

Composites UK Sustainability Subgroup (SSG)

2025 Annual Summary

Activity summary

During 2025, the SSG met on 4 occasions – 2 online meetings on March 20th and on December 9th and 2 in-person meetings on June 11th at KS Composites and September 23rd at the NCC. Meeting attendance varied across the year between 31 (Sept 23rd meeting) and 41 (March 20th meeting).

In-between meetings, regular briefings were provided to subgroup members about CUK & external sustainability events and resources of interest.

In Q4, a subgroup member survey was carried out (to which about 1/3 of the subgroup members responded), to gather feedback on meeting frequency, style, length, content and topics of interest, and the key findings from this will be used to shape the 2026 programme of meetings. The replies received indicated that subgroup members remain broadly happy with the current frequency, style and length of meetings.

The membership of the subgroup declined during 2025 from 72 members at 31/12/24 to 66 members at 31/12/25, largely reflecting the tougher business environment during 2025. The number of paying members at the end of 2025 was 64.

External Inputs provided

During the year, guest speakers have included the following people and topics:

March 20th – Andy Bates, Steven Brown and Gabriele Badini from resin suppliers Polynt, Scott Bader and Westlake respectively spoke about their companies' activities to decarbonise their products and reduce carbon footprints

June 11th – Stuart Walker (LCA-RSIN network) spoke about the focus and aims of this new UK-wide LCA network, Raphael Pleyne and Roberto Frassine (from EuCIA) spoke about the aims of the new European Circular



Composites Alliance (ECCA) and John Miller (Base Chemicals) spoke about their net-zero journey and how it started with measurement of their organisation's carbon footprint and has now moved on to active carbon reduction strategies

September 23rd – Mark Summers (Chief Technology Officer at the NCC) spoke about the new NCC strategy, focus and capabilities; Steve Barbour (Composite Braiding) spoke about the focus of the new Composites UK policy subgroup and Steven Brown (Scott Bader) spoke about potential options for reducing the very high carbon footprint of carbon fibre.

December 9th – Syrie Crouch (CCUS consultant) spoke on the status and future development of Carbon Capture Usage and Storage and David Bacon (consultant and ex-Syensqo) spoke on whole life carbon accounting.

In addition, at each meeting, subgroup members have presented on their latest sustainability achievements, on the development of the bio-composites market and on submissions made for the annual CUK net-zero and circularity awards, as well as introductions to new subgroup members.

Key achievements

The key outcomes achieved through the subgroup in 2025 were:

- Education and information provision on a wide range of sustainability topics
- Encouragement and motivation for members to expand and accelerate their net-zero and circularity journeys
- Connection and networking opportunities for members with like-minded companies able to provide business and sustainability support and opportunities

New Subgroup Purpose statement

During the second half of the year, the following purpose statement was developed and finalised:

“Working together to accelerate a cost-effective transition of the whole UK Composites value chain towards a fully circular, net-zero future world”

Particular emphasis will be given going forward in 2026 to the key words of “working together”, “accelerate” and “cost-effective” which the subgroup members highlighted as being of prime importance to them.



Malcolm Forsyth

Sustainability Manager, Composites UK and secretary to the SSG

December 2025

<https://compositesuk.co.uk/industry-support/sub-groups/sustainability-sub-group/>