

Q&A WITH LILY CROMPTON, GROUP SUSTAINABILITY LEAD



Q Tell us about your background

A My background is very much as a sustainability professional, I've been working in the sustainability field for over 13 years. I've worked on delivering sustainable outcomes across major infrastructure projects such as Crossrail and Thameslink in London, as well as working on new office buildings in Canary Wharf under strict sustainability assessment methodologies. My work to date has spanned rail, the built environment, infrastructure, including offshore wind farms, and even a small amount of work on a proposed space port up in Scotland. My work has also led me to create and deliver sustainability strategies which is what my role at Foresight entails.

At university I studied Environmental Management and my career started off with a heavy focus on the environment and quickly developed into the more holistic approach to sustainability. I was always passionate about conserving nature, managing resources better and being an efficient business through better management of materials and money – however the shift towards sustainability really opened my eyes to the social side of sustainability too and this continues to be a big driver in everything that I do.

Q What have been your highlights over the last year working at Foresight?

A I am now the Group Sustainability Lead at Foresight Group – I joined the business last year originally to support the infrastructure division in driving sustainability performance improvements across the portfolio. In that role I developed a suite of sustainability KPIs for our assets under management, working with asset managers and operations and maintenance contractors to establish how best to report against these new metrics. The end goal being to enable us to demonstrate continual improvement, identify inefficiencies and establish improvement plans for our assets from construction, into operation and through to disposal. The development of these KPIs has been a real highlight for me and I was able to use the good work that JLEN had already started on in this area to drive a wider approach for the whole Group.

Q What is your vision for Sustainability at Foresight?

A I will be spending some time later this year to put in place a formal sustainability mission statement for the business which will lead to a set of objectives that we can all support. My personal objective is for everyone in our business to understand what their role is in delivering sustainable outcomes, whatever their business function – we are all accountable and we can all make a positive contribution to the company's sustainability outcomes. I want to build a work environment that makes it obvious from the minute a new member of staff or visitor walks into one of our offices that we make every decision with sustainability in mind. Sustainability isn't just about investing in the "right" products, it is about embedding it into the little things too – I think a lot of us are switched on to being relatively sustainable but there are always more things we can do to assist in this when we have the proper frameworks in place.