are continually looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and protect and enhance the natural environment.

Our work in this area has been recognised with a gold award from a United Nations-award winning environmental programme called Green Impact. Our environmental good practice broadly falls into three areas: our headquarters and fleet, supporting biodiversity and reducing our carbon footprint via major recycling schemes.

As part of our work under the PFI contract we have upgraded 12,000 streetlights to lower carbon LED lamps, work which has been recognised with a 'good lighting' award from the IW branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the contribution the new lighting has made to reducing light pollution. We have also enhanced cycleways and footways, including structures along shared-use paths which encourages non-car use and helps people to access the Island's beautiful countryside.



Our headquarters and vehicles

Our headquarters at St Christopher House in Newport has been refurbished to include many energy saving features, including:

- Rainwater harvesting to service WCs and urinals
- Motion sensor lighting
- Double glazing
- Hydrobox heat pump
- Heat recovery air conditioning system with supplementary solar thermal water heating
- Photovoltaic solar panel system, with electricity generated used by Island Roads and excess fed back into the grid
- Green energy tariff for all areas of the business



Within the business we source as much recycled office materials as possible and also operate a 'no bleach' policy for paper products.



The offices have comprehensive recycling stations and discourage the use of single use plastics.

Our fleet of vehicles include six electric vans which are used by District Stewards and works supervisors. We have EV charging points at St Christopher House, powered by electricity from green energy tariffs.

Staff are also encouraged to cycle to work, with secure all-weather storage provided for bicycles.



Supporting biodiversity

Bees and lizards



As part of our work to repair and maintain highways retaining walls across the Island we have been sure to consider the habitat of local wildlife when planning our work.

Working in partnership with local environmental consultants ARC and others, we have incorporated small clusters of 'bee tubes' into retaining walls for solitary bees and other insects. Including these features helps to encourage wildlife to flourish by providing suitable habitat.

We have also provided habitat for Ventnor's Wall Lizards which live in the cracks and crevices of the town's many Victorian retaining walls. As repairs take place to ensure the walls' structural integrity, we have built artificial 'caves' into the walls to provide places for the lizards to hide from predators.





Asian Hornet Watch

We partnered with the Isle of Wight Beekeeping Association to train our District Stewards in the identification of invasive Asian Hornets, which pose a risk to Britain's native bee population. Bee experts have briefed our staff on how to identify the unwelcome visitors should they come across them while undertaking their day-to-day work across the Isle of Wight.

Eelevator

As part of maintenance work at Holbrooke's Bridge at Bouldnor near Yarmouth, we worked closely with the Environment Agency, Arc Consulting and Artecology to create an 'eelevator' to help migrating eels to navigate the watercourse beneath the bridge. The specialist textured surface provides a ladder for eels to help them access a nearby pond. Completed in 2018, the project has been a success with the eel population in that area flourishing.



Reducing our carbon footprint – major recycling schemes

Recofoam – recycling highways materials

We are proud to use recycled materials to resurface suitable roads on the Island. Recofoam is produced through a high-tech process of treating old 'blacktop' which is planed off roads prior to being resurfaced. The planed material – which might otherwise be sent off-Island for landfill – is crushed and screened and then blended under pressure with foamed bitumen to produce the recycled surfacing material.

Not only is the whole process undertaken on the Island, reducing transport costs, Recofoam can also be laid cold which further reduces energy use. The whole process is highly regulated and operated under strict permit conditions from the Environment Agency.



Last year we reached a significant milestone, with 250,000 tonnes of recycled surface material – all taken from the Island's highway network - used during the highways PFI programme.

To date the use of Recofoam has saved more than 5,000 tonnes of carbon, which relates to 3.3 million m³, equivalent to filling Wembley stadium three times; or 21 million kw/h which is equivalent to two weeks of all the energy usage on the Isle of Wight.

Grey Water harvesting at our Stag Lane Depot



With regulations requiring wastewater from our gully cleansing programme to be shipped to West Sussex due to a lack of trade effluent treatment facilities on the Island, we recently invested in our own wastewater treatment facilities which has eliminated the need for approximately 116 journeys to West Sussex each year – equating to around 7,424 miles.

The silt and grit sucked from the Island's drain and gully network is taken to our Stag Lane

Depot with 95% re-used or recycled into building materials such as aggregate.

Recycling waste material from our street and gully cleansing treatment process is really important to us. The new solution reduces the number of journeys undertaken, helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

Caring about the countryside

While carrying out our highways maintenance work sometimes we come across creatures in need of help. We assisted in rescuing several ducklings who became stuck down a drain after falling through the grate. Working with the RSPCA, we helped to bring them to safety and were fortunate to be able to be present for their release several weeks later after a period of rehabilitation at the RSPCA's Island rescue centre.

Our staff have also undertaken voluntary work as part of our volunteering scheme, supporting countryside schemes including the clearance of invasive Balsam plants, helping the National Trust with goat herding on Ventnor Downs and landscaping at a rural church to create an area for wildflowers.



Environment film

Watch our short film to find out more about our work to support the environment:
<https://youtu.be/Yj7nByhYkN8>

You can visit our website for more details about any of our services www.islandroads.com