

## Foundations of Innovation

Who is Roadfill and why should you care?

From experiencing a labour inducing pothole to becoming CEO of Roadfill, Christie Raptaki has founded an ecological solution to those pesky potholes that all drivers hate.

While heavily pregnant with her daughter, Christie hit a pothole with such force while she was driving that it caused her waters to break. This led to her, using her experience and knowledge from being a civil engineer, to form a solution.

Christie's initial idea was to use a material such as expanding foam to level the road surface, but upon further research realised that she could utilise recycled materials to fill these potholes. That's when she founded Roadfill.

Roadfill then created RoadWorx, which is one of the first ever road surfacing products to use recycled plastic otherwise destined for landfill. Using a more resilient and longer-lasting material than the likes of Tarmac, Christie aims for her innovative brand to be the main UK supplier for road surfacing in the next 15 years.

The reduced amount of bitumen in the product means that RoadWorx overall is safer to use. It can be laid at lower temperatures compared to its competitors and can last up to 15 years longer too. Roadworx is built to maintain its strength for over 20 years and withstand all weather conditions. This means that with Roadfill at the forefront of surfacing roads hopefully no more labours will be induced by the likes of a neglected street surface.

Additional to normal wear and tear, Roadfill's roads managed to withstand the heat from the recent wildfires in Greece in comparison to standard roads that were destroyed.

Christie's solution considers the environment too. The recycled plastic used in the asphalt mix is sourced from recycling centres local to the projects Roadfill takes on. So, in addition to using local waste on local roads, the potential CO2 emissions are cut from not having to transport materials all over the world. She comments:

“Potholes together with plastic pollution are two of the biggest issues in our everyday life currently. I decided to invest everything I had into the business. I haven't bought a house for instance yet; I chose to literally invest everything in developing the right product.”

Christie's personal experience means that she knows first-hand that something needs to change. She has found a solution that not only exceeds the specification of products that already exist but also helps the environment too. With a keen interest in sustainability, Roadfill continues to grow its projects focussing on reducing waste and helping the environment whilst finding solutions to everyday road issues.

Christie's project has appeared in business articles and even won “Most innovative Road Repair Solutions" in the 2021 Build Eco Excellence Awards. Christie herself has recently featured in an article on AZO Build highlighting conversations with women in STEM. Being a female CEO in a male dominated industry is no mean feat but that is not going to stop Christie:

“Convincing men that I do know what I am talking about is an everyday treat! I was determined to make it happen and move ahead. I had and still have a great product in my hands. In my mind it is better than anything similar that has been launched in the market to date.”

Working with universities across the UK such as Cambridge, Exeter, and Edinburgh to develop even more eco solutions, Roadfill is a name that's here to stay and Christie's brainchild is definitely one to watch.