

SusStations Project

Application to UIC Sustainability Awards April 2010

Suggested for “Open” Category.

Launched in March 2010 in the UK Houses of Parliament by the Minister for Rail, SusStations is an exciting joint initiative currently being undertaken by partners from across Europe.

SusStations is intended to support application of sustainable and low carbon technologies and approaches within the challenging environment of the rail industry.

In developing the various components of SusStations, particular attention has been given to robustness, value for money, operational compatibility, community engagement and transferability.

The project partnership comprises of:

- Lancashire County Council, Lead Partner
- Deutsche Bahn Station & Service, Partner
- ProRail, Partner
- SeaSpace (Hastings & Bexhill Renaissance), Partner
- Region Haute Normandie, Partner
- Network Rail, Subpartner
- Sussex Community Rail Partnership, Subpartner
- Northern Rail, Subpartner
- Southern Railway, Subpartner

The choice of partners is important and is deliberately diverse to encompass a range of organisations involved in the delivery of rail services and includes local government, regional agencies, infrastructure owners and, of course, train operators.

Supported by the European Union’s Interreg IVB North West Europe programme, the scope and organisation of the project includes:

- joint working, sharing of expertise and dissemination of findings
- development of an international tool to inform future sustainable station schemes and
 - new station investment schemes,
 - Accrington EcoStation – a small and beautifully formed scheme, offering a comprehensive range of low carbon technologies, renewable energy, rainwater recycling, local and low embodied energy building materials and with community space – the ‘Accrington Model’ which will inform other investments
 - Utrecht Centraal, new platform canopies with lightweight and efficient PV renewable energy scheme based on emerging technology
 - a new Modular EcoStation which encompasses the lessons learnt from Accrington and with a modular approach benefits from economies of scale in terms of construction costs
 - Geothermal renewable energy scheme
 - Design for a new ecostation at Rouen, France the last of the schemes and intended to encapsulate the experience of each of the previous station investments.

SusStations will be a series of real and visible examples of cutting edge environmentally sound technologies and operating practises within a rail industry environment. The actual elements of SusStations will positively contribute to the sustainability performance of rail both directly and in encouraging best practice in future station development. Experience learned from these pilots will be shared, with visitor interpretation information available at all new station schemes.

Progress of the SusStations is at an early stage, but increasingly evident. Accrington Eco Station is in construction with completion due Summer 2010. A photo gallery is at: <http://www.eastlancashirecrp.co.uk/gallery/accrington-eco-station>. Its innovative construction, ongoing operation and overall cost is already attracting the attention of the rail industry as well as the enthusiasm of local users and the general public. Construction of the Utrecht Centraal PV scheme also began in February 2010.

In addition to the environmental benefits, this imaginative project is clearly raising the profile of rail travel in the region. Soft measures are part of the project; one of the first of the measures is a DVD "Greening the East Lancashire Line" targeted on local Key Stage 2 school children (aged 8-12) as part of the Accrington scheme.

The sustainable stations investment tool, the development of which is being led by ProRail, is currently at prototype stage. It will be progressively tested across North West Europe and refined ready for a high profile launch planned in 2013. This is a cooperative approach, making use of multinational expertise and ensuring that the tool is useful transnationally.

The project will raise the profile of the rail industry including to policy makers and the general public, demonstrate life cycle sustainability benefits, where possible with quantification of emissions reductions, and explore value for money and operational impacts. The station investments also contribute to area regeneration strategies – this is important for local and regional agency stakeholders. The project will also be useful in developing a body of knowledge concerning the role of stations in reducing rail sector carbon emissions, vis a vis traction and other measures.

Ultimately, success will be proven though the wide spread adoption of SusStations ideals and acceptance of the sustainable stations investment tool as an international resource.

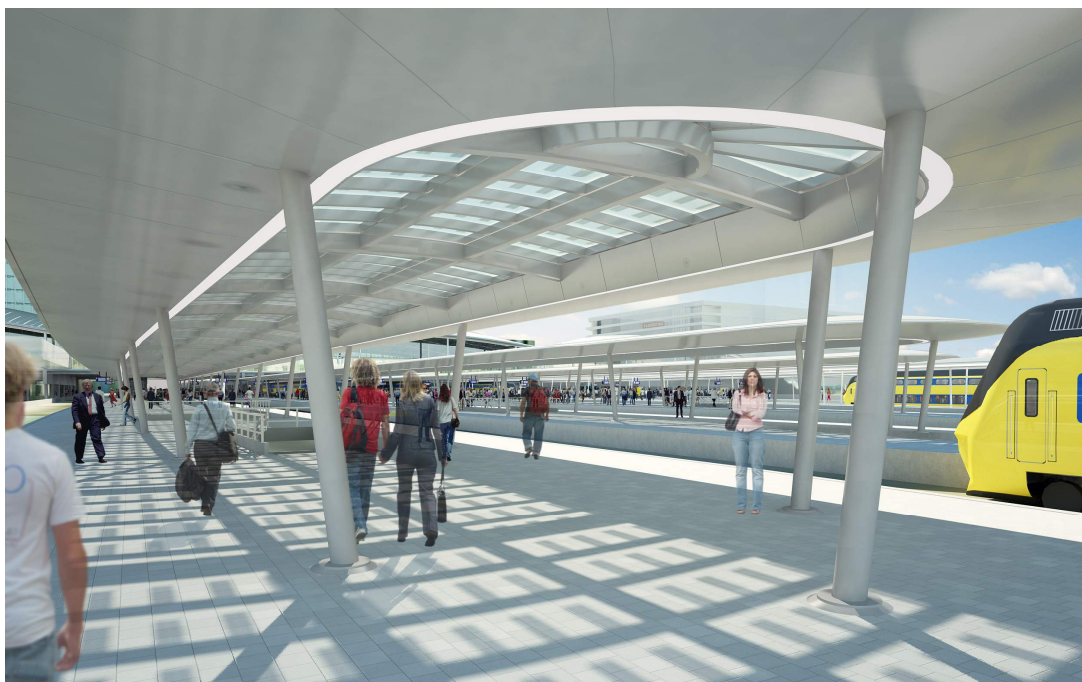
The project website: www.susstations.org is coming soon.

The project is submitted to the UIC's Awards scheme because the partners are keen to further promote awareness of their investment schemes and the future investment tool, in recognition of the value of joint working and to demonstrate the green credentials of the European rail industry partners involved.





Accrington EcoStation – Image from SBS Architects, Manchester.



Utrecht PV Scheme - Artist impression from ProRail/Bentham Crowell Architects