

Leading Rapid Change  
 CLIMATE RESILIENT Pre-fabricated  
 Breathability **GREEN**  
 Carbon Neutral Products Healthy buildings  
**Influential** Urban  
 Retrofit Planning Effective  
**SUSTAINABILITY** Collaborative



# Activity Report

## 2019



*Leadership for a Sustainable Built Environment*

# THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING

2019 was another year of significant progress for the Irish Green Building Council. We are now a unique network of organisations representing the entire value chain of Ireland's built environment. Membership increased by 25%, a clear indicator that our industry recognises the urgency of action on climate change and the growing influence of our organisation.

IGBC is delivering on its remit to educate, rate, innovate, advocate, communicate and most of all collaborate for a better, greener built environment. In 2019, we stepped up activity in all these areas.

I was delighted to kickstart the year with an engagement workshop with our members and supporters to help form the next phase of IGBC's strategy. A clear message from our members is that we must reach beyond the converted and influence a wider audience on the benefits of greener buildings. To this end, we made greater efforts to reach beyond our membership through advocacy, webinars and enhanced social media.

2019 was also a landmark year for climate change awareness in society at large. The school strikes and media coverage in general alerted us to the pressing need to move at a faster pace to decarbonise. This was reflected in our conferences where Net Zero Carbon buildings formed a focal theme. To speed up the transition to Net Zero buildings, we integrated a Zero Carbon standard for new homes into version 2.0 of the Home Performance Index, providing a badge of superior all round environmental quality to greener housing developments. We are also driving the adoption of green mortgages and finance as a way to encourage a more ambitious approach to new home building.

A key part of what we do is collaborate with different parts of the value chain to solve complex problems. This

collaboration has included strong partnership and leadership roles in three European collaborative projects aimed at tackling various barriers to better buildings. On the renovation side, we started a new project to enable cities to track their progress towards zero carbon with their existing buildings.



We also worked on solutions to make renovation easier for homeowners. We collaborated with the construction institutes so that homeowners could easily identify trusted advisors. We are working jointly with industry to design a simple one stop shop customer journey.

On a sad note, we lost an inspirational contribution with the sudden passing of our dear friend and IGBC co-founder, Devyn Olson Sawyer. Her tireless enthusiasm will be deeply missed, but not forgotten, as we continue our vital mission.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all our members and sponsors. It's only because of you that we can enhance our drive for green buildings as an effective solution to many of Ireland's environmental and societal challenges.

I thank my board colleagues and the Council's dedicated team for their enduring commitment. We have an exciting year ahead in 2020. We look forward to collaborating with you for a better built environment, and to seeing you at one of the many events scheduled in the new year.

Kevin O'Rourke - Chair Irish Green Building Council

## MEET THE BOARD



**Ali Grehan**  
Dublin City Council



**Brian Dolan**  
Saint-Gobain



**Brian Handcock**  
Sisk



**Brian Montayne**  
ESB



**Declan Alcock**  
Varming Engineering



**Orla Coyle**  
Sustainable Energy  
Authority Ireland



**Joe Miller**  
RIAI



**Kevin O'Rourke**  
Chair



**Niall Crosson**  
Ecological Building  
Systems



**Orna Fox**  
PM Group



**Michael Donohoe**  
Colliers



**Philip Lee**  
Philip Lee Solicitors



**William O'Donnell**  
IN2 Engineering



**Joseph Little**  
DIT

# IGBC 2019 AT A GLANCE

BRINGING CHANGE LEADERS TOGETHER



**155+**

Corporate Members



**25%**

increase

RAISING AWARENESS & IMPROVING SKILLS



**2,000+**

People registered for events, tours, training and webinars



**8,200+**

Social Media Followers  
an increase of 36% from 2018



**36**

Press mentions in 2018  
an increase of 28% from 2018

RAISING STANDARDS



**2,000+**  
**HOMES**

Registered for Home Performance Index certification



**EPD**  
**IRELAND**  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION PROGRAMME

**19**

EPD published for

**50+ Products**

through EPD Ireland

DRIVING CHANGES



**9**

Policy submission



**7**

workshops to input into policies



Minister Eoghan Murphy T.D. launched the Home Performance Index V.2 at Better Homes 2019



Pat Barry, CEO of the IGBC addressed the Oireachtas Housing, Planning and Local government joint committee



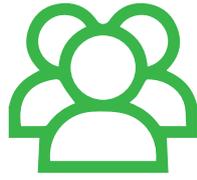
Tonje Værdal Frydenlund, Managing Director of the internationally renowned Norwegian architects Snøhetta addressed the Green Room

# WE EDUCATE



29

Events



1,400+

Attendees

Events this year included “Green Room”, “Green Building Cork” and “Better Homes” conferences and Green Building Week with visits to some of the Ireland’s newest and greenest office building: 1SJRQ, 5 Earlsfort Terrace and Three Park Place. We also organised a tour of a retrofitted residential building: St Bricens.

*A huge thanks to our main sponsors Hibernia REIT, Irish Residential Properties REIT, Partel and Philip Lee Solicitors.*



80+

Building professionals trained in LEED and Home Performance Index



BREEAM®



**640+**

Registered participants for nZEB Residential Webinar Series

Irish Green Building Council presents



**FREE!**  
**BOOK NOW**

**nZEB for Residential Webinar Series | Autumn 2019**  
**Wednesdays @ 1pm from 02/10/19 - 06/11/19**

nZEB comes into force on 1st Nov 2019 through building regulations TGD Part L and Part F  
Get up to speed with what nZEB means for the residential sector with this 6 part webinar series  
Topics include: Part L requirements, ventilation, overheating, water efficiency and renewable systems.

“Well impressed with the webinar and all from the comfort of the office cutting down on traveling costs”

“Webinar was very informative and easy to follow”

“The webinar with question box is the perfect equilibrium format between real presence and logistic savings on both sides. Great job!”

### ***Supporting Energy Renovation Upskilling***

IGBC launched Ireland’s National Renovation Upskilling Committee whose objective is to encourage and facilitate construction workers and building professionals upskilling in energy renovation.



*Damien English T.D. at the first meeting of Ireland’s National Renovation Upskilling Committee*

# WE RATE



## 2,000+

Home Performance Index homes registered

This year we launched version 2.0 of the Home Performance Index. The Home Performance index now incorporate a net Zero Carbon Standard, allowing for a new level of ambition to meet zero carbon targets by 2050.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION PROJECT

## 19

Construction products EPDs

Produced under EPD Ireland for 50+ products and 100+ EPDs uploaded on [epdireland.org](http://epdireland.org)



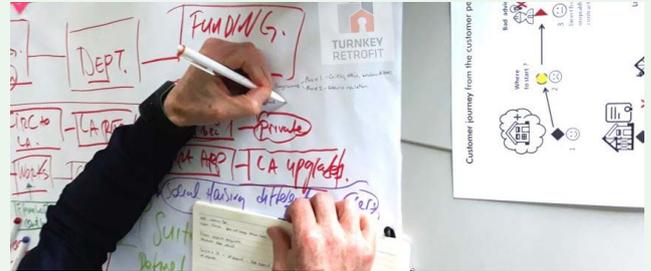
## Scaling Up Renovation

In 2017, thanks to your support, the IGBC published a set of recommendations for a better national renovation strategy. We are now working on a series of interconnected projects to support the implementation of the strategy.



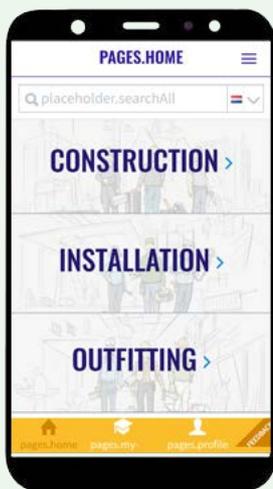
### Supporting Local authorities

IGBC is working with local, national and European stakeholders to develop a multi-level framework that contains a suite of milestones and measurable progress indicators for building renovation strategies, integrating data and insights from the local authority level. The Framework developed as part of Build Upon 2\* will be tested by Dublin City Council in 2020.



### Building a simple customer renovation journey Turnkey Retrofit project

To facilitate energy renovation, the IGBC is working with its members to develop an enjoyable, smooth customer journey for energy retrofit through a 'One Stop Shop' model. This includes financing, online estimates of works, project management, accredited contractors, final assessment and quality assurance\*.



### Building capacity within the industry

To encourage and facilitate upskilling in energy renovation, the IGBC is developing an online self-assessment tool for building professionals and construction workers to help them identify their training needs and pathway to acquire these skills. A roadmap to launch a user-friendly holistic energy efficiency accreditation system for building professionals and construction workers will also be developed\*\*.

	ENERGY CLASS G	ENERGY CLASS E	ENERGY CLASS D	ENERGY CLASS B	ENERGY CLASS A
Your Building	Minimum of delivery				
Primary Energy Demand					

### Facilitating phased deep retrofit

To ensure that renovation works are planned and implemented in a holistic and technically sound manner, preventing "lock-ins" and facilitating a step-by-step approach to deep renovation, the IGBC is developing a Building Renovation Passport for Ireland. The passport will be piloted in 2020 on at least 20 single-family homes\*\*.

## Promoting Greener Homes Through Smarter Finance



The IGBC is working with banks and developers to link the Home Performance Index certification with discounted Green mortgages. This will allow banks to have a robust and credible definition of a 'Green Mortgage product'. It will also serve to educate the Home Buyer on knowing what to look for in high quality, healthy homes and get more affordable monthly payments at the same time\*.

## Supporting Green Public Procurement



Over the next three years the IGBC will work with Irish public authorities and industry to build capacity to on some of the most challenging indicators in the European framework for sustainable buildings - Level(s) as part of public procurement. These include Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and Indoor air Quality (IAQ)\*\*\*.

\*These projects are funded by the Horizon 2020 programme. \*\*These projects are partly funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland \*\*\*This project is partly funded by the LIFE programme.

# WE ADVOCATE

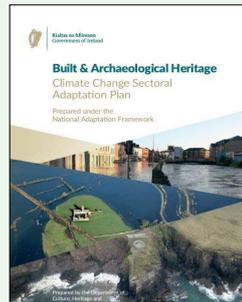
## In Ireland, We...

Made

# 9

### Policy Submissions

These included Ireland's Draft National Energy and Climate Plan, the Carbon Tax consultation, the Local Authority Climate Action plans and the Government Climate Action Plan 2019.



Thanks to your feedback, we launched recommendations on how to improve energy efficiency performance in the rental market and contributed to Ireland's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Built Heritage.



On 15th May, IGBC gave a presentation to the "Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government" in the Oireachtas about energy efficient housing.

Organised

# 7

### Industry Workshops

to input into national policies including energy renovation and the impact of climate change on Ireland's built heritage.



In conjunction with World Green Building Council, we launched our "Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront" report. This was sent to all leading government officials in Department of Housing and Department of Communications, Climate Change and Environment, calling on them to join us in implementing the recommendations and to include embodied carbon as a key action in the Climate action plan.

## IGBC Launched A Successful EPD Campaign

BDP, Coady Architects, Dublin City Council, Hammerson, Hines, IPUT, Meehan Green, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Wain Morehead architects joined our campaign to reduce embodied carbon emissions and committed to request Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for their projects.

## In Europe, We...



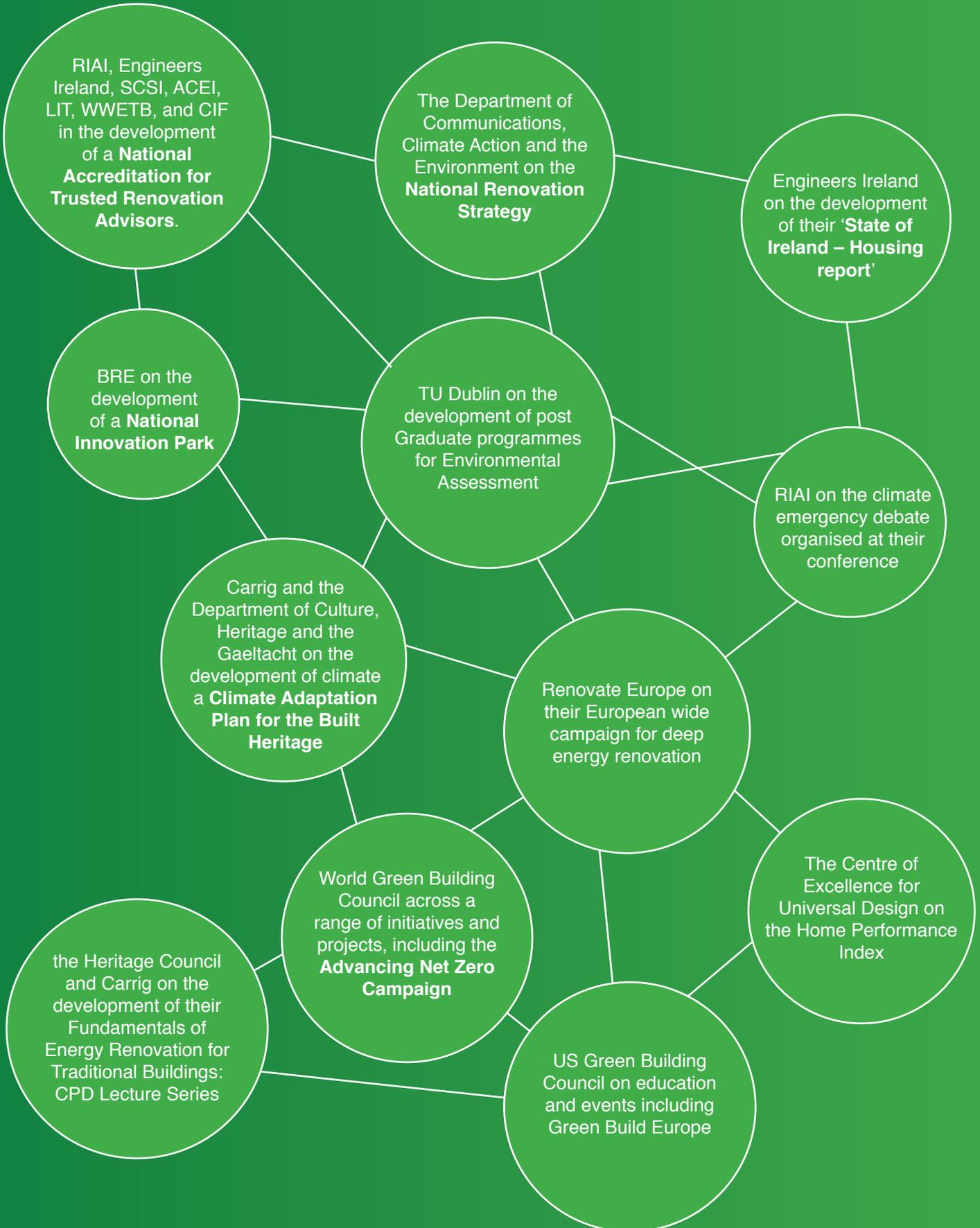
We collaborated with other Green Building Councils to develop a comprehensive European Advocacy manifesto to influence the new Commission.



We supported the Renovate Europe campaign and asked Irish MEPs candidates to support large scale renovation.

# WE COLLABORATE

This year, we collaborated with:



# WE COMMUNICATE



IGBC picked up, for the third time in a row, a win for the Green Small Organisation of the Year at the 2019 Green Awards.

IGBC was in the headlines in 2019, with a series of news, opinion pieces and interviews in which our aims and ambition were outlined. This includes coverage by RTE, The Independent, The Irish Times, The Sunday Business Post, The Irish Examiner, La Tribune, Passive House Plus and many more.

**NEWS**

**Link between sustainable cities and inward investment extensively discussed at Conference**

The need for Irish cities to become more sustainable in order to attract inward investment was discussed at Green Building Cork 2019. Irish regional cities will continue to grow in the next 20 years. But they must significantly reduce their building and transport emissions if Ireland is to reach its climate targets. Making Irish cities greener could enhance their international reputation and increase inward investment. These were some of the key messages of Green Building Cork 2019.

**Opening**  
Opening the conference, Pat Barry, CEO of the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC), said: "Edinburgh has just committed to be carbon neutral by 2035 and Copenhagen is already on track to reach this target by 2025. Irish cities must follow. They need to move beyond energy efficiency and enable all citizens to make low-carbon choices and live in truly sustainable neighbourhoods. The IGBC has developed the Bionics Performance Index certification to give local authorities a framework for better built, better quality, healthy homes, in connected and ecologically enhanced communities."

**Technology**  
Beth Messery, Head of Research at Cork based International Energy Research Centre, added: "Technology has a key role to play in supporting our energy transition. Grid-integrated buildings and transport can dynamically interact to create not only energy positive homes but energy positive communities and districts. But technology is just one aspect. Policy, regulations and awareness raising are also critical."

**Green Building Cork 2019** was organised by the Irish Green Building Council to explore what needs to happen next to transition to genuinely low carbon buildings and communities.

**Ambitious industry leaders set their sights on building a greener future**

**Donal Buckley**

SOME investors and developers are becoming increasingly ambitious in their efforts to build more sustainable energy efficient buildings in order to reduce carbon emissions. Coming well in advance of the recent Extinction Rebellion demonstrations in major cities, the energy efficiency strategies were also discussed at the Irish Green Building Council's annual commercial buildings conference known as The Green Room Conference on April 10.

Property consultants are also responding to carbon concerns, and CBRE has appointed a dedicated global sustainability team which supports its teams in each country to assist clients to improve the sustainability of their buildings.

Aidan Grimes of CBRE told the *Irish Independent* that one of the steps taken by the property consultancy has been the use of a sustainability app which enables property managers to create solutions to client sustainability needs. The app has 11 key applications for property managers, including apps for conserving energy, conserving water, managing waste, optimising wellness, enhancing biodiversity, and more.

**Green standard:** Two Cumberland Place, a Hibernia REIT project

**Big advances in healthy buildings benefiting staff**

**by Pat Barry**  
CEO Irish Green Building Council

In 2014, the World Green Building Council released a ground-breaking report on health, well-being and productivity in offices. The report shows that staff costs account for about 80% of a business expenditure and that businesses spend just 1% on energy. Companies now know that the building impacts the productivity of their workers and their bottom line. Air quality, ventilation, daylight, type of finishes and views of nature and green spaces, are shown to improve productivity. According to the World Green Building Council, office workers

**ARUP staff assembled on July 10, 2017 for the first anniversary of their move to One Albert Quay, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan**

**WELL Certification of Arup's Cork offices**

level is also critical to improve external air quality, and to make air filtering unnecessary. This means reducing traffic, and pollution from combustion in cars,

**RTE** News Sport Entertainment Business Lifestyle Culture Player TV Radio More

News > Politics | Ireland World Business Politics Nuacht RTE Investigates Programmes

**Govt urged to support greening of construction industry**

Updated / Wednesday, 15 May 2019 12:20

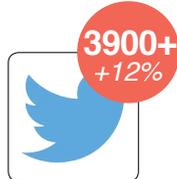
Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email Print

**Greening of construction industry**

## Social Media Followers



**8,200**  
followers on social media



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# 2020. WHAT'S AHEAD?

24-25<sup>th</sup> March



15<sup>th</sup> May



22<sup>nd</sup> October



Our key themes for 2020 are energy renovation, green homes, sustainable finance and a more circular construction industry. In this election year, we will increase our advocacy work to better support our transition to a more sustainable built environment.

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We will also launch the Devyn Olson-Sawyer Sustainable Building award to honour our late friend and co-founder of the Irish Green Building Council Devyn Olson-Sawyer.



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Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members



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