

V O L V O

Customer Case Study

VOLVO FE ELECTRIC



FOX BROS

Family-owned Fox Group is championing the transition from diesel to battery electric heavy trucks, with two new Volvo FE Electric tippers – the first of their kind to be delivered anywhere in the UK.

Fox Group currently operates from 20 locations nationally, specialising in the supply and haulage of aggregates, recycled materials, muck-shift, earthworks and civil engineering projects. It has a fleet of more than 270 vehicles.

STATISTICS:

- The Volvo FE Electric 6x2 rigids have a range of around 150 km.
- Each FE is equipped with four battery packs.
- The FE Electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a two-speed gearbox, with an output of 400 kW.
- Plated at 27-tonnes – one tonne more than a standard three-axle rigid.

“This purchase marks the start of the electrification of our fleet. We understand we are the first company in the UK to invest in electric tippers – and one of the first in Europe.”

PAUL FOX, MANAGING DIRECTOR, FOX GROUP

Volvo Trucks. Driving Progress

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Why Volvo Electric?

Keen to lead the way in decarbonising the construction industry, Fox Group approached Volvo Trucks to introduce its first zero tailpipe emission trucks.

“We are strongly committed to playing our part in the UK’s push to reach net zero and we will be making more of our fleet electric in the future. This milestone is just the beginning of the journey, and we believe if the country is serious about substantially reducing carbon emissions, the construction sector needs to join the party – and we are proud to be playing our part and leading from the front,” says Fox.

“We are extremely pleased to be partnering with Volvo Trucks on this project and throughout the process we have received excellent support from Neil Crook, Customer Solutions Manager at Thomas Hardie Commercials.”

The Volvo Solution

Volvo Trucks and supplying dealer Thomas Hardie Commercials worked closely with Fox Group to determine the optimal specification for the vehicles, using the manufacturer’s Electric Range Simulator – which considers multiple factors about a customer’s operation, including payload, routes, driving hours and charging infrastructure.

Both Volvo FE Electric 6x2 rigids are plated at 27-tonnes – one tonne more than a standard three-axle rigid – which helps to offset the additional weight of the batteries. The two trucks feature a day cab, full air suspension and a hydraulically-steered rear axle for exceptional manoeuvrability – perfect when operating in urban areas or accessing building sites with restricted access. They

offer a range of around 150 km on a full charge from their four battery packs, taking into account PTO usage – making them ideal for Fox Group’s local work.

The FE Electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a two-speed gearbox, with power being generated by an electric motor with an output of 400 kW. The trucks can use different drive modes to help set the desired performance, comfort and energy usage levels.

The Results

Mounted with Thompsons tipper bodywork, the FL Electric tippers will operate primarily on local contracts for customers such as Lancashire County Council, being used to move materials to and from construction sites, before returning to base each night to be recharged.

The trucks will work from the company’s depot on the Enterprise Business Park in Leyland, where charging infrastructure has been installed to support both the trucks and staff cars, as a clear demonstration of the firm’s road-to-zero commitment.

Thomas Hardie Commercials delivered them into service backed by a comprehensive five-year Volvo Gold Contract, which includes preventative maintenance and repairs, and the monitoring of key systems including batteries and other critical components. To support their delivery into operation, Thomas Hardie Commercials also provided Fox Group with specific driver training to help the transition for its drivers from diesel to electric.

Both Volvo FEs also carry a striking new livery, highlighting their green credentials.