

# Torrent Trackside – on track for a greener future

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The rail network is one of the cleanest and most energy-efficient means of moving large numbers of passengers and goods. **Network Rail** is the first rail company in the world to set ambitious targets to limit global warming, pledging to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

A significant problem with railway based emissions is that around two thirds of emissions are generated by suppliers. It is in this area where **Torrent Trackside** is playing an important role.

The development of batteries has seen dramatic increases in the amount of power available from rechargeable power packs. Battery power is transforming the way the rail industry works and Torrent Trackside is at the heart of this revolution.

We now provide a comprehensive range of battery tools and lighting for many aspects of rail projects and maintenance including; rail and sleeper drills, ballast tampers, rail saws, torque wrenches, magnetic drills, stressing equipment and lighting.

Run times per battery have improved, enabling tools to get through a shift on one charge. Most of the

battery equipment supplied comes with two batteries and quick chargers means one battery is charging while the other is in use so the tool never runs out of power.

The advantages of battery equipment are numerous. There is no longer any need to carry heavy cans of fuel to site and the problems of mixing errors and hazardous and polluting spillages are a thing of the past.

Power is instant with battery tools. The operator is in complete control and energy is efficiently used as the tools do not run idle. There is also no tugging on pull cords or waiting for equipment to warm up before operating at full capacity.

The tools have zero emissions. This is good news for the environment but also for the operators who do not have to breathe in harmful fumes and particulates. Burns from hot exhaust and engine parts are also eliminated. Operating costs are not affected by fluctuating fuel prices and with the mechanics of battery tools being much simpler maintenance costs are also reduced.

Vibration can be a major problem with hand held tools, seriously limiting operating times and proving a health hazard to operatives. The lack of a combustion engine gives battery tools considerably lower vibrations. Some of the new battery tools have over 80 per cent less vibration.

As well as reduced emissions, battery powered tools are considerably quieter. Many rail projects and maintenance tasks are undertaken in residential areas and at night causing problems with residents and local authorities.

Torrent Trackside is a business built for rail and will continue to search for new ways of reducing emissions and minimising the company's carbon footprint.