

CRANE ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

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The Reading sewage treatment works was one of the first projects to be assessed under the CEEQUAL scheme. The project achieved an 'Excellent' Award.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

CEEQUAL

Development of an Environmental Quality Assessment and Awards Scheme for the Civil Engineering Industry

Client:

Institution of Civil Engineers

Project Duration:

Feasibility Study:

Autumn 2000 to Spring 2002

Development & Implementation Phase:

Spring 2002 to Autumn 2004

Role of Crane Environmental Ltd:

Project Leaders and Managers, Project Partner

The project was initiated by Crane's Managing Director Roger Venables, whilst a member, and then Chairman, of the Environment & Sustainability Board of the Institution of Civil Engineers. It was part-funded by the former DETR, now DTI, and the ICE Research & Development Enabling Fund. The objective was to develop an award scheme for the assessment of environmental quality of civil engineering projects, as a step towards delivering sustainable construction.

The development of the scheme was carried out by involving as many stakeholders in the profession and industry as possible, and building on the substantial body of knowledge and current research. A project team was set up consisting of representatives of leading businesses in the industry, professional institutions, research bodies and government agencies. Crane Environmental Ltd were appointed as project managers to steer the process.

The scheme provides clients, designers and contractors, as well as the civil engineering industry in general, with the incentive of a weighted and scored assessment of the environmental quality of civil engineering projects, conferring awards for high performance. A project team was established in September 2000 and the initial Feasibility Study completed successfully in April 2002. The Development & Implementation phase of the project saw further trials and development through to the presentation of the first eight awards at a formal event at the Institution of Civil Engineers in September 2003. In parallel with this, the project team set up CEEQUAL Ltd as an organisation to manage the scheme as a self-sufficient business for future operation and further development.

PRACTICAL CONSULTANCY TO IMPROVE THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROJECT:

In the Feasibility Study, the key activities of the project team comprised:

- identifying the core environmental issues to be covered, and how performance beyond legal and industry minimum standards can be assessed and credited;
- developing sets of credits and methodology for assessment;
- trialling of the draft scheme on real projects by the Project Partners;
- producing a business plan for the subsequent operation of CEEQUAL;
- documenting and presenting the proposed scheme to the construction industry and its clients.

The participating Project Partners have been steering the project through a Project Advisory Group to develop and test the scheme details. Wider industry consultation was also invited so that the evolving system of assessment questions, scores, trial applications and the operational business plan was open for industry comment and contribution.

In the development of CEEQUAL, account has been taken of current research and experience relating to sustainable construction, in particular the successful Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), an award scheme that has achieved a voluntary improvement in the environmental specification, construction and performance of buildings. CEEQUAL is a weighted and score-based assessment framework appropriate to any civil engineering project, including roads and railways, airports, coast and river works, water supply and wastewater treatment, power stations, retail and business parks. It includes environmental aspects such as the use of water, energy and land; ecology; landscape; noise and dust; archaeology; waste minimisation and management; and community amenity. Awards are made to projects in which the clients, designers and/or constructors go beyond the legal and environmental minima, to achieve distinctive environmental standards of performance.

Further information on the CEEQUAL scheme, including details of the first eight civil engineering projects to achieve a CEEQUAL award in 2003, can be obtained from the CEEQUAL website, www.ceequal.com. Assessment registration forms, Manual order forms and training course registration forms can also be downloaded from the site.

The supporting organisations and project partners include the Association of Consulting Engineers, AMEC, Anglian Water, Ove Arup & Partners, Atkins Environment, BAA, Babbie Group, BRE, British Waterways, Buro Happold, Carillion, Casella Stanger, CTRL, the Chartered Institute of Water & Environmental Management, CIRIA, the Civil Engineering Contractor's Association, the Confederation of Construction Clients, Cornwall County Council, Costain, Dean & Dyball, Edmund Nuttall, English Nature, the Environment Agency, Faber Maunsell, the Government Construction Clients' Panel, Halliburton KBR, the Highways Agency, King Environmental, Laing, the M4i Sustainability Group, the Ministry of Defence, Morrison Construction, the Northern Ireland Assembly, Northern Ireland Construction Service, Railtrack, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Taylor Woodrow, Temple Environmental, TRL and WSP Environmental.

March 2004

PRACTICAL CONSULTANCY TO IMPROVE THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT