

United Supply Chain

Newsletter | January 2026 (Edition 1)

A word from John Welch, Commercial Director

Happy New Year! I am delighted to introduce you to the very first edition of the United Supply Chain newsletter, brought to you by the United Utilities Commercial team.

Having recently joined as Commercial Director for United Utilities, it has been my pleasure to start getting acquainted with our supply chain and understand the synergies and challenges that we are all rising to in meeting our key areas of focus for AMP8.

You are all part of a unique opportunity to shape the next five years and beyond, to help us deliver on our purpose to create a Stronger, Greener and Healthier North West.

Our six strategic priorities to improve our rivers, create a greener future, provide a safe and great place to work, deliver great service for all our customers, spend customers' money wisely and contribute to our communities, are all objectives that I invite you to give us your full support in achieving. This newsletter will give you regular updates on our key achievements to date. It will be a place to celebrate our supply chain successes and promote best practice case studies. I encourage you to get involved and submit your own case studies, achievements, community events and awards to my team via UnitedSupplyChain@uuplc.co.uk.

Please also give us your feedback of what information you would like to see in future newsletters, what would help you as a supplier and how we can encourage best practice and collaboration across the whole supply chain.

Success stories at UU

UU has just achieved an Impressive third place in the 2025 British Water Supply Chain Impact Survey!

The annual survey captures feedback from contractors, consultants and suppliers throughout the UK water sector. Water and wastewater companies are assessed across 12 key performance areas, including innovation, professionalism, contractual approach and communication.

The results build an important picture of how our supply chain perceives its clients — and provides critical insights as we continue delivering AMP8. This year **UU leaped up seven places** making us the most improved water company!

Our Commercial and Engineering Team bring home **Best Approach to Risk Mitigation** at the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply awards.



Project Blueprint is a transformative initiative aimed at reducing United Utilities' deliverability and supply chain reputational risk through standardising assets and creating seamless integration between engineering and commercial teams to implement market-led solutions.

The awards recognise and celebrate the best work and teams in the procurement and supply profession, highlighting excellence, innovation, and significant impact to showcase best-in-class practices.

Planning on applying for an award on behalf of UU?
Let us know [here](#)

Introducing our Responsible Sourcing Principles

Key to our United Supply Chain approach are our Responsible Sourcing Principles, which are structured around environmental, social and governance issues that are important to us as a business and in our approach to responsible sourcing.

The RSPs have helped us identify areas of risk within our supply chain and develop strategies to help mitigate these risks.

You can read our latest case studies and find out how to submit one on our corporate website [here](#).



Innovation Space

UU shines at COP30

UU and Levidan's recent partnership to address decarbonisation in UK wastewater had a starring role at the recent COP30 conference in Brazil! A video of our work with Levidan to produce clean sources of hydrogen from wastewater was screened as an example of UK innovation during this global event. [Click here](#) to watch the video that delegates had the chance to see. This case study of British innovation turns carbon into opportunity leading the way to a cleaner, circular future.



Commercial in action



In collaboration with the RSPB and Moors for the Future, our Commercial team recently spent some time planting moss in Dovestone. Over the days, they planted 5,600 sphagnum moss plugs, which will absorb 20 times their weight in water. This is crucial for preventing flooding, maintaining moisture in upland bog habitats, and purifying water by slowly releasing rainfall. It's a natural way to filter water in peatland ecosystems and improve water quality in our reservoirs.

Email UnitedSupplyChain@uuplc.co.uk for suggestions of joint volunteering events!

Health & Safety Spotlight

1st December saw United Utilities and some of our supply chain partners meet to support the launch of our contractor Health & Safety steering group forum. The session consisted of an update on progress made since the meeting held earlier in the year, overview of the steering group structure, workshops on developing a joint supply chain charter, and feedback on embedding our Home Safe & Well principles and Life Saving Rules through our supply chain. Progress updates will be communicated through this newsletter in future months.



Social Value Portal

We are excited to announce that we are launching a 12-month trial with Social Value Portal! This is to track, measure and quantify the social value that is created between our supply chain and the communities we operate in. We are starting our journey in the new year with 38 key suppliers that sit across Commercial. These suppliers will input the social value they create by working with us via metrics aligned to our six strategic priorities - improve our rivers, create a greener future, provide a safe and great place to work, deliver great service for all our customers, spend customers money wisely and contribute to our communities. Keep an eye out for further information on our journey.

External Relationships Update

Here at United Utilities, we have developed some exciting partnerships in support of best practice and continuous improvement of our Responsible Sourcing Principles, internally and with our supply chain. Did you know we are proud partners and gold members with the Supply Chain Sustainability School? [Sign up here](#) to become a member of the school (free of charge for our suppliers).



Our Modern Slavery & Human Rights Working Group recently attended the Slave-Free Alliance (SFA) conference in Manchester where UU had the opportunity to showcase the great work the group has carried out this year. Jay Churchill from our People Team delivered a powerful session focused on '*The Ally Effect*' and how we engage colleagues as partners in protecting human rights. UU and SFA have partnered up to address the risks of modern slavery in our supply chain. Click [here](#) to explore our Human Rights and Fair Treatment case study with SFA.



Upcoming Opportunities

Tender Title	Tender Value	Estimated Launch Date
Continuous Water Quality Monitoring	£156m	30/01/2026
BESS- Battery Purchase	£50m	30/01/2026
Rural Works	£100m	09/02/2026
Water Efficiency Audit Services	£15-20m	15/02/2026

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, please contact suppliers@uuplc.co.uk

Coming Next Quarter...

- Keep your eyes peeled for our next newsletter focussed on our **Capital Delivery Programme and the exciting work to come in AMP8**.
- SCSS: Embedding Sustainable Procurement Workshop **21st Jan 2026 9:30-12:30**. Sign up [here](#)
- We are looking forward to another year of collaboration, watch this space for future in person and virtual events!

Contact Us

- ✉ If you have any information, engagement opportunities or ideas to enhance USC, please contact the USC team below
UnitedSupplyChain@uuplc.co.uk
- 👉 Receiving this newsletter is just one benefit of joining USC. Click [here](#) find out more and how to sign up!