

Thames

Reinforcements Ltd

Sustainability
Report
2019



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1. Introduction

Thames Reinforcements are suppliers of cut & bent reinforcing steel to the construction industry.

We are based in Sheerness, Kent. Our state of the art factory is a purpose built rebar plant with a production capacity of 1500 tonnes of CARES approved cut & bent reinforcement every week.

We have a sales and production team who between them have a wealth of experience and who are dedicated to giving each and every order received 100% of their attention no matter how small or large.

Thames Reinforcements is committed and determined to provide a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and other stakeholders including those who may be affected by our actions.

Our commitment to the future means we are continually seeking to improve ourselves, whether this be by achieving additional accreditation for our processes or investing further in staff training, modern technology and new machinery.

Sustainability is embedded at all levels of our organization and business practices, we strive to be open and transparent and with that in mind have produced this report to communicate our key performances for 2019.

We actively encourage all our employees to participate in all aspects of sustainability and highlight those activities that they can impact upon such as correct waste disposal stream, this is reinforced throughout the company and applies to visitors & contractors alike.

The primary aim of this report is to focus on the activities of Thames Reinforcements and to provide transparency to stakeholders by providing them with information on our sustainability performance and to assure them of our continued efforts to improve in areas such as:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste and recycling performance
- Health and Safety performance
- Raw materials usage
- Transport activities
- Employee skills
- Local community impact

All data is reported in units per tonne of finished product.

2. Accreditations

Thames Reinforcements hold the following accreditations through UK CARES for the following management systems, all certificates are available on our website as a download:

Product Conformity	Certificate No 070703
ISO 9001 (Quality)	Certificate No 1561
ISO 14001 (Environmental)	Certificate No 1199
ISO 45001 (Health & Safety)	Certificate No 1703
Sustainability	Certificate No 1293
BES6001	Certificate No 1474

3. Policies

In order to operate in line with our management system, we have policies in place. We have ensured these policies are achievable by issuing company procedures and setting objectives & targets which are aimed at achieving goals. All policies listed below are available on our website as a download:

- Integrated Management Policy
- Anti-Bribery & Corruption
- Equal Opportunities
- Sustainability
- Modern Slavery Policy & Statement

4. Product Sustainability

As previously mentioned the primary purpose of this report is to focus on the activities of Thames Reinforcements and the Company's sustainable maturity, there are however impacts that are incurred during the production of steel and it is important to adapt a whole life cycle approach when assessing the environmental, social & economic impacts of our activities.

We purchase steel from suppliers that use the EAF process method (electric arc furnace), on average the recycled content is 98% with the other 2% being made up of ferryl-alloys and minerals which are added to remove the impurities from steel.

Steel produced using the EAF method emits approximately one sixth of the Co2 and produces around half the volume of waste when compared with material made using the blast furnace method.

Reinforcing steel is recycled at end of life with typically over 90% being recycled. Disposal of any of this material will have minimal impact on the environment due to its inert nature.

5. Waste

The majority of waste produced by Thames Reinforcements is scrap metal which is 100% recycled, even with this in mind we do have a target to try and reduce the volume of scrap by 5% year on year. We aim to achieve this by ensuring we have a good supply of all sizes & lengths of material, by working with third party handlers (such as ports & mills) to prevent damage material whilst being handled.

We have a highly skilled, well-trained workforce with many years of experience who are extremely knowledgeable in material utilisation to minimise the volume of 'off-cuts' produced.

For other waste produced on site, we reuse where we can but where this is not practicable we segregate waste. We only use an authorised waste carrier that diverts all waste from landfill which falls in line with our waste plan.

Waste figures are monitored and recorded monthly.

6. Greenhouse Gases (GHG) & Energy

Thames Reinforcements are committed to reducing our emissions to as low a level as possible. We have changed our lighting, we maintain all plant and equipment to ensure it's as energy efficient as possible, we turn off equipment when not being used and ensure all engines are switched off and not left idling when not in use.

Energy consumption is monitored and recorded monthly.

7. Water

Thames Reinforcements do not abstract water or use water in any of our processes. However, as we do use water for sanitary purposes; we ensure all employees are made aware of the need to conserve water by not leaving taps running and reporting leaks immediately.

Water consumption is monitored and recorded monthly.

8. Transportation of Steel for Processing & Finished Product

Thames Reinforcements purchase steel from mills that hold a valid sustainability accreditation.

Any steel arriving from outside of the UK arrives by sea to a local port which is only 1.5km from our factory; thereby reducing the road freight distance the material has to travel which has the added benefit of reducing our Co2 emissions.

Our delivery fleet are all Euro 6 compliant which requires the diesel engines to emit less than 80mg/km of NOx.

We are accredited by the Fleet Operators Recognition Scheme (FORS) Gold standard.

9. Employee Skills and Training

Thames Reinforcements acknowledge that highly trained and skilled workers can lead to better performance which benefits the company, employee and ultimately the customer. We have a system in place which monitors the training received by each employee, it identifies the need for individual training and offers training courses either internally or externally based upon the requirements. With a wealth of knowledge across the group we are able to offer in-house training for 90% of our training requirements.

Training hours monitored and recorded monthly

10. Stakeholders/Local Community

Thames Reinforcements have identified their stakeholders and mapped the expectation, interaction and involvement of each. The views and concerns of our stakeholders are important to us and we aim wherever possible to take these into account when making any business decisions.

We engage directly with our stakeholders via email, through questionnaires, on the phone or face to face. We have also made available online forms should anyone wish to contact us. In 2019 we received no complaints relating to the environment or sustainability.

We aim to have a positive impact on the local community; over 90% of our employees are sourced locally and we try where possible to use other local businesses – such as ports or engineering firms all of which increases the employment opportunities for the area.

We support charities, some of which have direct links to our employees who are encouraged to highlight any good causes that we may be able to help. Recent examples including Cancer Research UK, Demelza House and Absolute Bull Terriers.

11. Key Performances for 2019



