On the 6th of May the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) launched a draft roadmap to decarbonise Ireland’s built environment across its whole life cycle. The draft roadmap shows that construction and the built environment are directly responsible for 37% of Ireland’s emissions, the same as agriculture. This is made up of about 23% operational emissions associated with the energy we use to heat, cool, and light our buildings. A further 14% of the emissions are embodied carbon emissions from the production of construction materials, transport of materials, construction process, maintenance, repair and disposal of buildings and infrastructure. With 400,000 new homes to be built by 2030, there is a real risk that we will exceed the construction and built environment carbon budget if embodied carbon emissions are not rapidly addressed.

Speaking at the launch of the draft roadmap, Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, said: “The model shows that the National Retrofit Plan, alongside improvement of the carbon intensity of the grid, are critical to halve our emissions by 2030. Embodied carbon has long been a hidden part of a building’s climate impact and is often more challenging to address as it requires cooperation across the supply chain. I am delighted to see the industry working together to develop a common vision and a comprehensive set of actions to mitigate its emissions”.

Reacting to this comment, Pat Barry, CEO at IGBC said: “Given Ireland’s ambitious construction and renovation programme, addressing embodied carbon emissions is urgent. Even before the first occupant of a new building steps inside this building vast amounts of CO₂ is produced, but what is not measured cannot be reduced. A first step is hence to mandate measurement of embodied carbon in new buildings”.

The draft roadmap lays out the necessary steps for the industry and government to halve the built environment emissions by 2030. Key recommendations include:

* Publishing a clear timeline on the introduction of regulations on embodied carbon to provide certainty to the industry.
* Prioritising reuse of existing buildings and bringing as much vacant property as possible back into use in our villages, towns, and cities to avoid throwing away the embodied carbon and valuable resources within them.
* Increasing support for energy renovation, including phased renovation, and improving quality assurance.
* For new build, encouraging better design to support repair, adaptability, and reuse.
* Encouraging the use of low impact construction materials, such as reused and recycled products, and biobased construction materials.

The draft roadmap was developed by the Irish Green Building Council in close cooperation with industry and key stakeholders as part of the #BuildingLife Campaign. The draft roadmap and the carbon modelling documents are available on the IGBC website [here](https://www.igbc.ie/download/).

The IGBC would like to hear your feedback on this document and the proposed recommendations. The public consultation period for submitting your feedback is open for two months from the 7th of May until the 7th July 2022.

Please complete the following sections and return this form to [info@igbc.ie](mailto:info@igbc.ie) before the 7th of July 2022. After this date we will analyse the results of the public consultation and integrate relevant feedback into the final roadmap document due for publication in September 2022.

**We would like your feedback on the following:**

1. Do you agree in general with the roadmap?

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| Your reply here: |

1. What would it take for you to approve this roadmap?

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| --- |
| Your reply here: |

1. Are there any specific recommendations that you disagree with? Or any key recommendations that are missing?

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| Your reply here: |

1. Do you believe that the proposed timelines are feasible?

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| Your reply here: |

1. Do you believe that the proposed recommendations and timelines will be sufficient to meet Ireland’s decarbonisation targets?

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| Your reply here: |

1. What would you see as the major barriers to achieving our targets?

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| Your reply here: |

1. What would you see as the main drivers towards achieving our targets?

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| Your reply here: |

1. Do you have any comments on the modelling and underlying assumptions? Read more about these in the companion report on the carbon modelling undertaken by UCD

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| Your reply here: |

1. Do you agree with the proposed definitions (Section 3.1)?

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| Your reply here: |

1. Do you have anything else you would like to add?

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| Your reply here: |