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ACTIVITY REPORT 2014 DECEMBER 2014 UPDATE



INTRODUCTION

The Irish Green Building Council has continued to develop over the past year with your help. With over 65 of the most progressive companies and organisations in Ireland now on board, we expect to go from strength to strength in 2015. This year we were able to expand our staff so as to better communicate our message – The importance of a sustainable quality built environment. We made key policy submissions over the past year on the Low Carbon roadmap and the Government’s Green Paper on energy.

The QualiBuild project commenced the first training programmes for construction workers. We initiated the development of a Home Quality Rating system to ensure that we consider all aspects of sustainability as we start to build housing again.

One particularly noteworthy feature of 2014 was the strengthening of our relationship with the European network of Green Building Councils.

The ‘BUILD UPON’ consortium of 13 GBCs led by GBC España and WorldGBC were awarded €2.35m of Horizon 2020 funding in 2014 for an innovative project to help public authorities and stakeholders work in partnership to design and implement their countries’ v2.0 National renovation strategies. BUILD UPON will launch 2015 and run until 2017. IGBC is one of four GBCs leading a Work Package on this project in recognition of our previous work in partnering with Government on renovation policy. The proposal received the backing of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural resources.



We expect this to bear fruit in 2015 as we hope to collaborate on a major project to help our Governments develop the necessary policies to support major deep energy renovation of our all our building stock.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Prof. J Owen Lewis".

Prof. J Owen Lewis
Chairman of the Irish Green Building Council

To give you an overview of what we have achieved over the past year we set out a brief summary of some of our activities.



EDUCATION

We have continued to develop and deliver high quality one day CPD education to add to our existing offering. These have been developed with the European Network of Green Building Councils and delivered in partnership with Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Engineers Ireland. These include, Environmental Design of Buildings – non domestic, Sustainable Construction Products and Life Cycle Analysis, EU Policy and Law, Introduction to Certification of Green Buildings, Waste and Resource efficiency.

In the new year we hope to develop further courses. We will also provide skills training for professionals in specific areas such as Retscreen, BREEAM AP and LEED GA

QUALIBUILD

We started working in earnest as part of the QualiBuild project with the Construction Industry Federation, Dublin and Blanchardstown Institutes of Technology and Limerick Institute of Technology on developing an 'Energy Pass type' training programme for construction workers. This project is funded by the EU Intelligent Energy Europe. We have worked in partnership to organise conferences, briefings and workshops to communicate the importance of this initiative.



The Train the Trainer modules have been developed. This has already been rolled out to 50 construction trainers in November. The first free Foundation Energy Skills modules for construction workers will be delivered early in the new year. Work has now also begun on setting up a construction workers skills register to allow contractors and householders check that a tradesman or construction worker has the skills to do a specific job. Later in 2015 IGBC will start the communications campaign to householders on the need to employ tradesmen who have done energy efficiency training.

HOME QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

IGBC started development of a Home Quality rating system in April with a workshop looking at international systems for rating sustainability in residential development. Initial consultation included a survey at the Better Building Conference. We have also engaged with the different expert associations and are engaging with our members with specific expertise. We have reviewed systems and indicators from across Europe to find those that best relate to the current environmental priorities in Ireland. From this we have developed a working model comprised of 25 indicators and expect to pilot this in early 2015. We have engaged with our sister GBCs to look at the potential for sharing common IT platforms to offer a streamlined online system.



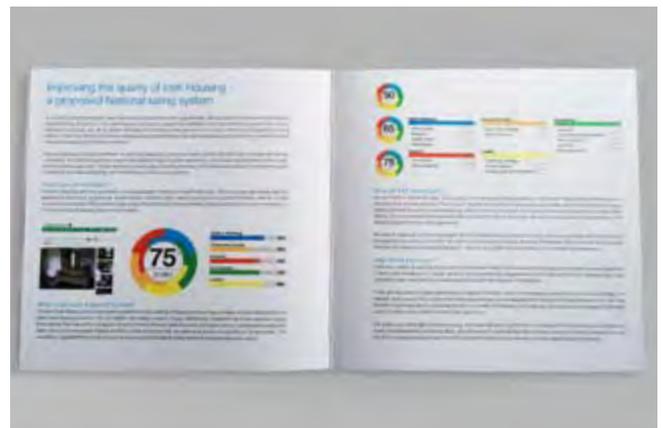
POLICY

RENOVATION ROADMAPS

We started the year with a joint workshop with the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources in Dublin Castle, to inform the Renovation Roadmaps which each member state needed to submit by the end of April 2014. This was required under article 4 of the Energy Efficiency directive. The aim of these roadmaps is to allow Europe to realise the co-benefits both economically and environmentally of a long term ambitious approach to deep energy renovation. We developed a report from this workshop which helped inform the Governments first draft roadmap.

We worked with the European network campaign to raise awareness of the Renovation Roadmaps across Europe. We produced a number of videos for the ERN Green Re-Building Project aimed at highlighting the importance of these.

Realising that it would take more than a couple of months to develop ambitious national roadmaps, we applied for funding under Horizon 2020 with 14 other Green Building Councils to help Governments across Europe develop these further for the next date for submission of improved roadmaps – April 2017. This application has been favourably evaluated and we hope we can begin work on clarifying best practice policy and help develop the roadmaps over the next two years.



RENOVATION ROADMAPS WORKSHOP DUBLIN CASTLE



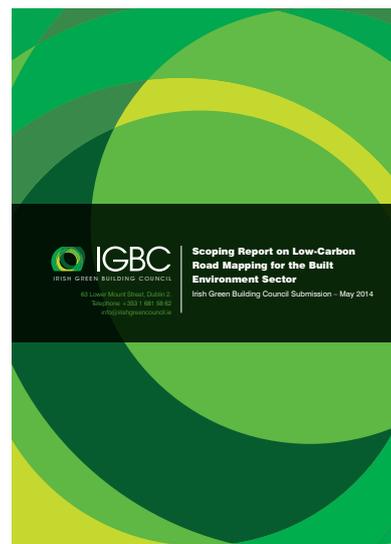
The Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources Pat Rabbitte opened the Renovation roadmaps works at Dublin Castle organised by Irish Green Building Council with DCENR and the National Economic and Social Council on 22nd of January. This was attended by 60 leading stakeholders.



POLICY

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON NEAR ZERO ENERGY BUILDING

We carried out an information campaign to investors, banks and developers with our Near Zero Energy Standard pamphlet. This highlighted the need to future proof new commercial development and to avoid building office development that cannot be leased or rented by public bodies after 2018. There is concern that developers can still legally build to the current Part L non-residential regulations, which date from 2008, until 2016 or later.



POLICY SUBMISSIONS

IGBC developed a number of policy submissions with its members on major Government Policy initiatives. In April we made a submission on the Low Carbon Roadmap – Built Environment Sector. July we made a submission on the Government Green Paper on Energy IGBC was also represented at the workshops organised by DCENR to engage on the development of energy policy.



BETTER THAN BEST PRACTICE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 15TH



Minister of State for Education and Skills Damien English TD opened the Better than Best Practice Conference. This was the public launch of the QualiBuild Project

EU FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE ASSESSMENT



The European Network of Green Building Councils led a workshop on the 1st December to feed into the EU Framework for Sustainability Assessment of Buildings. This was co-chaired by RIAI and SCSi, organised by IGBC and hosted by Google at their HQ in Barrow St.



This year we organised over 20 events of all types for members and the broader industry

Member Networking Events

Pre conference Dinner 8th April, Networking drinks for World Green Building week 24th September, Launch of World GBC report on Health and Productivity in Office Buildings, IGBC AGM

Conferences

Better Building Conference Ireland largest property & construction conference – 9th April. Better than Best Practice conference – 15th October

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Renovation Roadmaps – Dublin Castle – 22nd January, Residential Rating Tools workshop – 9th April and 24th September, EU Framework for Sustainable Assessment – 1st December 2014 – QualiBuild Briefings and workshops on development of construction worker register.

Lectures Peter Moonan

Canada Wood Council

Site Visits / Masterclasses

UCD Science Hub with CIBSE

Member Meetings

Meetings to input into major policy documents on energy and low carbon roadmaps, LEED Stakeholders group.

Education

Sustainable Construction Products and Life Cycle Analysis with Jane Anderson, Environmental Design of Building, EU Policy and Law, Introduction to Certification of Green Building, LEED GA, NZEB training



Briefing on Green Building for Investors, Property Advisors

8th April with Kevin Hydes – Integral Group

Exhibiting at Trade Shows

Better Building – Innovation in Building – Arch Expo – CIF conference – See the Light

Representation on Government Committees and Boards

CEN TC 350 national mirror committee, EPBD recast.



MARKETING

PRESS COVERAGE NATIONAL AND TRADE

Our coverage in the press continues to grow this year with articles in the Irish Times, The Journal, Metro, Construction magazine, Passive House Plus and other trade magazines and a number of radio interviews to support QualiBuild.

SOCIAL MEDIA

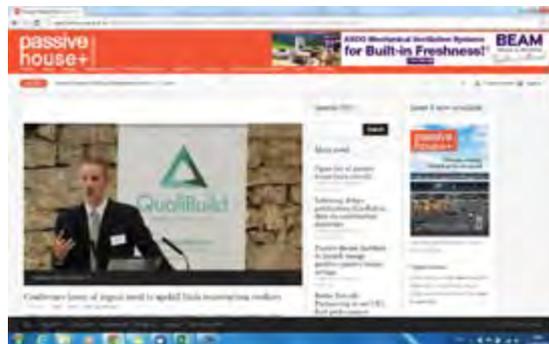


IGBC created a range of approximately 20 videos to promote Renovation Roadmaps and Quality in construction, but also from various conferences.



WEBSITE

We have developed a brand new website to be launched in December to make it easier to find our growing level of resources. This will act as a better shop window to our activities and to Green Building in Ireland. It will help clarify policy and provide best practice guidance on green building. This will also act as an easy to navigate set of resources for members, including our extensive set of videos and presentations.



ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK

There are now 34 national councils in the European Regional Network. The network was formed in 2010 to support sharing of resources. It is rapidly developing capacity to provide additional support for the national councils bringing further resources to our national organisation. This year IGBC attended both European Network meetings in Istanbul and Barcelona and actively participated in the Policy and Education task groups. IGBC is one of the lead partners in World GBC led Horizon 2020 application submitted in June to help Governments develop Renovation roadmaps.

Some of the key highlights of the European Regional Network this year included:

- The EU Commission invited CEOs of all GBCs invited to meet DG Environment and Enterprise to assist on the EU DG Environment's Framework for Sustainable Assessment of Buildings. ERN ran a series of workshops across Europe including one in Dublin on the 1st December.
- The 'BUILD UPON' consortium of 13 GBCs including Irish GBC as one of the lead partners were awarded €2.35m of Horizon 2020 funding in November 2014 for an innovative project to help public authorities and stakeholders work in partnership to design and implement their countries' v2.0 national renovation strategies. BUILD UPON will launch 2015 and run until 2017.
- A full time education manager was appointed to assist the development of education programmes for use by national councils.

IGBC PRIORITIES FOR 2015 ARE TO:

1. Launch QualiBuild Communications Campaign to householders on the importance of employing properly trained tradesmen.
2. Pilot and launch the IGBC Residential Sustainability system as a rating and education tool.
3. Start the process of clarifying best practice policy across Europe together with our sister Green Building Councils and help our Governments kick start the renovation industry.





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