Activity Report
2019

Leadership for a Sustainable Built Environment
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
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

155+ Corporate Members

25% increase

2,000+ People registered for events, tours, training and webinars

8,200+ Social Media Followers

an increase of 36% from 2018

2,000+ Homes

Registered for Home Performance Index certification

19 EPD published for

50+ Products through EPD Ireland

36 Press mentions in 2018

an increase of 26% from 2018

9 Policy submission

7 workshops to input into policies

50+ Products through EPD Ireland

2000+ Homes Registered for Home Performance Index certification

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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 Bricins.

A huge thanks to our main sponsors Hibernia REIT, Irish Residential Properties REIT, Partel and Philip Lee Solicitors.
Registered participants for nZEB Residential Webinar Series

“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.
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.}

Produced under EPD Ireland for 50+ products and 100+ EPDs uploaded on 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 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**.

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.

Organised 7 Industry Workshops

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

In Europe, We…

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.
This year, we collaborated with:

- RIAI, Engineers Ireland, SCSI, ACEI, LIT, WWETB, and CIF in the development of a National Accreditation for Trusted Renovation Advisors.
- BRE on the development of a National Innovation Park.
- TU Dublin on the development of post Graduate programmes for Environmental Assessment.
- The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment on the National Renovation Strategy.
- Engineers Ireland on the development of their ‘State of Ireland – Housing report’.
- RIAI on the climate emergency debate organised at their conference.
- Carrig and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the development of climate a Climate Adaptation Plan for the Built Heritage.
- Renovate Europe on their European wide campaign for deep energy renovation.
- The Centre of Excellence for Universal Design on the Home Performance Index.
- World Green Building Council across a range of initiatives and projects, including the Advancing Net Zero Campaign.
- US Green Building Council on education and events including Green Build Europe.
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.
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.

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.

YOUR IGBC TEAM

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