



Hydrock

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CONSULTANTS



DEVELOPING YOUR ESG STRATEGY
OUR APPROACH AND CREDENTIALS

THIS IS HYDROCK

We pride ourselves on developing strategies to help organisations achieve ESG commitments and become climate resilient.

Hydrock is a British-owned environmental and engineering consultancy specialising in the built environment. We deliver environmental due diligence, risk management appraisals and energy and sustainability strategies to help clients understand the risk profile of sites and buildings as assets, and develop appropriate strategies to meet their ESG ambitions for these assets.

We help our clients with the stewardship of their assets:

- » We help determine the baseline carbon emissions in their property portfolios
- » We develop and form implementation strategies for reduction
- » We can audit, design and implement approaches to achieve social value and establish good governance
- » We develop scenario planning models and risk management based on anticipated current and emerging legislative and regulatory mandates
- » We develop path finding or roadmaps that help our clients to develop phased programmes over a sustained period of time

We help our clients develop sustainable, energy efficient and future-proofed property assets that meet net-zero goals, deliver positive health and wellbeing experiences for users and illustrate responsibility towards environmental, social and governance commitments.

HYDROCK – AT A GLANCE



Integrated energy, sustainability and engineering consultancy



600 staff UK-wide



Key locations: London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Glasgow



Member of the UK Green Building Council



Committed to be a net zero business by 2030



Signed up to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)



Seven consecutive listings in 100 Best Large Companies to Work For study

DEFINING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The importance of making a difference and supporting the fight against climate change transcends all parts of business and society. For many of our clients, it's about the stewardship of their assets, recognising and dealing with 'stranded assets', and addressing a multitude of factors, such as a net-zero pathway, a carbon and energy reduction strategy or ESG compliance, all of which are under increasing public scrutiny.

To meet our obligations, we need to accelerate the pace of change at five times the current rate.

The UK has pledged that **all buildings must be net zero by 2050**, but 80% of our existing building stock in the UK will still be in place in 2050

By 2050, it is estimated that there will be **40 million electric vehicles** on the road – we need to **invest in the infrastructure**

The **rate of carbon reduction** required from this point is **30% higher year on year from now to meet 2050 targets**

71% of emissions in the transport sector in 2019 came from passenger cars and light duty vehicles

Buildings currently account for **40% of GHG**, worldwide

Grid peak capacity is 60GW and regularly close to the limit - **peak electricity demand could double** to 120GW by 2050 reflecting why we need to invest in renewable energy, storage technologies and infrastructure reinforcements



WORKING WITH YOU TO DEVELOP AN ESG STRATEGY

At Hydrock, we have the capacity, knowledge and experience to collaborate successfully with your investment teams and asset managers to shape a strategy that maximises assets through each stage of the investment cycle, helping you meet your corporate target and agenda.

With a particular focus on real estate, we can help you develop an approach to ESG that enables you to attract additional private capital investment and improve the performance of your property assets through to divestiture, to eliminate risks and ultimately achieve an enhancement in value.

Here are just some of the skill sets we can bring to help you understand risks and avoid 'stranded assets' in the real estate sector:

- » Sustainable masterplanning
- » Roadmap to net zero
- » Energy efficient building design
- » Decarbonisation strategies
- » Decentralised energy strategies
- » Regulatory compliance, including BREEAM certification
- » Air quality standards
- » Acoustic design to avoid noise and vibration
- » Low carbon and energy efficient building strategies
- » WELL and Passivhaus standards
- » Smart controls
- » Supply chain management to ensure best practice e.g. labour and working conditions, and ethical sourcing
- » Approaches to off-site, modular construction
- » Placemaking
- » Sustainable transport strategies
- » Flood risk assessments and mitigation strategies
- » Waste management strategies
- » Community engagement activities
- » Fire risk management for real estate portfolios
- » Fire safety strategies to meet new regulations
- » Risk management programmes and legal covenants

We will help you to benchmark your real estate assets, identify, manage and mitigate risks, and monitor performance long-term against your goals and targets.



Image courtesy of AHR

Above: Sustainability and employee wellbeing was at the heart of Hydrock's consultancy role on the new UK Hydrographic Office headquarters.

THE PROCESS TO A PATHWAY

We will help you build a thorough and robust strategy, with clear actions for implementation, to help you achieve your optimal pathway to meet your targets and goals.

STEP 1 MOBILISE

- » Assemble the client team
- » Identify who will take responsibility in leading the partnership piece
- » Kickoff meeting
- » Data collection from the client, all partnerships and stakeholders, as relevant

STEP 2

IDENTIFY AND ASSES THE BASELINE

- » Review the current company corporate environmental and social standards, initiatives, disclosures and target setting approaches
- » Evaluate all annual reports
- » Compare ESG metrics and targets with industry peers

STEP 3

MATERIALITY EXERCISE

- » Define purpose and scope
- » Identify and categorise material issues
- » Engage stakeholders
- » Assess and prioritise material issues
- » Validate materiality matrix



STEP 4

DESIGN AND VALIDATE STRATEGY

- » ESG strategy and development
 - » Identify opportunities across the organisation
 - » Design a strategy that will meet agreed KPIs, targets and/or ESG ratings
- » Validate strategy for internal buy-in
 - » Presentation of Strategy to internal team
 - » Support review against business plans, capital planning and target against corporate objectives, priorities, peers, budgets and other constraints and/or opportunities
- » Mandatory and voluntary reporting support

STEP 5

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- » Develop ESG policies to steer the future direction of bidding and the wider company strategy





Image courtesy of AHR

OUR TRACK RECORD

ESG BENCHMARK STUDY ON APEX 1, LONDON

For a joint venture partnership between Vinci and St Modwen, we have delivered an ESG benchmarking study on Apex 1, a 24-storey build to rent development on the south bank of the Thames within the New Covent Garden Market development project. We worked with the developer and contractor to refine their design code and policy requirements to future-proof this major scheme, to align it with future operator requirements. We undertook market testing, reviewed similar schemes and benchmarked against GRESB standards and GRI.

STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR STUDENT LIVING PROVIDER

Acting for a leading student living provider, we have developed an extensive cost model to consider the opportunities and the interdependencies from investing in a range of renewable energy options on the latest phase of student accommodation at a leading university in northern England. The scheme will deliver 850 units over three buildings and our consultancy role has included the development of ESG principles which align with the proposed investment in renewable technologies on this site.

OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP

Hydrock is currently advising a leading global asset management group on energy transformation initiatives across a wide range of sites, many of which they have acquired in recent times in the retail, leisure and warehousing sectors.

We are assessing the potential to transform the use of the sites with a particular focus on achieving decarbonisation and energy abatement enabling a positive contribution to their surrounding communities from investment in a range of energy initiatives, including revenue and cost saving measures.

LOCAL AUTHORITY NET-ZERO STUDY

Portfolio review of energy demand completed for a local authority serving 435,000 people. Low or zero carbon technology interventions have been considered to help achieve the target of zero emissions from operational energy consumption by 2030.

Using a phased approach, our strategy prioritised the most cost-effective solutions for carbon reduction. Our work includes generating a capital cost plan alongside a review of payback for each intervention to aid preparation of a business case and programme for installation.



OUR TRACK RECORD *CONTINUED*

CARBON NEUTRAL HOUSING PROGRAMME, LONDON

We are setting the sustainability agenda and principles on residential sites for a leading London borough – the largest local authority landowner in the UK.

Our role is part of their pledge to go carbon neutral by 2030. As part of their wider new-build affordable housing programme, which will create more than 43,000 homes, our advice is focused on targeting zero carbon measures, setting a framework for the schemes to meet Passivhaus compliance, and establishing a process to achieve efficiencies through operational energy and lifecycle cost modelling.

TRANSFORMING A UNIVERSITY'S ESTATE PORTFOLIO

We are the carbon consultant for a leading north-west university as they develop their plans to create a new central hub for their facilities and rationalise existing property assets.

Our team is helping the university to develop a net-zero strategy across all their operations and advising on the commercial case which feeds into their outline business case to secure funding for the transformation of their facilities.

ESG STRATEGY FOR SCIENCE-BASED CHARITY

We have developed a net-zero roadmap and an ESG strategy to support the business operations of a leading southern-based science, arts and education charity.

Through data collection we have assessed their current position and provided robust practical advice to develop and validate their core corporate aims linked to the UN sustainability goals. Our advice will help enable and facilitate change through a diverse mix of programmes including climate change, labour management and board incentives.

Image courtesy of AHR



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LET'S TALK

To discuss your ideas and our capabilities further, please contact:



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