

Constructing Environmental Sustainability
Kings Cross, London & Pertwood, Wiltshire
 JV – Kier, Global Generation & BAM Construction

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

Constructing Environmental Sustainability was community engagement project based on the up skilling of staff members across 3 companies with the assistance of Global Generation.

Global Generation are a local charity in the Kings Cross area who specialises in urban sustainability issues and run the ‘Skip Gardens’ on the 64sqare acre Argent development.

Kier Major Projects approached the Global Generation team and asked them if they would consider a tailor made sustainably course specifically aimed at the construction industry.

The training covered aspects of environmental, biodiversity and sustainably issues that arise on construction sites. Global Generation where happy to take up the challenge and agreed to host the training on an organic farm in Wiltshire.

The 3 day course was attended by 11 staff from the Major Projects diversion of Kier, Kier London and BAM. The cost of the project



Photo: Kier staff members on 3 day training course

was £7000 which went to Global Generation in its entirety.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There is little or no biodiversity on any of the constructions sites prior to enhancements as all sites have been deemed of low ecological value.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

There were no specific conditions that needed to be met. The project was undertaken purely to help motivate and improve

people’s understanding of why sustainability, environmental and biodiversity improvements on constructions sites is so important and vital.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The project is repeatable and the plan is to organise follow up courses for the attendees and arranging new dates for others in Kier’s respective companies who would also benefit. In addition, Global Generation have taken the initial model and have facilitated other training experiences for a variety of sectors, including teacher training and corporate

identities. The biodiversity enhancements and improvements are numerous, the attendees where from all over the country and all work on different construction sites, each of them has been challenged to take up the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and implement what they have learnt from the training on their own sites.

Constructing Environmental Sustainability is an innovative measure for all 4 principle companies involved. Global Generation had never facilitated training that was specific to the industry before, Kier Major Projects, Kier London and BAM had never approached a charity for this type of event before.

The training itself was practical and hands on. Camping took place in tents in the woodland; the site itself is an SSI. It has Neolithic burial mounds and a Stonehenge. Many of the participants had never gone camping before and have grown up in highly urbanised areas.

The training exposed them in a very real way to the natural world; it gave them a better appreciation for the world around them and how as construction professional they are responsible for its wellbeing.



Photo: Attendees on the 3 day training course



Photo: Attendees on the 3 day training course

John Hutton from BAM described the experience as 'building an army for good'.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The training covered many aspects and involved the following: Learning to think big through the scientific story of how the environment was created.

Going back in time to the lives of our early ancestors, understanding how they lived on the land, considering where the materials we work with come from.

An exploration of sticks and stones, working with stone, whittling and working with wood, how to make your own tools Helping to understand interconnections and interdependence between things, looking, listening and learning about bio-diversity A Client Brief: Design a new element for the Pertwood camp that uses local materials, respects and supports bio-diversity and gives an engaging educational message.

A variety of projects for the campsite was discussed and these discussions are still on-going.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The majority of attendees have been raised in urban, high residential areas; many have never even been outside of their home city before.

How can the younger generation be encouraged to enhance biodiversity and take care of the natural environment, when they have never even seen it?



Photo: Attendees on the 3 day training course