



Centre of Excellence
for Decarbonising Roads

Q2 REFLECTION 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Welcome back to our newsletter looking at the second quarter of 2026 for the Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads (CEDR), a Live Labs 2: decarbonising local roads theme – part of the ADEPT Live Labs 2: decarbonising local roads programme, a three year £30 million UK-wide initiative, funded by the Department for Transport that aims to decarbonise the local highway network.

UK CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MATERIALS

A hub for research and innovation for the decarbonisation of local roads materials, developing a knowledge bank, real-life conditions testing and sharing and learning insights.

Lead Local Highways Authorities (LHAs):

North Lanarkshire Council & Transport for West Midlands.

In this issue, you will find the latest highlights, trials, evaluations, and thought leadership from the Centre.

Highlights of the quarter

North Campus Final Report

March saw the completion of this Live Labs 2 project, marking a significant milestone for the local roads sector. Using the past 3 years to move from concept to reality and demonstrate how local authorities (LAs) can lead national progress toward reducing carbon and increasing resilience in road maintenance and construction, the project has fundamentally shifted existing attitudes towards net-zero journeys in the roads and transport industry.

The introduction of the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads Knowledge Bank created a trusted national platform that brings together standards development, knowledge management, a cloud-based evidence repository, and sector-wide measurement and evaluation. Throughout the years this has grown from a local initiative into a resource that provides LAs across the UK with support in their push to lower carbon, reducing duplication, accelerating adoption of proven materials, and improving public value.

Enabled by Live Labs 2, North Lanarkshire has demonstrated how local authorities can deliver meaningful reductions in embodied and whole-life carbon, enhance resilience to climate change, and embed innovation into everyday operations.

The project's legacy is already influential across the UK local roads industry, shaping procurement decisions, material specifications, and strategic planning. Read our North Campus' final report [here](#)



DfT Special Recognition Award

Good news! In June, our Carbon Lead Annabelle Farrington won the Department for Transport's Special Recognition Apprentice Award. Shining a spotlight on talented and ambitious apprentices, this award recognises promising young professionals who are clearly motivated to positively impact their industry.

Judges commented on Annabelle's performance, stating 'The judges were particularly impressed with the international element of her work and her role as subject matter leadership within Amey.'

We're incredibly proud, well done Annabelle, we can't wait to see how you shape the industry during your career.



Recent events

ADEPT Spring Conference 2026



The ADEPT Spring Conference brings opportunity for senior leaders from local authorities and partner organisations to connect, and features perspectives from numerous seasoned and insightful industry leaders, providing a platform to explore how our networks can develop in response to shifting policy, environmental and economic challenges.

In May, Elaine Nicol Road Maintenance Manager and Joseph Webster Carbon Reduction Project Coordinator Apprentice attended the conference, representing the Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads Live Lab. Joining the panel, the pair discussed the initial problem faced by local authorities and their net zero ambitions. They then shared actions taken by the project to address the issue before discussing the learnings and successes, and how this can be scaled for local authorities across the UK.



SCOTS Annual General Meeting

The SCOTS Annual General Meeting brought together transportation leaders from across Scotland's 32 local authorities to reflect on progress, share best practice, and shape future priorities for the road network. As a key forum for collaboration between local authorities, the event provided valuable insight into current challenges and opportunities, particularly around sustainability, innovation, and asset management.

Whilst at the event, our team presented, sharing the background of the Centre of Excellence project. They then provided insight into how we assess carbon across the project, including our recently developed FHRG carbon tool, before taking a deep dive into our North Campus SuperSite trial, exploring it from an operational perspective, highlighting successes, challenges, and key lessons learned.



LCRIG Innovation and Learning Festival



In June, our team exhibited at the LCRIG Innovation and Learning Festival in Coventry. Spanning two days, this festival brought the sector together with the aim of inspiring change to business as usual practices of carbon reduction in road maintenance.

During the festival, our team discussed the Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads project, trial progress of product innovations and the purpose of our knowledge bank. Speaking with local authorities, suppliers and industry leaders we had many meaningful conversations discussing barriers to adoption, product life-span and risk.

Joining the other Live Labs at the event, colleagues, Lauren SeBlonka Principal Business Improvement Manager and Alexandra Morgan Project Manager, delivered a short presentation on the Centre. They explored the span of our recent trials across the nation, detailed the benefits of our sandbox and promoted our knowledge bank.

The festival provided a valuable opportunity to share insights, learn from others across the sector, and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders. Through these discussions, we continue to build momentum behind the adoption of low-carbon solutions, helping to accelerate the decarbonisation of road maintenance and support a more sustainable future for the UK's road network.



RECENT TRIALS

PRG Scotland

In May, we supported our Sandbox SME, PRG Scotland Ltd, in trialling their low-carbon innovation on North Lanarkshire's local roads.

Using end-of-life tyres, PRG Scotland Ltd's process recycles these waste products into:

- Recovered Carbon Black (rCB)
- Fuel-oil fractions
- Steel
- Syngas

Sandbox evaluations demonstrated the potential for increased material service life while reducing embodied carbon.

Building on these promising results, trial patches have now been installed across North Lanarkshire Council's road network to evaluate performance under real-world conditions.

This is a key step in bringing innovative, low-carbon road solutions from testing into real-world application.





Quarterly Spotlight

Febin Fathima

Carbon Analyst

Can you describe your role as Carbon Analyst?

I work as a Carbon Analyst within the Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads, where I support local authorities across the West Midlands to understand, measure, and reduce carbon emissions from highway and infrastructure activities. A key part of my role involves carrying out carbon evaluations for the decarbonisation trials we've delivered, assessing their environmental impact and translating the results into practical insights. I analyse carbon data, develop evidence-based findings, and work closely with local authority teams to embed decarbonisation into decision-making, programmes, and delivery models.

What inspired you to pursue this career?

I was inspired by the opportunity to apply data analysis to real-world challenges that have a clear environmental impact. Decarbonising roads and infrastructure is a complex, high-impact area, and being able to support local authorities at a regional level where policy meets delivery really motivated me. I wanted a role where analytical skills could directly contribute to climate action and long-term, sustainable transport networks.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing tangible progress in how local authorities approach carbon reduction. Supporting councils through the Carbon Leadership Programme and helping them achieve certification has been particularly fulfilling, as it builds long-term capability rather than just delivering one-off analyses. It's encouraging to see increased confidence, consistency, and ambition when it comes to decarbonisation, and to know that the work we do helps enable meaningful, lasting change across the region.

Upcoming Events

LCRIG Strictly Highways, England **6th - 8th October 2026**

This event brings together local authorities and supply chain partners from across the roads sector, providing an opportunity to share innovations and experiences. The 3 day conference focuses on creating greener roads and increasing road resilience. We'll be there, sharing our mission to help local authorities lower their road maintenance carbon. Visit us at stand 34.

Highways UK, England **14th - 15th October 2026**

Across two days, Highways UK hosts approximately 360 exhibitors from across the globe, each attending to share their innovations and develop their approaches as they learn from industry partners. Visit us at the event to discuss how we are shaping low-carbon innovations.

Road Expo Scotland **24th - 25th November 2026**

As Scotland's biggest roads, transport and traffic event, this exhibition brings together professionals from the industry to explore new technologies and innovations introduced to the sector. With attendance from local authorities, supply chain and local government visitors have the opportunity to hear evaluations of major projects. Visit us at stand C15 to learn about our contribution to the road sector.

What's next?

- ADEPT are hosting monthly triage sessions for local authorities to receive guidance on their problems and challenges within adopting low-carbon solutions.
- We will continue working with our Sandbox SME **DMAT** to trial their next-generation concrete and mortars in North Lanarkshire, Scotland.

If you'd like to learn more about how the CEDR Knowledge Bank can help your local authority with low-carbon material adoption on existing budgets contact us to organise a Connect and Collab session.



<https://decarbonisingroads.co.uk>