



BENS CREEK

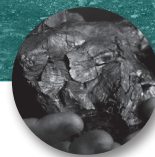
BEN2CREEK



ESG & Sustainability Report



2022



“ We know that steel is essential to the global move to decarbonisation ”

Message from our CEO

Bens Creek Group PLC is committed to being an industry leader through environmental compliance, social engagement, and responsible corporate governance. As a purely metallurgical coal (Met Coal) provider to the steel industry, we know that steel is essential to the global move to decarbonisation. We also understand the importance of sustainability and the challenges facing our industry.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to reopen an historic, idle mine free from legacy constraints. This allowed us to focus on executing the sustainability goals and initiatives outlined here, to lower our environmental impact, increase safety and maximize efficiencies from inception.

We are committed to continue development, refinement and execution of our sustainability goals through the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) certification process, with the guidance of our recently appointed Chief Financial Officer, who will also act as ESG Director.

Adam Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary



Produce “Coal-for-Steel”, not “Coal-for-Power”



Committed to integrating ESG into corporate culture



Targeted approach to Reclamation



Utilise modern mining methods to reduce environmental impact and increase safety



Community Engagement & Corporate Responsibility



Ben's Creek ESG Director and ESG qualifications



ESG Policy and Standards



Produces “Coal-for-Steel”, not “Coal-for-Power”

- ❖ Mine only high quality met-coal for steel production, which produces significantly less pollution than thermal coal
- ❖ The environmental impact of met coal is far less than that of thermal coal

Steel is essential for the global move to decarbonisation

- ❖ The high-quality met coal is currently irreplaceable in the steelmaking process.

Renewable energy & construction

- ❖ Each new MW of solar power requires 45 tons of steel
- ❖ Each new MW of wind power requires 180 tons of steel

Automotive & electric vehicles

- ❖ 900kg of steel used for one electric car
- ❖ Steel required for vehicle weight reduction, recyclability, and environmental & economic efficiency
- ❖ Met-coal is used to produce steel with the highest quality surface finish; the primary steel used for electric vehicles, car batteries and renewable energy infrastructure where strength, durability and weight reduction objectives are key





Committed to integrating ESG into Corporate Culture

- ❖ Recently appointed new CFO who will also act as ESG Director, who will lead the company in the development of comprehensive ESG Strategy, focused on:
 - Environmental Performance (Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas (GHG), Land Use and Biodiversity, Water and Waste Management)
 - Social Performance (Health & Safety, Community Engagement, Cultural Heritage, Human Rights, Gender Diversity)
 - Governance Performance (Governance and Integrity)
 - Implementing ESG Management System (ESGMS)
 - ESG Action Plan addressing significant gaps with Applicable ESG Standards
 - Reporting on key aspects of ESG progress, performance at least annually

Health & Safety culture

- ❖ Health & Safety is the primary core value of all Ben's Creek employees
- ❖ Health & Safety at work is a key, deliverable KPI
- ❖ Participating in a safety and health management system that integrates leadership and culture into creating safe and healthy mine environments
- ❖ Setting out a process for continuous improvement and collaboration at all levels of the workforce and management to implement proper safety procedures, processes, and systems.
- ❖ Considering to adapt National Mining Association (NMA) CORESafety Standards
- ❖ No accidents reported since mining commenced



From left: seeding truck, ground with fresh seeding spray, newly grown grass

Targeted approach to Reclamation

- ❖ Executing an industry leading Reclamation Plan
- ❖ High wall mining techniques, including benching and contour mining, to minimize environmental impact and need for reclamation
- ❖ Concurrent mining and reclamation – ground is reseeded alongside active mining, to ensure ample time for growth and limit non-point source pollution

New apple, apricot, cherry, peach and loquat plants, at the office area





Utilise modern mining methods and techniques to reduce environmental impact and increase safety

High-Wall-Miner vs. Open Pit / Mountain Top Removal

- ▶ WM more efficient
- ▶ **Significantly safer**
- ▶ Only minimal reclamation

= Better for the local environment



- ❖ Embracing technologies which have immense potential to make mining more efficient and reduce its environmental impact.
- ❖ Highwall mining involves remote deployment of a continuous miner in openings beneath the final highwall, with no personnel entry
- ❖ No open pit, mountain top, or strip mining
- ❖ Only rework and reclaim existing mines, never start new mines



UNIVERSITY OF
UK KENTUCKY
Department of Mining Engineering

 West Virginia University

Community Engagement & Corporate Responsibility

- ❖ Created c.100 jobs in a socioeconomically deprived area of West Virginia
- ❖ Sponsoring award programmes at the University of Kentucky, Department of Mining Engineering and Department of Mining Engineering and West Virginia University
- ❖ Prioritising affected communities in the distribution of project benefits, e.g., employment, procurement of goods and services and community investment.
- ❖ Exploring strategic investments in local communities to create value for both the beneficiary and the organisation.
- ❖ Implementing corporate social responsibility program and aim to maximize the impact of their social investments.

Ben's Creek ESG Director

- ❖ Highly skilled executive officer and director with international experience in multichannel financial and technology firms and leading corporate development of ESG initiatives
- ❖ Independent, Non-Executive Director & Chairman of FCA approved and registered specialist Investment Advisory Company to aid rapid transition to low carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economies, where he is responsible for ESG and Compliance.
- ❖ Orchestrated the development of the company's Corporate Ambition Setting and Action Plan, with a focus on net-zero and climate change.

ESG qualifications

- ❖ **University of Cambridge, institute for Sustainability Leadership,**
Sustainable Finance
- ❖ **Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, European Investment Bank,**
Environmental and Social Sustainability Management
- ❖ **University of Manchester,**
Managing Responsibly: Practicing Sustainability, Responsibility and Ethics





ESG Policy

- ❖ Bens Creek Group (Bens Creek) is a responsible mining company producing metallurgical coal in West Virginia, USA. Metallurgical coal is a critical input for steel production and steel is essential for the transition to a Green Economy and to address the Climate Change
- ❖ Bens Creek commits to conducting its mining operations in line with generally accepted, responsible, international sustainability management practices and environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in order to balance the benefits to the planet, people, and profit successfully.
- ❖ Bens Creek recognises the importance of its social and environmental impact, in addition to financial performance. Rather than solely focusing on generating profit, or the standard bottom line, the company intends to materially support the transition to a sustainable and zero carbon future.



ESG Standards

- ❖ All national laws and regulations pertaining to E&S relevant to each mining operation.
- ❖ International Finance Corporation's (IFC) E&S Performance Standards and associated Guidance Notes
- ❖ International Bill of Human Rights
- ❖ The International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Core Labour Conventions; and
- ❖ Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) Guidance including but not limited to:
 - Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
 - International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Principles
 - Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management
 - Responsible Mining Foundation's Responsible Mining Index Framework
 - Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) Standard for Responsible Mining
 - National Mining Association (NMA) CORESafety Standards

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