



Sustainability Report

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Carbon Declaration

Background: H.M. Government have announced a target of reducing (slashing) emissions by 78% by 2035 and net zero by 2050:

Optimus Access Limited have made a decision to decarbonise the supply chain in time before this target and are also working towards a high impact this decade

Strategy: To quantify, reduce and offset our carbon footprint which will be calculated in accordance with the greenhouse gas protocol standard (CO₂e).

The company will be working with our governing body (industry), The Scaffolding Association, to, in due course be audited by them on the action taken and ongoing targets towards neutrality.

The company are in the process of implementing various programs and plans that include:

*All commercial vehicles including HGV's (44Tonne to 3.5Tonne) fork lifts being converted to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) a fuel that eliminates up to 90% of net co₂ and significantly reduces nitrogen oxide(nox) and carbon monoxide (co₂) emissions. The fuel meets EN15940 standards.

*The company will be providing the fuel to the vehicles from a self contained tank in our yard to assist the emission target even further.

*Company fossil fuel vans to be reduced by 90% to electric

*Company owned staff vehicles to be replaced by carbon friendly replacements (hybrid/electric)



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Carbon Declaration

- *All yard and office lighting to be replaced with led equivalents
- *Sensors fitted in safe areas so that lighting is switched off when not in use
- *All electrical appliances used when at an end to be replaced with the most up to date appropriate energy efficient models
- *All I.T. equipment to be updated with energy saving switch off modes when not used
- *Not to offset via tree purchase/planting but to manage and reduce legitimately our footprint
- *Staff training to include CO2 awareness and the ethos of the company
- *To contact our supply chain and monitor their carbon policies/ procedures. If required help these companies introduce this into their business.

Social Policy

*We have been invited by our industry governing body (The Scaffolding Association) to sit on their “think tank” and they have asked for our input for all members to share in our industry first mental health awareness and well-being program (The initiative is named Your Well-being) that we have implemented and assist our workforce with, especially following the pandemic and the issues this has given rise to. We believe that this initiative is novel and a leader in our industry. We are also happy to share this with our suppliers and our customers so that it reaches as many people as possible. We have outlined this initiative in more detail later in this sustainability report.

*We facilitate diversity of thought by inviting input by all our staff.

*Our staff are trained to the highest industry standard possible in safety to prevent minimal and life endangering injuries. Our workforce arriving home safely is our number 1 priority. An example of this safety record is our project at The Shell Building, where we have recently reached the **milestone of 1.5 million working hours without incident!**

*We have partnered with a martial arts club/organisation with ties to their community providing separate free lessons via the childrens society, a registered charity, to less fortunate families, free safety classes especially for females in situational awareness and physical danger training.

*We have provided a vehicle to the club to enable them to travel to events, and to visit organisations with equipment and students to teach and also compete. the club have england internationals who travel around the uk and internationally. We provide funding via sponsorship to assist these athletes.



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*We also provide sponsorship to enable the club to provide reduced/free lessons to less fortunate families and uniforms and equipment to those who cannot afford them.



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Governance

To comply with the ethos of the company and the items referred to in this document (above) we are regularly audited by 3rd party (independent) auditors of our customers to ensure compliance with the standards our customers insist upon.

We have taken onto our board an experienced director who was previously the Company Secretary and HR director of 2 (at separate times) of the english company subsidiaries of multi-national companies. This is to strengthen our compliance area and bring some external industry thoughts and knowledge.

The board's view is that this document shows areas of responsibility that the company will use as a method of moving forward as an up to date responsible supplier and employer with a tie to the community/ies.

Your Well-Being



The "Your Well-Being" program is a simple framework that has been specifically designed to be able to help with the early detection of potential well-being issues in staff. While also providing a structure and set protocols for management to follow should a potential issue be identified.

We wanted a system in place that gave us better tools to be able to help any of our staff who may encounter problems. But it was important to us, that whatever we designed, wasn't to put extra burden on the staff. In the past predominantly well-being programs have just meant lots of box ticking, nothing of any substance. We weren't happy with that; our staff are our greatest asset, so we wanted to be proactive and ensure we had a better structure in place.

Although the full details of the program cannot be released publicly to protect the confidential integrity of the program. The initiative is based on a simple traffic light system. With the differing levels triggering specific protocols. Some are a simple increase in monitoring, whereas others require seeking and referring professional help. The framework allows the management team to react quicker if the need arises, rather than a problem arising then trying to figure out the best course of action.

Your Well-Being

The program is designed to help identify potential issues across 4 main risk categories; Emotional, Physical, Financial & Social.

Confidentiality is obviously paramount, and we had to make sure that whatever we ended up with did not isolate anyone. Well-being is such a broad topic and all of us, at some stage have issues in our lives that would be deemed a potential well-being issue. Whether that be a loss of a relative, a breakdown of a relationship, ill health or even addiction. Most of these problems sort themselves out with no need for extra support or intervention. But occasionally these issues can have bigger & lasting effects. The "Your Well-Being" program gives us the ability to proactively identify and support anyone who may need it. It will operate in such a way that each member of staff will be unaware of the level they are on, this is so there is no stigma attached to it. The last thing we want to do is drive any issues deeper.

Well-being issues, especially around Mental Health have had more column inches than ever before, but it is a misconception that this is a new problem. There have always been these issues but as an industry we are now better at recognising them than we have been in the past. One of the core problems is that intervention tends to be reactive, not proactive and that is what we wanted to set about changing.

The benefit of the collaboration with The Scaffolding Association is it pooled the expertise of the staff from the two organisations. More people working together on the problem, the better the end result. Plus, we wanted to make sure it was designed in a way that it could be useful for other companies.



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Your Well-Being

Laying the foundations for other companies to adapt a similar program was one of the key objectives set on the outset.

Of course, no system is ever 100% perfect and with the way of life as we know it changing at a faster rate now than ever before, it is important to keep the program under constant review.

The Your Well-Being program also shows a commitment to increasing awareness around potential issues. As well as giving our staff confidence that any issues will be treated confidentially & seriously.



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Case Studies

Project Details: The Shell Building

Client: Overbury

Shell tower Belvedere Road, Waterloo was one of our most technical complex projects to date, it took 6 months to erect the front elevation alone which was an amazing feat of Engineering, design and hard work.

It has a varied range of different scaffolds on this project from access towers, hoists towers, cradle gantry's, cantilever roof scaffolds, hanging scaffolds, backing propping to support the front elevation and every different type of scaffold you could name. But with every complex problem is a solution and the team managed to find a solution to all of them.

The team we had on the project went above and beyond to meet the clients needs. The client was over the moon with OAL with the quality of work & the outcome and shared many letters, emails and communications with OAL about the brilliance of such a complex job.

We take great pride in every job we do but this one had a special meaning with it being an iconic building in the heart of London.



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Case Studies

Project Details: Bear Grylls Survival Race Mountain

The Bear Grylls survival race project was one of our most interesting projects, it had varied range of obstacles to overcome:

The first was creating a design to replicate different terrain (mountain, jungle, artic, desert) but that could take the strain of thousands of people climbing over it.

The second was being able to erect and strike the scaffold on a timeline before the next race started which with our special projects team was always done and complete at least four days before the race.

The third was transporting material between London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Winton.

We completed every event without any issues but always had a team on stand by in case any problems arose.

The bonus of this job was the team getting a chance to meet 'Bear' and have a chat with him, where he was very grateful with all the hard work OAL put in.



Case Studies

Project Details: IRIS Software HQ, Heathrow Approach

Client: Bradford Watts

The IRIS software groups main HQ was in need of re-cladding to high level area and the roof soffit repair due to weather damage. The building is 25 metres high and encased in glass. a particular challenge that we had to overcome was finding a way of building the scaffold without being able to tie to the building due to the glass frontage. We had to maintain access to the building entrances & exits for staff at all times.

This scaffold required a different approach than traditional scaffolding methods, due to the complete glass facade we were unable to physically tie the scaffold to the building. We decided the best solution for this was to go with a free standing access scaffold with a huge footprint to allow re-cladding works to take place on the front. On the back elevation where we needed to keep as much floor space open and accessible as possible, we decided on a beamed access scaffold and on the balconies we installed Cantilevered access scaffold with Kentledge to keep it fixed In position. We also provided and installed two goods hoists to assist with the transfer of damage cladding from high levels to the ground and provided on site hoist training to the operatives.



Community Projects

DIY SOS - ARLO'S ARMY

In October 2018 Optimus Access supplied scaffolding and scaffolders to assist Nick Knowles and the rest of the DIY SOS team in helping the family of two-year-old Arlo Newcomb.

Arlo, who was born with a rare lung disease, had lived in Kings College Hospital since birth and needed 24/7 oxygen and the DIY SOS team set about building an extension on Arlo's family home and redesigning the ground floor so it's more suitable for his needs.

The family and the supporters dubbed "Arlo's Army" were speechless when they saw the transformation, that ultimately brought Arlo home for good.

It was a huge honour for us to assist on this project, from the moment we heard about Arlo's situation we knew we wanted to help. Becoming a member of Arlo's Army is one of the most rewarding things we have ever done!



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Community Projects

THE MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE

Supporting youths in the community is a priority for Optimus Access. Providing financial support to local community centred clubs allows for greater opportunities, and great opportunities lead to better futures.

That's why for the past 5 years we have sponsored The Martial Arts Centre, in Braintree. At The Martial Arts Centre (TMAC), they practice Shotokan Karate, Kickboxing, Royce Gracie Jiu Jitsu and Krav Maga. TMAC is also the only Dojo in the country that offers the above styles with the affiliations.

TMAC run a number of classes in various styles for ages from aged 4 to 99! They have produced multiple champions in multiple codes but more importantly has provided a stable place of discipline for many, both young and old.

Please see the latest letter on the next page from the Chief Instructor with the latest update of how our sponsorship is used within the club.



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22nd June 2022

Todd Winter
Optimus Access Ltd
High Field Works
Dering Industrial Estate, Dering Way
Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2FP

Dear Todd

Re: Sponsorship of The Martial Arts Centre

I would like to firstly thank you for your support, and also bring you up to date with our squad training and achievements.

Our squad is now back training regularly following the lifting of Covid restrictions. We have invited some of our junior members to the competition specific sessions. They are progressing well and we will be entering them into small local events to gain experience just as we did with our senior members. This will be a long term project but one that we believe will produce some good athletes. Our competition squad is expected to get even bigger as it is a plan to have a Kickboxing section to run alongside our Karate section. The success of our squad assists our other members as our senior squad athletes train alongside them and give them pointers how to improve their training.

We have been fortunate to have had 3 of our members selected for the forthcoming W.U.K.F. World Karate Championships in Ft. Lauderdale Florida that takes place in July this year. Evie Higgon, Isla Scott and Abbie Sutton, already Internationals at cadet level have carried their progress forward to the next level.

I have been appointed Kata Director by my fellow board members at Karate England and will be part of the coaching team in Florida.

The money you have provided to the squad is used exclusively for the benefit of the athletes. Your funding has helped the 3 young ladies so that we have been able to cover their air fares, hotel, competition Gi's (training suits) and World Championships entry fees at no cost to them.

We will be emailing you some photographs of the athletes recent achievements, medals at the Karate England Championships and the biggest Karate event in the North of England held at Ponds Forge International Venue in Sheffield.

Thank you again for your support. Please keep an eye on our social media platforms for progress updates.

Regards

David Wilson
Chief Instructor

