

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2020



*Leadership for a Sustainable  
Built Environment*

# THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING

As I commence my term as chair of the Irish Green Building Council we look back on a year of change and uncertainty. But despite the challenges of the pandemic, we cannot forget the urgency to act on climate. As I write these lines, 2020 is on course to be the warmest calendar year based on global temperatures.

In 2020 we continued to work to drive change in industry. Our membership increased by 23%, allowing us to grow in stature and influence. With close to 200 members, we now represent the entire building value chain from owners, developers, consultants, real estate agents to facilities managers.

This year saw the contribution of IGBC's work bearing fruit with the development of more sustainable building policies at a national and European level. Notably, Ireland's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, and the publication of the EU's Renovation Wave and Circular Economy Action Plan. In September, fifty organisations joined us for an online workshop with Minister Ossian Smyth T.D. to develop a roadmap to tackle whole life carbon in the built environment. To date, eighteen organisations have signed our EPD Ireland commitment, helping drive the demand for better environmental data from manufacturers and enabling the decarbonisation of Ireland's construction sector.

The IGBC is not only a voice for change, it also supports the industry in employing better products and in upskilling to deliver that change. In 2020, we launched our learning hub and four new webinar series. This allowed us to reach over 11,000 building professionals across the country, ensuring our work is ever more inclusive. Close to 2,500 homes are now registered for Home Performance Index certification which this year became one of only two green building certifications globally pre-approved by the International Well Building Institute as a Health and Wellness rating system.

2021 promises to be another ground-breaking year for the IGBC. We will keep working on and campaigning for energy renovation, green mortgages, whole life carbon, circularity and sustainable homes. Five years after the signature of the Paris agreement and to ensure 1.5°C is not surpassed, IGBC will work on a new ambitious initiative to decarbonise Ireland's built environment across its whole life cycle. Funded by IKEA and Laudes Foundations, #BuildingLife will aim to move the industry to a low carbon circular model of construction and away from a take make waste model. To address the biodiversity emergency, the IGBC will also launch a new mail course on "nature and biodiversity in the built environment".



On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all our members and sponsors for your support and commitment through the year. Organisations like you are the driving force behind the transformation of the Irish built environment.

In 2021, IGBC will celebrate its 10th anniversary. On this special year, we will increase our efforts to advocate, enable and inspire leadership and action. Together, we can make change happen. I look forward to working with you to push the green building agenda to new heights.

**Declan Alcock, Chair Irish Green Building Council**

## MEET THE BOARD



**Declan Alcock**  
Varming Engineering



**Patrick Atkinson**  
Chadwicks Group



**Alan Cawley**  
John Sisk & Sons



**Orla Coyle**  
Sustainable Energy  
Authority Ireland



**Niall Crosson**  
Ecological Building  
Systems



**Orna Fox**  
PM Group



**Ali Grehan**  
Dublin City Council



**Laura Heuston**  
SustainabilityWorks



**Philip Lee**  
Philip Lee Solicitors



**Joseph Little**  
TU Dublin



**Joe Miller**  
RIAI



**Brian Montayne**  
ESB



**William O'Donnell**  
IN2 Engineering



**Kevin O'Rourke**  
Marchena Management  
Services Ltd.



**Krystyna Rawicz**  
KRA Renewables

# IGBC 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



**Bringing Change Leaders Together**  
190+ members - 23% increase on 2019.

**Driving Changes**  
9 policy submissions made.

**Raising Awareness**  
4500+ people attended our events, trainings, and webinars, 11000+ social media followers, 112000+ website page views.

**Improving Skills**  
230+ professionals trained, 4000+ webinar attendees, 115 email course subscribers, 150+ users of our upskilling app, 2800+ learning hub page views.

**Raising Standards**  
2400+ registered & certified Home Performance Index homes, 19 EPDs published for 73 building products.



Ossian Smyth TD, Minister of State for Public Procurement and eGovernment at our Tackling Whole Life Carbon Workshop.



Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications opening our Renovation Wave 2020 conference.



Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage speaking at Better Homes 2020.

# WE EDUCATE

2020 transformed the way the IGBC provides events and training. To cope with Covid19 we greatly increased our offering of online events and courses, and this “new normal” gave us the opportunity to reach a wider audience and create the experience of accessing training whilst staying comfortably and safely at home.



**The Learning Hub**



**Building Renovation Passport Training**



**Build Up Skill Advisor App. Download it here!**



**Regeneration Online Conference with Brent Toderian**

**2800+**  
views

Launch of Learning Hub  
120+ training materials available

**115+**  
subscribers

Advancing Net Zero, Sustainability in the Built Environment, Circular economy in the Built Environment  
115+ subscribers

**4500+**  
attendees  
**@40+**  
online events

**150+**  
active users  
on the Build Up Skill Advisor App and 300+ sessions

**4000+**  
participants  
**@ 34**  
webinars

**44 HPI**  
assessors  
+ 57 trained to take the LEED Green Associate exam

**FUTURE skills**  
IGBC recommendations on upskilling integrated in Government's "**Building Future Skills- The Demand for Skills within Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030**" Report



Development of a set of recommendations to create a Renovation Register for building professionals and construction workers

## NEXT STEPS >>

New Life Cycle Assessment Trainings for building professionals, 4 new conferences: Green Room, Whole Life Carbon, Renovation Wave, Better Homes, New education projects on Renovation & Circularity 3+new webinar series and a new mail-course on nature and biodiversity in the built environment.

## EVENT SPONSORS



# WE RATE

## HOME PERFORMANCE INDEX



**2400+**  
**new**  
registrations &  
certificates

**INTERNATIONAL WELL BUILDING INSTITUTE**  
Home Performance Index became one of only two green rating systems globally pre-approved by the International Well Building Institute as a Health and Wellness rating system.

First EIB funded PPP Social Housing scheme in Europe achieved Home Performance Index certification.



NDFA, Dept of Housing, Bank of Ireland, European Investment Bank, Macquarie Capital and Korea Development Bank back first social housing PPP in Ireland.



Convent Lands – Wicklow



Craddockstown – Naas



Dunleer – Co. Louth

## EPD IRELAND

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION PROGRAMME



- 19 Environmental Product Declarations
- 73 certified products +23 in 2020
- 3 Milestones: First cradle to grave EPD, first EPD for a product from recycled content and first declaration for a structural precast element
- 100+ EPDs available on EPD Ireland Platform from international programme operators
- 19 companies signed our EPD Ireland commitment +10 in 2020

## NEXT STEPS >>

- Home Performance Index Technical Manual to be updated in late 2021 to further align with Level(s).
- 1900+ Home Performance Index homes to be certified in 2021.
- EPD Ireland is going digital to make data available for building LCA tools.
- Launch of recommendations on data use in building level LCA and national generic construction data for Ireland in early 2021.



# WE INNOVATE

## MAKING THE RENOVATION WAVE A REALITY



Building Renovation Passport Auditors trained in January



- **Supporting local authorities:** Development of a framework to support building renovation strategies
- Launch of **Build Up Skills advisor:** the app allows building professionals and construction workers to identify energy renovation training courses that suit their needs in one click.
- **One Stop Shop:** A retrofit platform that existing one stop shops can plug into. Includes features such as virtual assessment, aggregation and a register for renovation advisors - work in progress
- **Introducing Building Renovation Passports in Ireland:** Pilot and publication of the feasibility study
- Developing a **Guidance document to facilitate retrofit of traditionally built buildings**



# WE ADVOCATE

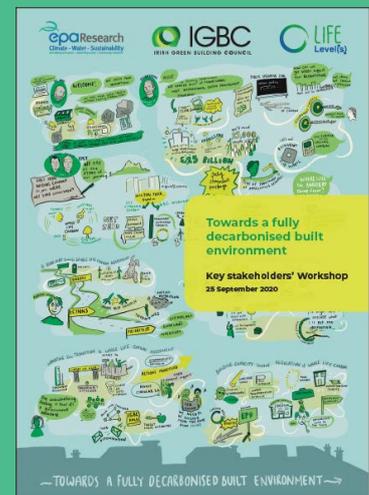
## PROMOTING GREENER HOMES THROUGH SMARTER FINANCE

- Partnering with banks and developers to create a robust green mortgage product that will withstand climate-stress testing and sit comfortably in ESG portfolios. Home Performance Index certified Green Homes would be less exposed to climate-related financial risks.
- Encouraging energy renovation by building professionals and construction workers who have upskilled in the area through energy efficient mortgages for retrofit.



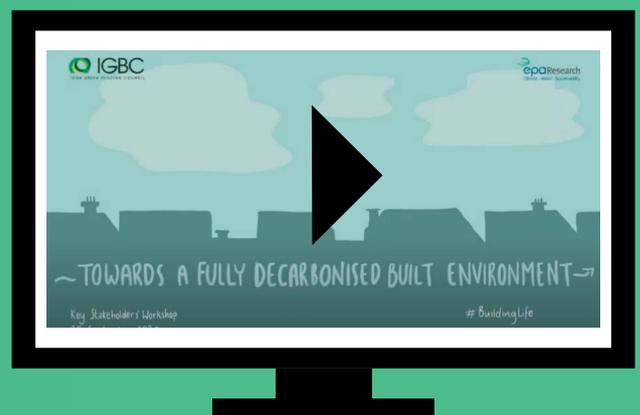
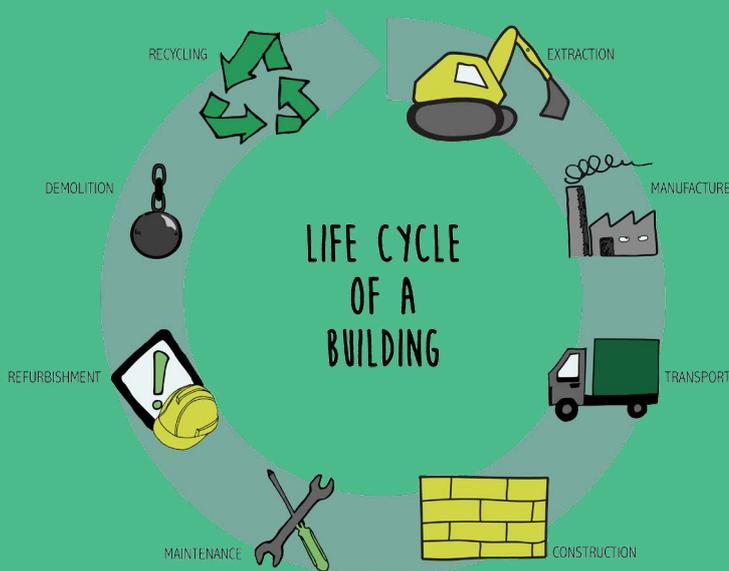
## SUPPORTING GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- Training public procurers in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Developing guidance on incorporating Level(s), LCA, LCC and IAQ indicators into public procurement
- Securing commitment from public authorities to use these indicators to signal a shift to the wider market
- Developing a competency-based tender clause to be piloted by local authorities to encourage building professionals and construction workers' upskilling



## BRINGING BUILDINGS INTO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Through 3 projects, Building Life, CircularLife and Life Level(s) we are aiming to move the industry to a low carbon circular model of construction and away from a take make waste model.



# WE ADVOCATE

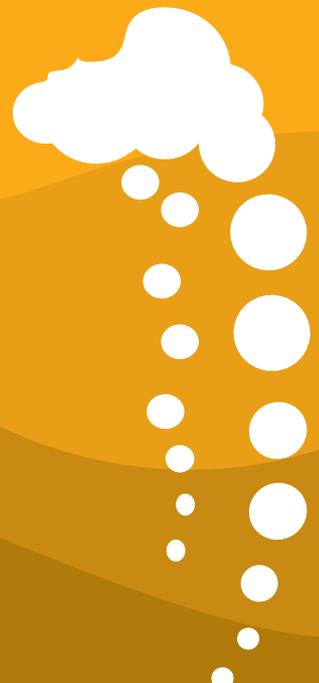
- 9 Policy Submissions
- Launch of our **Political Manifesto** in advance of the 2020 General Election
- 19 EPD Commitment Campaign signatories, 10 new in 2020
- 4 IGBC Members committed to reach net zero operating emissions in their portfolios by 2030
- Working in close cooperation with Renovate Europe to ensure the Irish Government prioritise renovation in its National Recovery and Resilience Plan
- Developing a roadmap to tackle whole life carbon emissions in Ireland
- Workshop on integrating Whole Life Carbon into public procurement
- IGBC’s recommendations on actions to encourage energy renovation upskilling incorporated into **“Building Future Skills- The Demand for Skills within Ireland’s Built Environment Sector to 2030”** report:
  - Assess the merits of developing a “Skills Passport” for Built Environment activities, to facilitate the recognition of skills and competencies
  - Explore the use of the Procurement Process to stimulate skills development



Launch of the IGBC’s Political Manifesto at our member workshop “Co-Designing an ambitious national renovation strategy”

## NEXT STEPS >>

In 2021, the IGBC will continue to advocate for a more sustainable built environment. We will campaign on a number of themes such as funding for energy renovation, Green Public Procurement, better planning and tackling whole life carbon. We will do so through a mixture of submissions, report publishing, meeting with government officials and press-releases.



# WE COLLABORATE





# THE TEAM



Despite these challenging times, our team kept growing in 2020: Stephen and Amanda joined IGBC this year and we are looking for more talented staff to join our team in early 2021.



**Pat Barry**  
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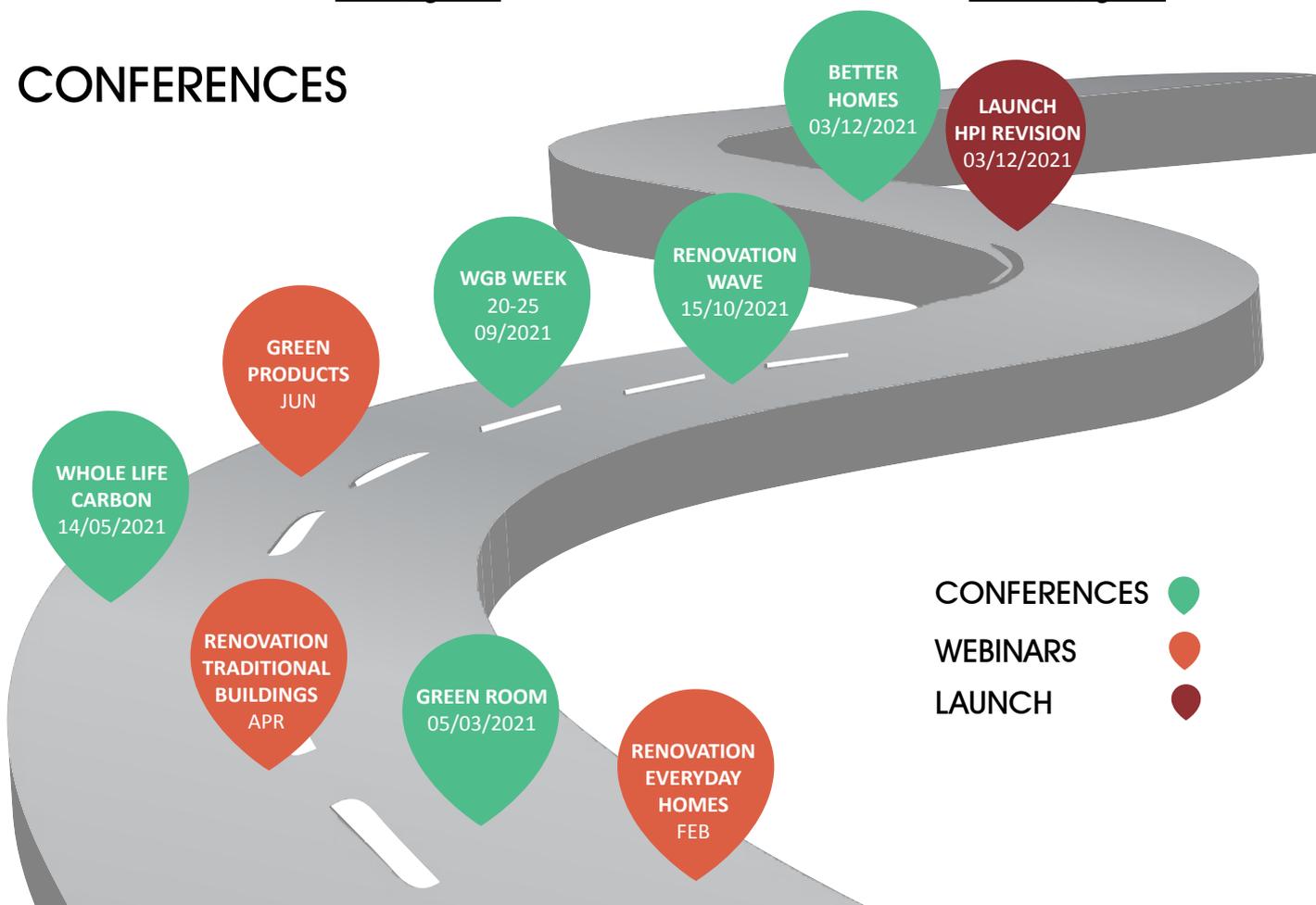


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# CONFERENCES



# YOUR IGBC TEAM



## Platinum Members



## Gold Members



## Silver Members



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