



The participants experiment with fuel-saving techniques and compare the difference using real machine data gathered during the training.

IMAGE SOURCE: SMT GB

SMT expands EcoOperator training to equip CEMEX site managers for lower-emission operations

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- SMT and Cemex UK have partnered to implement a customised EcoOperator training programme aimed at reducing CO2 emissions from existing diesel machinery.
- The training programme is designed to enhance collaboration between site managers and operators, focusing on improving efficiency and reducing emissions.
- Cemex aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, with an interim goal of reducing CO2 emissions from cement production by 47% by 2030.

- The EcoOperator training combines theory with practical exercises to help operators reduce fuel consumption and machine wear and tear.
- The new site manager version of the programme helps managers understand machine telematics data and set realistic targets to support operators.
- SMT will collaborate with Cemex to analyse machine telemetry data and identify further opportunities for improvement in emissions reduction.

On the road to net zero, Cemex UK has partnered with SMT to implement a customised training programme designed to enhance collaboration between site managers and operators, drive immediate CO₂ reductions from existing diesel machinery, and pave the way for zero-emission equipment in the future.

Building materials giant Cemex, has long understood the critical role its machine operators play in driving productivity and profitability across its sites and has consistently invested in enhancing their knowledge and skills over the years. As Cemex strives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, with a 2030 interim goal of reducing CO₂ emissions from cement production by 47% versus 1990 levels, the company is also tapping into the potential of its operators to accelerate decarbonisation – specifically through the EcoOperator programme from SMT.

“Even with conventional diesel machines, operators can implement techniques to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, laying the groundwork for a seamless transition to zero-emission equipment, powered by renewable energy or hydrogen power in the future,” says Kevin Cage, head of UK aggregate operations at Cemex.



Kevin Cage, head of UK aggregate operations at Cemex.

IMAGE SOURCE: SMT GB

Recognising, however, that operators can only reduce emissions so far without the right support from others in the organisation, Cemex UK challenged SMT, the exclusive dealer of Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE) in Great Britain to develop a version of EcoOperator training tailored to site managers.



EcoOperator training combines theory with practical exercises.

IMAGE SOURCE: SMT GB

EcoOperator training is an advanced programme designed to deepen experienced operators' awareness and understanding of how they can contribute to greater sustainability. Combining theory with practical exercises, EcoOperator training provides operators with the motivation and skills to directly reduce emissions through lower fuel consumption. It also focuses their attention on minimising machine wear and tear, which decreases the carbon footprint associated with the manufacture and distribution of replacement parts.

"EcoOperator training typically results in fuel efficiency improvements of around 5% and while that might seem modest, the impact is substantial," explains Richard Cannon, operator training manager at SMT.

"Given that each litre of diesel consumed emits 2.63 kg of CO₂, based on a study of 7,500 machines operating 2,000 hours annually with an average fuel consumption of 15 litres per hour could save 11 million litres of fuel and reduce CO₂ emissions by 30,000 tonnes per year. That's equivalent to eliminating the carbon footprint of

1,395 flights between Stockholm and Paris!"

The new site manager version of the programme developed for Cemex focuses on helping managers understand and interpret machine telematics data, facilitate more efficient fleet and site setups, and establish appropriate targets, so they can support operators in achieving their maximum potential for emissions savings.

"When managers understand the goals we're trying to achieve with the operators, it significantly enhances the effectiveness of the entire programme. It's much easier when everyone is on the same page," Kevin says.

Giving an example of the cooperation required, Richard adds: "While it's widely acknowledged that excessive machine idling wastes fuel, setting overly strict idling targets, for instance, might inadvertently encourage operators to bypass the necessary engine cooldown process, risking costly damage to the turbocharger. In this case, the training would help site managers to establish a more realistic idling target for improving fuel efficiency while maintaining machine health."



Richard Cannon, operator training manager at SMT in Great Britain.

IMAGE SOURCE: SMT GB

Driving long-term carbon reduction

To ensure that the techniques learned in the EcoOperator training are effectively implemented and that progress is sustained, SMT will collaborate closely with Cemex by analysing machine telemetry data and identifying any further opportunities for improvement.

“At SMT, we share the Cemex team’s commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions and we’re proud to be at their side on this important journey,” Richard says. “Whether through additional training or new technologies, we’ll continuously monitor and refine our approach to help them along the way.”

Expressing his satisfaction with the partnership, Kevin concluded: “We’ve been really impressed by SMT’s readiness to listen, adapt, and develop training tailored to our specific needs. In this regard, SMT has proven

to be a valued partner in our decarbonisation efforts, demonstrating true collaboration in helping us to achieve our sustainability goals.”

Source: SMT GB