CASE STUDY
HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST MIDLANDS

PRODUCT SFS Framing
SECTOR Education
INSTALLER C G Reynolds
CONTRACTOR Galliford Try

» Reduced carbon steel solution for new primary school

» Designed and supplied approximately 1200m² of light gauge cold-rolled steel SFS

» Project Specific environmental product declarations (EPD) produced for Hill West

Metsec Decarb low embodied carbon SFS is supporting a £17m Net Zero primary school in Sutton Coldfield, delivering a 55% reduction in embodied carbon through low-carbon steel framing systems for modern education.

voestalpine Metsec Framing has manufactured and supplied Steel Framing Systems (SFS) in its reduced carbon steel option, Metsec Decarb, for the construction of a new primary school in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

The £17 million project will see main contractors, Galliford Try replacing the old school building at Hill West primary school with a new, modern two-storey structure which will be Net Zero Carbon in operation through energy-efficient design and onsite renewable energy generation.

The environmental benefits of reduced carbon have also been carried into the design and construction of the new school, with Galliford Try opting to showcase voestalpine Metsec Decarb, reduced carbon steel solution for the SFS infill.

The 1200m² of light gauge cold-rolled steel SFS will be installed by local steel framing specialists and approved Metsec Framing installer, C G Reynolds.

Commenting on the project, Charlie Jones, Regional Sales Manager for Metsec SFS, states, "Metsec Decarb is a genuine low carbon steel option, offering true reductions in embodied carbon without greenwashing. Hill West is the first school project to use Metsec Decarb and we believe that it will be the first of many as government departments, such as the Department for Education, which has now set embodied carbon limits into their construction specification frameworks."

PROJECT SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS (EPDS) PRODUCED FOR HILL WEST

"It also contributes towards Galliford Try's commitment to low-carbon construction and reducing their carbon footprint in both business operations and project delivery, which demands the adoption of innovative solutions.

"The use of Metsec Decarb on the Hill West project serves as a strong demonstration of this commitment, aligning with Galliford Try's Net Zero Route Map, the Construction Leadership Council's Five Client Commitments and initiatives such as the 'One in a Million' programme, which focuses on lowering embodied carbon through measures like reduced carbon steel procurement.

"We at Metsec are delighted to support Galliford Try in achieving their carbon-saving strategies for this project, providing a reduced carbon alternative that contributes meaningfully to their sustainability goals."

Falling within band E (<1200 $kgCO_2e/t$) of the steel scale contained within the Construction Leadership Council's Five Client Commitments, Metsec Decarb offers a significantly reduced carbon steel solution. Metsec is committed to achieving carbon neutrality throughout its operations by 2035.

As with all Metsec Decarb applications, voestalpine Metsec supplied project specific Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for Hill West, which include accurate calculations of savings in the steel's embodied carbon. The EPD for Hill West shows a 55% reduction in embodied CO_2 compared with standard steel.

The phased construction is currently underway, with SFS deliveries being made to site according to the construction schedule.

voestalpine Metsec plc
Broadwell Road
Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4HF
T. +44 (0) 121 601 6000
metsec.plc@voestalpine.com
www.metsec.com

voestalpine
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