

C15 Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads



# Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads

## Quarterly Newsletter

Q4 2025 Reflection

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Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter looking at the final quarter of 2025 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

## Routes to Work | STEM Workshops

As awareness of climate change grows, so does demand and interest in careers that help fight its impact. Celebrating Green Careers Week, our team visited two Routes to Work youth groups in North Lanarkshire – a charity supporting residents into employment or further education.

Lauren SeBlonka, Alexandra Morgan, Paul Brown and Alisha McKinlay shared their career journeys and day-to-day roles in the roads industry, highlighting the sector's diverse opportunities. Students also explored CEDR and participated in a brainstorming session, exploring low-carbon solutions for street lighting, line-marking, winter maintenance and pothole repair.

Ideas flowed, ranging from glow-in-the-dark paint for line-marking to car-sharing initiatives and soil-balancing techniques. The creativity and enthusiasm from the students were contagious and a reminder of the power the next generation hold in shaping a greener future.



## Blue Coats Academy and Shire Oaks Academy Careers Fairs

In December, our Carbon Reduction Project Coordinator, Joe Webster, visited students at Blue Coats Academy and Shire Oaks Academy to introduce them to The Centre and our vision for a more sustainable future. He spoke about our journey so far, our commitment to developing resilient, low-carbon infrastructure, and the wide range of roles involved in delivering the project.

The pupils were highly engaged and showed real curiosity about the transport career paths they could follow to help shape a low-carbon future.



# Recent events

## Highways UK

In October, our team visited Birmingham to attend the Highways UK event. Dedicated to the roads and highways sector, this event brings together industry leaders from across infrastructure, transport and technology.

Throughout the event we connected with many stakeholders, gained insight on upcoming innovations and explored the future of roads as our Business Innovation Partner, Lauren SeBlonka joined the panel discussing how improved infrastructure can support equality in communities.





## Road Expo

In November, our North Campus team attended Road Expo Scotland in Glasgow.

Across the two days our team interacted with industry leaders and key stakeholders, sharing the ambitions of The Centre. Attendance gave visitors the opportunity to enhance their understanding of The Centre, learn of recent trials and experience first-hand demonstrations of the Knowledge Bank.





# Recent trials

## ECOPALS

Testing in Motherwell, Scotland, we conducted the first UK trial of Ecopals' product, EcoFlakes - an asphalt additive made from recycled polymers. Asphalt typically requires large amounts of raw materials to meet modern performance demands. Meanwhile, the volume of EcoFlakes used in this project alone recycles plastic equivalent to the consumption of six households.



in progress



final result

# Quarterly Spotlight

## Joseph Kimberly

Project Manager

### Can you describe your role as Innovation Manager for the South Campus?

I am the Project Manager for the CEDR Live Lab South Campus, coordinating and running the programme day to day in partnership with the programme lead from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). I oversee planning, scheduling, delivering trials, and arranging evaluation with independent third-party experts.

Alongside managing budgets, contracts, partners and suppliers, I bring together the technical, operational and stakeholder elements to ensure the campus functions smoothly and delivers meaningful innovation. My technical background allows me to approach decisions with rigour, and the ethical framework we operate under means I carry out the role as an impartial extension of the TfWM team.



### What inspired you to pursue this career?

I've always loved turning practical problems into workable solutions. The highways sector is a big challenge—quite a “dirty” industry—yet it has immense potential to decarbonise and cut its footprint. That mix of real-world impact and sustainability potential drew me to this field and to the CEDR Live Labs. I'm motivated by opportunities to blend technical know-how with forward-thinking approaches that improve how places function and how people move.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing trials and innovations translate into real benefits is incredibly rewarding—better data for decision-makers, smoother operations, and improved journeys for people using the road network. I'm proud to help ensure we meet high technical and sustainability standards, and that our work can inform policy or be scaled up beyond the campus. Working with a diverse group of stakeholders, navigating priorities, and finding solutions that everyone can get behind keeps the role dynamic and deeply fulfilling. The knowledge that our efforts can drive meaningful, lasting change in the sector is what keeps me going.



# Upcoming events

## **Interchange**

3rd – 4th March, 2026

Manchester, England

The roads industry is driving towards change, and in recognition the 2026 Interchange conference will bring together sector leaders to discuss the navigation of these impactful changes.

Across the two-day event, Interchange will explore core themes as business experts, government ministers and academics delve into impacts of environment, digital and data, energy and more.

[Register](#)

## **PIARC Chambery**

10th – 13th March 26, 2026

Chambery, France

This event is a platform for collaboration between industry experts and leading innovators to influence the future and resilience of road infrastructure and take sustainability forward. Exploring this year's theme "**Ensuring road excellence in all seasons**", the event will highlight cutting-edge practices in winter service, climate adaptation, and decarbonisation strategies.

[Register](#)

## **Connected Places Summit**

18th – 19th March 26, 2026

London, England

The Connected Places Summit is the UK's leading event for showcasing leading industry talent and technological advancements influencing the transport, infrastructure and construction industries. The summit brings together global experts, discussing the industry future and the path increasing sustainability.

[Register](#)

## **LCRIG Innovation and Learning Festival**

24th – 25th June 2026, 2026

Kenilworth, England

The LCRIG Innovation and Learning Festival creates an opportunity for industry professionals from the transport, roads and technology sectors to connect with local authorities and suppliers, discussing innovations, explore learnings and develop collaborations.

[Register](#)

# What to expect in next quarter's newsletter

- Development of an AI enhanced user platform within our Knowledge Bank to allow local authorities and other users to post and respond to questions, comments, and discussions.
- Phase 2 of multiple trials.
- Collab and Connect sessions.

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# Contact Us

Get in touch with our team to discuss the Centre.

[Enquiry Form](#)

# Share Your Innovation

Submit your low-carbon solution for consideration within our materials testing programme.

[Innovators Form](#)



[Visit our website](#)



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