

CEEQUAL provides a helping hand

Clean drinking water. Reading at night. Talking to a friend in Australia. Getting from Manchester to London in two hours. These are all “luxuries” created by civil engineers that we now take for granted.

But civil engineers also give us traffic cones, single lane motorways and rail replacement buses. So civil engineering enhances our lives long term but can disrupt many of our lives every day. Can we honestly say that we would give up the benefits for the sake of a little more patience at roadworks?

Sustainability is the target

If carried out responsibly, civil engineering can create wonderful additions to everyday life. Carried out incorrectly, it can do more harm than good. So project teams need to adhere to industry best practice and not just the legal minimum. Using CEEQUAL is a route to achieving this goal.

With a track record of almost 10 years’ operation, and developed with the support of the Institution of Civil Engineers, CEEQUAL has established a sustainability assessment and rating system that is applicable to all civil engineering projects and contracts. CEEQUAL encourages clients, designers and contractors to go beyond legal and environmental minima to achieve distinctive environmental and social performance in their work.

Over 400 projects (>£20 billion of construction value) have used, or are currently using, CEEQUAL to help them achieve industry best practice and to assess how well they have performed their work.

Many project teams have reported how CEEQUAL has heavily influenced the sustainability of their project’s – and even their company’s – practice.

In practice

Castleford Footbridge project in West Yorkshire is part of an urban renewal scheme and was assessed using CEEQUAL. This £4.8 million landmark helped to spark regeneration in this former coal-mining town. Construction activities always trigger a risk to the surrounding environment, in this case river pollution and disruption.

As suggested in the CEEQUAL assessment manual, early consultation with the Environment Agency

allowed concerns about potential pollution, risk of flooding and ecological protection to be fully understood. Environmental plans were identified and considered from site specific environmental aspects, and the concerns of the Environment Agency influenced detailed control measures that mitigated these risks. Sustainability was also a major driver in the project specification, enhanced by CEEQUAL’s rigorous questions.

Another project that excelled using CEEQUAL is the A58 diversion scheme. St Helens in Merseyside was

once victim to more than 20,000 vehicles a day congesting its streets, until the scheme relieved residents of this intense nuisance. Although the solution benefited residents, the bypass had to be built through a Stanley Bank, a site of special scientific interest, and a semi-natural ancient woodland.

A proactive approach to project sustainability ensured environmental issues were a “must have” rather than a statutory bolt-on. CEEQUAL helped the team achieve this.

Many processes were introduced to ensure environmental issues remained at the forefront of the project. Central were the construction environmental management plans and site waste management plans (SWMP). Using

industry guidance, the SWMP was developed and implemented on a voluntary basis by the project team to deliver best practice with 76% of total waste recycled, habitat area created and retained, and an overall resident satisfaction of 95%.

The verdict

By using independent sustainability assessment tools like CEEQUAL, project teams can improve their ethos and, ultimately, their decision making when planning projects. Such tools can open their eyes to the wider repercussions that may be caused, which ultimately can have economic benefits in the long and short term. Managed effectively, civil engineering has every opportunity to provide a sustainable legacy.



Thameslink programme, Farringdon Station redevelopment achieved an ‘Excellent (90%)’ rated CEEQUAL award.



Talk to us at CEEQUAL | 020 3137 2379
support@ceequal.com or visit
www.ceequal.com for more information.

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