Arup

CO2-performance ladder

Participation plan

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1 Introduction

As part of the overall Arup sustainability strategy Arup b.v. is committed to the active participation in initiatives in the field of sustainability in general and CO_2-reduction in particular. This entails performing in-house research and establishing partnerships with academic and industry partners.

The previous report was issued in 2019 with the intention to update it after the closure of the Arup financial year in March 2020. Things didn't quite work out that way. New working patterns had to be established to facilitate the social distancing required to combat COVID-19.

Webinars and podcasts proofed to be a popular way to divulge the Arup message on sustainability and participate in sector initiatives.

2 In-house research

2.1 Sustainable development Infra Amsterdam

In preparation of the RWS SBIR Circular viaducts call Arup prepared by hosting 3 internal workshops on circular economy in February 2020 based on three principles: re-use; biobased; modular. The outcomes of these workshops resulted in our focus on timber. These workshops were funded with internal Business Unit development funds.

2.2 SBIR Circular Viaducts RWS

Partnering with Heijmans, the Dutch contractor, we set out to develop a proposal for the first round of the SBIR call. Out of 32 entries there were 10 chosen to participate, one being our proposal Bridges of Laminated Timber (BoLT).

Work on the initial phase ran from March 2020 to August 2020. During this time we worked on a preliminary proposal and assessment of the best approach. Our submission [1] was awarded a place in Phase 1 of the project.

From October 2020 to March 2021 we worked on the development of the design of the timber bridge, the environmental impact and the business case. We submitted our report on 16th of March 2021.

Our promise to RWS was to release all documents related to the design as open source documents at the end of Phase 2. These documents will be part of our communication and participation plans for the CO2 performance ladder requirements. We will also release the environmental impact report.

At present we are anticipating the jury results and expect to hear on 23rd April whether our proposal will enter the second phase. This phase will last about 18 months.

2.3 Invest in Arup

In support of the SBIR CIVI internal Arup research funds were allocated to the Timber bridge initiative. This made it possible to involve the wider Arup community in the undertaking. These funds are also used to translate the original Dutch report to make it easier to distribute internationally.

3 Initiatives

Arup b.v. participates in a number of initiatives aiming to reduce CO2-emissions.

3.1 CB-23

The Circular Building initiative hosted by Bouwcampus has since 2019 been working on ways to measure circularity. From mid 2019 to mid 2020 Arup participated in the workgroup Measuring Circularity. This participation will be continued in the year to come.

3.2 Green business club Sloterdijken

Arup is a founding membership of a green business club Sloterdijken, aiming to help the local business deploy sustainable development initiatives.

3.3 Memberships

- Arup is a member of the Sustainability Committee TC1 of the Dutch Steel Association
- Arup is a Member of Madaster, the circularity initiative for building materials
- Arup is a Member of Circle economy, the circular building initiative. As part of this membership Arup twice hosted a webinar on timber building, showcasing the work on Haut.

3.4 Sector initiatives

- Participant of Leeromgeving ‘Circular viaducts & Bridges’
- Arup is a Knowledge Partner of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Whilst most of the effort is geared towards Arup global, there have been a number of calls for input from Arup in Amsterdam.
- Arup Amsterdam is participating in an internal network of Arup practices linked to European Infrastructure clients such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland; Vejdirektorat Denmark, Statens vegvesen Norway, Trafikverket Sweden in promoting sustainable infrastructure.
- Arup is participating in the RWS initiative Roadmap naar klimaatneutrale en circulaire kunstwerken in 2030.

- Arup is participating and contributing to the Bouwcampus series Materialen met Toekomst: Hout in de GWW. The aim of this series is to produce a manual for local and provincial authorities helping them to make informed choices on the use of timber.

4 Future plans

The future plans will mostly be geared towards involving a wider internal audience from Arup in the efforts to promote sustainable solutions.