

ACTIVITY REPORT



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Who We Are

The **Irish Green Building Council** (IGBC) is a fully inclusive organisation of all those willing to work together within the built environment to transition to sustainability in the shortest time possible.

We are the leading authority on green building best practices in Ireland, with a network of over 400 organisations spanning the entire built environment industry.

We are affiliated with the **World Green Building Council**, a network of over 80 national Green Building Councils worldwide with a total membership of over 27,000 of the most progressive international organisations and businesses.



Chairwoman's Foreword

As the new Chair of the Irish Green Building Council, I am delighted to say that 2023 was another busy and successful year at the IGBC. As we reflect on the past year, I am immensely proud of the achievements and milestones that the IGBC has accomplished, a testament to the dedication and hard work of all our members.

In 2023, we started working on the implementation of the **Building a Zero Carbon Ireland - A Roadmap to Decarbonise Ireland's Built Environment across its Whole Life Cycle**. 180 members have already endorsed the document, showing their support for a fully decarbonised built environment. To support this transition, the IGBC have launched **on-demand training courses** in Embodied Carbon and Life Cycle Costing, providing professional development in a more flexible and accessible way. Last year, we also started doing more work in new areas such as Biodiversity and the Built Environment and the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable activities, with the launch of a very successful **webinar series** and **Communities of Practice**. 2023 has also been the year we have seen significant growth in our team, with currently 18 members of staff that are there to support you in this transition. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pat Barry, CEO of the Irish Green Building Council, **on his appointment as chair of the World Green Building Council's European Regional Network** as well as for winning the prestigious award from **SEAI for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy**. His achievements are a testament to his commitment and dedication to transforming the Irish Built Environment.

2024 promises to be another exciting year with much more to look forward to. Specifically, we will continue our work on the implementation of the Building a Zero Carbon Ireland roadmap. This includes working on the development of a national methodology to address whole life carbon emissions in the built environment, developing high quality guidance on whole life carbon emissions associated with various types of housing developments, and advocating for an ambitious revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The decarbonisation of Ireland's built environment will be further supported by the launch of a roadmap on key sustainability skills that are required in the construction industry till 2030, as well as a Circularity in Construction Roadmap, and new on demand training courses being made available over the year.

I would like to thank all our members for your support throughout the year. We would not have been able to achieve so much without your unwavering commitment to our shared goals. Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the past chair, Declan Alcock, for his outstanding work as chair over the last three years.

I look forward to working with you and to meeting you all and at one of our many scheduled events this year.



Ali Grehan
Chair of IGBC

Meet The Board



Declan Alcock

Varming Engineering



Patrick Atkinson

Chadwicks Group



Alan Cawley

John Sisk & Sons



Orla Coyle

Savills



Niall Crosson

Ecological Building Systems



Lorraine FitzGerald

Glenveagh Properties



Orna Fox

PM Group



Ali Grehan

Dublin City Council



Laura Heuston

Sustainability Works



Philip Lee

Philip Lee Solicitors



Joseph Little

TU Dublin



Patrice McVeigh

O'Connor Sutton Cronin



Joe Miller

RIAI



William O'Donnell

IN2 Engineering



Claire Pomroy

Hines



Krystyna Rawicz

KRA Renewables

2023 At Glance

Building a Community

400+ members



Raising Awareness

21500 social media followers
1200+ people attended our live events
100+ articles and interviews



Driving Changes

21 policy submissions
Policy recommendations on how to improve **Indoor Environmental Quality** in our homes launched
Building in timber and **energy renovation** working groups launched

Raising Standards

21800+ registered HPI homes
90+ EPD published for 200+ building products
1200+ projects registered on One Click LCA's Carbon Designer Tool for Ireland



Improving Skills

600+ professionals trained
2600+ registered for webinars & training
500+ users registered on our new on demand training platform



Leading the Built Environment towards a **Zero Carbon Future**

Supporting the piloting of the CO₂ Performance Ladder tool in Ireland



Pat Barry, CEO of IGBC, receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy Award at the 2023 SEAI Awards



Supporting the development of a national whole life carbon methodology



Launching three new Communities of Practice



Releasing on demand courses on a new online platform



Advocating for an ambitious EPBD

2023 Highlights

May



Build Green Now 2023 & Launch of the new Biodiversity & Built Environment Factsheet with Minister Noonan



June



The Launch of "Towards Healthier Greener Homes"



August



IGBC CEO Pat Barry elected as the Chair of the World Green Building Council's European Regional Network



First tender published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with CO2 Performance Ladder tool, piloted in Ireland by the IGBC

September



World Green Building Week - 2023



October



Launch of Build Up Skills Status Quo Report



December



Better Homes 2023



Our Members

- **400+** members
- **90+** new corporate members joined in 2023
- **Over 1,300** professionals registered on igbc.ie for news and CPD

This year we introduced a new system on our website, so every employee of membership organisations can get a user account and access all the IGBC contents, free webinars, and discounted training. You can also express your main interests so we can send you customised information. Get yours by emailing membershipservices@igbc.ie.

This will also help us to inform you of the **community of practice** meetings over the year. These are quarterly networking meetings, only for our members, on different topics such as ESG, Whole Life Carbon and Biodiversity & the Built Environment. For next year, we are aiming to set up new ones, including Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Top 10 Industry Segments



Companies by size



If you want to discuss membership benefits, [get in touch](#).

We Educate

In 2023, we hosted live events while continuing to offer online webinars, enabling participants and speakers to connect from across Ireland and beyond. Additionally, we unveiled a new online platform with **on-demand training**, accessible everywhere and at everyone's convenience.

Thanks to our members that sponsored our events



- 33** live events and tours with **1200+** attendees.
- Launch of **Life Cycle Costing Training** and **Whole Life Carbon Training** in on-demand format. [Register now!](#)
- 600+** professionals trained to learn on **Whole Life Carbon Assessment, Life Cycle Costing, Circularity and Indoor Air Quality.**
- 2000+** attended our webinars on **circularity in construction, renovation, green public procurement and biodiversity.**
- 145** Home Performance Index assessors trained.
- 3** new Communities of Practice (CoP) in ESG, Whole Life Carbon and Biodiversity launched
- 300+** digital resources on the learning hub, browsed **4000** times

Feedback from Our Training



It was very clear and the complexity was simplified into a few well structured steps.



I have learned a lot from all the information provided and the video and the final lectures was fantastic.



Very informative and very useful resources. Clearly explained and can watch videos in my own time.



Want to discuss tailored training and our education offer?
Contact [Anne](#)

The IGBC is actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at enabling skill development in energy efficiency, circularity, green procurement, and much more.

We are about to launch a **roadmap of key skills needed in the construction industry** ^[1], for both building professionals and construction workers to decarbonise our built environment across its whole life cycle. The roadmap has been developed through extensive stakeholder engagement and will cover energy efficiency, decarbonisation of heating and cooling, circularity and addressing embodied carbon emissions.

We keep contributing to the development and promotion of **Digital Academy for Sustainable Built Environment**. DASBE provides the construction industry with high-quality, flexible and accessible training in a range of disciplines including drones for construction, building information modeling (BIM), green procurement and energy retrofit.

The IGBC has also delivered webinars in **Biodiversity and the Built Environment** ^[2], **Energy Renovation for non-residential buildings** ^[3], **Reclaimed construction materials** ^[4], and **CO₂ Performance Ladder tool for Green Procurement**. ^[5]



CO₂ Performance Ladder: Launch & Case Studies from Ireland & Netherlands



*Any questions about our events and DASBE courses?
Contact **Linda**
Want to have your say on the upskilling roadmap?
Get in touch with **Sinéad***



Upcoming webinars & Events 2024

From February



NEW CPD WEBINAR SERIES

For members, every 2nd Tuesday and Last Thursday of the month^[5]

March

LAUNCH EVENT

National Upskilling Roadmap' for the Built Environment ^[1]



3rd May

CONFERENCE BUILD GREEN NOW

FIND OUT MORE HERE

WWW.IGBC.IE/EVENTS

^[1] Funded by BUSI2030 project (LIFE 101075961)

^[2] Funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Policy on Architecture, Places for People.

^[3] Funded by SEAI ENACT initiative

^[4] Funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications through the Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) CMEx project

^[5] Funded by Laudes Foundation

We Rate



Home Performance Index (HPI) Ireland's national residential sustainability certification

21838 new homes registered in 2023.

190+ homes have been certified. These include Poplar Row (**39 units**, Dublin 3) by Bartra, assessed by HPI Assessor JVTierney; Bunratty Road (**78 units**, Dublin 17) by SISK/DCC, assessed by HPI Assessor Sisk; Colmcille House (**23 units**, Dublin 7) by Ardstone, assessed by HPI Assessor JV Tierney; and Bonham Street (**57 units**, Dublin 8) by SISK/DCC, assessed by HPI Assessor Sisk.

6300+ new homes across **33** schemes aiming for Home Performance Index (HPI) certification in 2023.

27 major developers committed to HPI certification.

Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) new green loan offers a discount of up to 0.5% for developments certified and AIB is offering all HPI applications a lower-priced option for development loans.

145 professionals trained to perform Home Performance Index assessments.

Bonham Street, Dublin 8.



Do you want to know more about
Home Performance Index?
Get in touch with John and Brian



NEXT STEPS

Moving the Home Performance Index certification process on a digital platform.

Launching Version 3.1 with EU Taxonomy alignment as a minimum requirement. ^[6]

^[6] Funded by EU project SMARTER4EU



EPD Ireland

Allowing Irish manufacturers to provide transparent information on the environmental impacts of their building products.

94 Environmental Product Declarations.

206+ certified products from 30 companies.

260+ EPD available on EPD Ireland Platform from international programme operators.

All EPD Ireland's EPD available in digital format on [ECO Portal](#) to worldwide specifiers.

A new [Complementary Product Category Rules for Bituminous Mixtures](#) (c-PCR Bituminous Mixtures) published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) under EPD Ireland.

Two videos explaining [what is an EPD](#) and [how to read it](#) developed. ^[7]

^[7] Supported by Construct Innovate



What is an EPD?



How to read an EPD?

Thanks to all our members who developed and published EPD in 2023



NEXT STEPS

The whole process of developing an EPD is going online.

Want more information on how to develop an EPD for your product? Drop a line to [Irene](#)



We Innovate

Leading the decarbonisation of Ireland

We are working on the implementation of **Building a Zero Carbon Ireland, our Roadmap to decarbonise Ireland’s Built Environment across its Whole Life Cycle**. 179 IGBC Members have already endorsed the roadmap, showing their support for a fully decarbonised built environment – **Endorse the Roadmap now!** ^[8]

We are developing a **National Methodology to measure the Whole Life Carbon (WLC) of buildings**. A draft is ready, and we are asking building professionals to test it on their projects and give us feedback. Those who contribute become **INDICATE Champions for WLC quality data** like Declan Moran (Helena McElmeel Architects), Julia Carroll (PM Group), Patrycja Kochaniuk (Scott Tallon Walker Architects), Garreth Hunt (Mulcahy McDonagh & Partners Ltd - MMP), Róisín Cahill (Henry J Lyons Architects), Jack Walsh (MMC Quantity Surveyors Grangegorman Development Agency), Conor Buckley (Walls Construction Limited), University of Galway, Susan Vickers (Clúid Housing), Shane Fenton (Wain Morehead Architects Ltd), Richard McCarthy (Embodied Carbon Reduction) and Cathal Dunne (Building Design Partnership Ltd). ^[9]

We created a **National Inventory of Carbon for 285 generic construction materials for Ireland that can be used in early-stage building level Whole Life Cycle Assessments**. ^[10]

We are developing a “**Design for Performance Framework**” to promote and support this approach over design for compliance and for achieving Whole Life Net Zero Carbon. ^[11]

We set **Net Zero Carbon definitions** for Operational Energy and Whole Life carbon.

With UCD, we are about to published a **new guidance document for planners**. It includes recommendations to better address carbon emissions caused by the construction of new housing developments. ^[12]



^[8] Funded by Laudes and IKEA Foundations through #BuildingLife

^[9] Funded by Laudes Foundation through INDICATE

^[10] Funded by Construct Innovate and Laudes and IKEA Foundations through #BuildingLife

^[11] Funded by SEAI through the Design4Zero

^[12] Funded by Construct Innovate



Enabling Circular Economy and Green Procurement in the Construction Sector

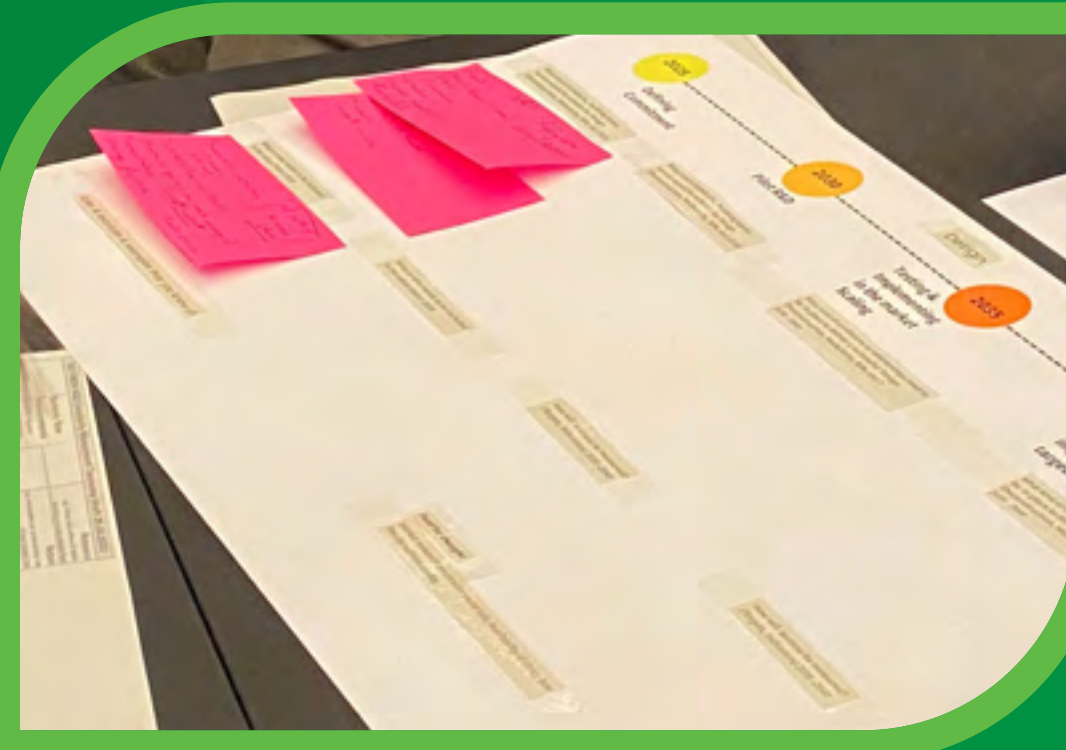
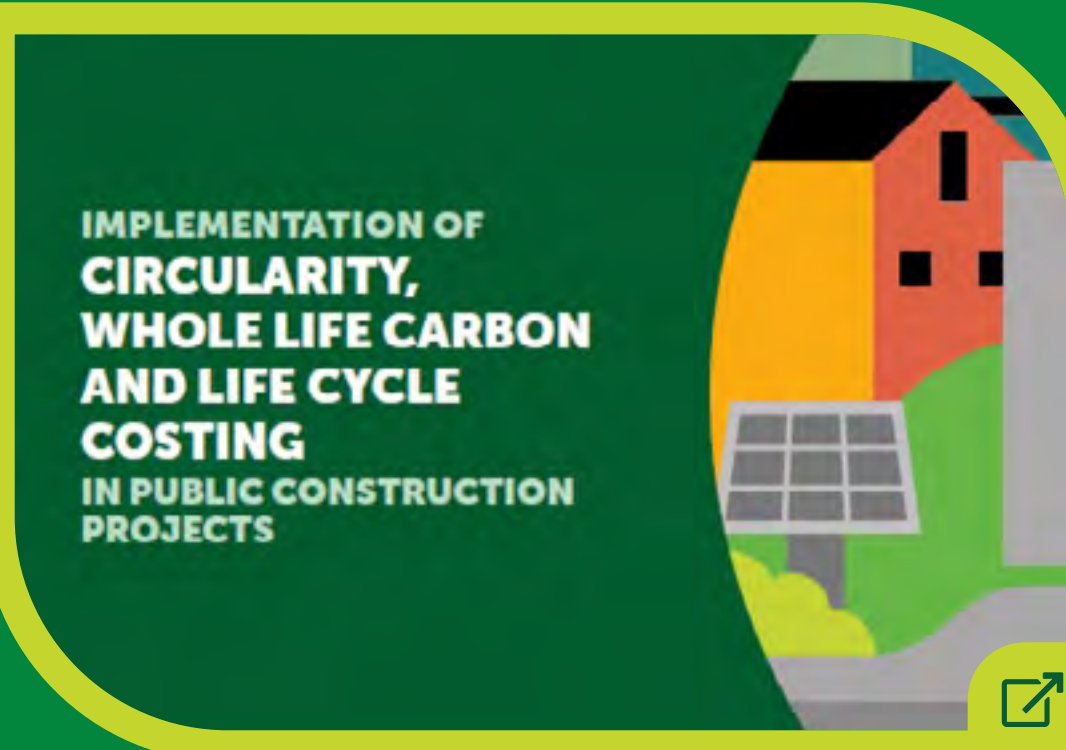
We are developing a National Circular Built Environment Roadmap to 2040. We are currently engaging with stakeholders from different backgrounds and expertise in circular construction through **workshops and a public consultation**, before the roadmap is launched in September 2024. ^[13]

We are piloting **Construction Material Exchange – CMEx**, a marketplace for the reuse of construction materials. PJ Hegarty and OPW joined as early adopters and have already uploaded their excess construction materials onto the platform. ^[14]

We are also working on a **Circular Economy Construction demonstrator project** - Opera Square in Limerick, where **reclaimed construction materials will be reused onsite and offsite**, or be repurposed and remanufactured. ^[15]

We are piloting in Ireland the **CO₂ Performance Ladder**, a tool helping companies **embed green procurement into their processes**. The first tender with the CO₂ Performance Ladder was published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in late 2023, with other contracting authorities expecting to use it in the coming months. ^[16] Next year, we are hosting **webinars and a new Community of Practice** on this tool and Green Public Procurement (GPP).

We published a **handbook for public procurers** which introduces some of the key green indicators that should be applied within the **procurement of public construction projects** in addition to the **energy efficiency requirements**. ^[17]



^[13] Funded by EPA, through **Circular Build**

^[14] Currently funded by Circular Building Coalition

^[15] Funded by EPA, through **CE-CON initiative**

^[16] Funded by Laudes Foundation

^[17] Funded by EPA

Making the Renovation wave roll

We are developing recommendations to better address fuel poverty through energy renovation. The final version will be available by February. ^[18]

We are working to enable action on commercial renovation, creating awareness and tools to help SMEs overcome existing barriers. ^[19]

We led on the development of the **Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings, Guidance for Specifiers and Installers.** ^[20]

Promoting Healthier & Greener Homes

With the Healthy Homes Ireland initiative, we launched the “**Towards Healthier Greener Homes**” report which includes a series of recommendations to deliver healthier homes in Ireland. ^[21]

We are launching green finance programs for sustainable homes, promoting healthier homes and improving energy security. Third-party green certification aligned to the EU taxonomy will be used as a qualifying mechanism for green finance products. ^[22]

^[18] Funded by Friends of the Earth

^[19] Funded by SEAI through ENACT

^[20] Funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

^[21] Funded by Velux

^[22] Funded by EU through SMARTER4EU initiative



Enhancing Biodiversity in the Built Environment

We launched a new community of practice, a networking group for building professionals and property managers working on biodiversity and the built environment in Ireland.

We hosted a **webinar series** and published a **factsheet** offering useful insights to those working in the construction and property industry on what can be done to help nature thrive in the built environment. It includes a **Biodiversity Checklist of the 10 things to do for a better Built Environment.**

We hosted our first Masterclass in Biodiversity & the Built Environment due to be back in 2024 and we are now working to collect top-tier case studies on protecting/enhancing biodiversity in various building typologies and infrastructure in an Irish context.



We Advocate

21 Policy submissions.

180+ organisations have endorsed the **Building a Zero Carbon Ireland Roadmap**. In 2024, we will work on the implementation of the roadmap. Please **reach out** if you want to support us in this action. **Endorse it today!**

Tracking progress towards the implementation of our Building a Zero Carbon Ireland roadmap, with a policy scorecard to be released in February 2024.

Advocating for an ambitious recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, in collaboration with the World Green Building Council - European Regional Network and the Renovate Europe Campaign.

Pat Barry, CEO of the IGBC **appointed to the New Governmental Steering Group on timber in Construction**.

Working groups set up on timber in construction and residential renovation policies.

22 leaders endorsed our **#BuildingLife campaign** becoming ambassadors, and promoting our call to address the environmental impacts of buildings across their life cycle.



- Endorse our **“Building a Zero Carbon Ireland Roadmap”**
- Any queries about how you can help us influence policy and contribute to the development of the IGBC’s policy manifesto? Contact **Marion**



2024 GOALS



Develop a circularity and a green construction skills roadmaps



Publish a set of recommendations to better address fuel poverty through energy renovation.

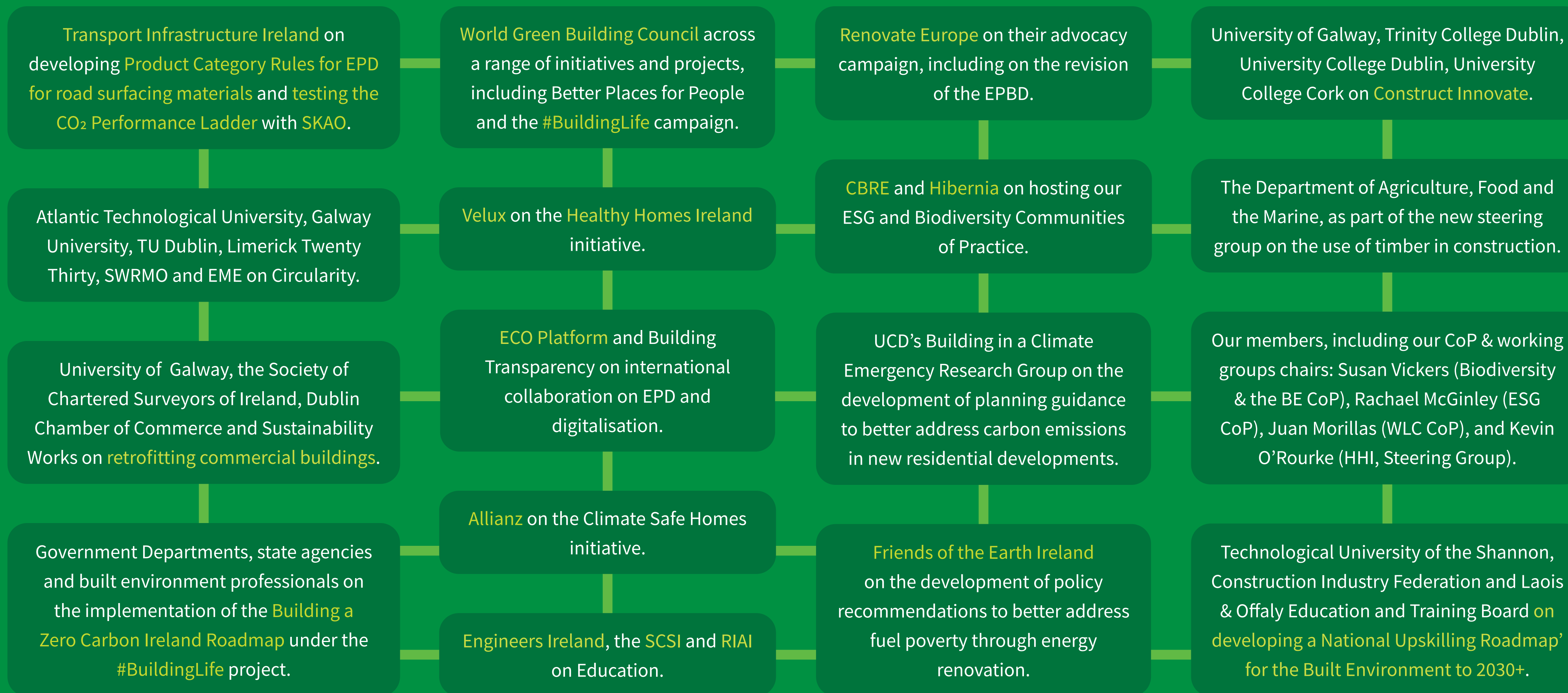


Work with our members to successfully implement the policy recommendations included in the **Building a Zero Carbon Ireland** roadmap and in the **Towards Greener, Healthier Homes** report.

Collaborate with other European Green Building Councils and the Renovate Europe Campaign, and with IGBC members for an ambitious transposition of the EPBD in Ireland.



We Collaborate



We Communicate

100+ Articles

newspaper/online magazines

5 Podcasts

radio & video interviews

235k+

page views of igbc.ie

63k Newsletters

sent to 5400+ members and subscribers - 45% open rate



14k+

LinkedIn followers



11K+

total views on YouTube



5k+

X followers

Podcast Episode
The Co-Benefits of Energy Efficiency in an Irish Context by Marion Jammot
 IIEA Talks

Jul 2023 - 55 min 57 sec

Episode Description

In this podcast, IEA Director of Research, Dr. Barry Coffey, interviews Marion Jammot, member of the IIEA Climate and Energy Working Group and Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Irish Green Building Council. They discuss her recent IIEA paper 'The Co-Benefits of an Energy Efficiency in an Irish Context' which provides an analysis of the wider range of direct and indirect co-benefits of energy efficiency upgrades in the residential and non-residential building sectors. It also examines the most steps that should be taken by policymakers to support quality energy efficiency upgrades.

Indoor health: how retrofitting can help Ireland live better

Awareness of the impact of nutrition on health has increased, but as we spend more than 90% of our time indoors, we should not forget that where we live (and work) can affect our health, too.

More than 5,000 homes must be retrofitted every month until 2030 to reach our climate targets. While the challenges associated with renovating over seven homes per hour have been highlighted, the national retrofit programme also presents an opportunity to improve our health and wellbeing.

Including the ones associated with building fabrics and furnishing — must be reduced, energy efficiency upgrades must be introduced alongside a proper ventilation strategy. This requires improving the indoor environmental quality skills of building professionals and construction workers entering the industry — and incentivising upskilling in this field. A greater focus on energy renovation, ventilation and healthy materials is needed.

A greater focus on energy renovation, ventilation and healthy materials is needed.

Educating occupants on home retrofitting. Occupants must also know how to operate the heating and ventilation systems. A public awareness campaign on the impact of housing on health and how to run an energy-efficient, healthy home would be important, as well as a focus on post-retrofit handovers. High-quality energy renovations are not only good for the planet, but they can also have immediate, positive impacts on our health and wellbeing. It's time to look at energy renovation as a national health improvement programme.

Marion Jammot
 Head of Policy and Advocacy with Green Building Council (IGBC) and member of Healthy Homes Ireland's steering group

Building during climate and biodiversity emergencies

Why carbon reduction and nature protective measures must be incorporated in construction

12 priority actions for a green home

When it is time to build, there is a need to ensure that the construction process and the materials used are sustainable. The most important steps to take are:

- 1. Use sustainable materials
- 2. Reduce energy consumption
- 3. Improve indoor air quality
- 4. Increase water efficiency
- 5. Reduce waste
- 6. Use renewable energy
- 7. Improve insulation
- 8. Use low-carbon concrete
- 9. Use sustainable timber
- 10. Use sustainable steel
- 11. Use sustainable glass
- 12. Use sustainable finishes

Ireland needs 120,000 new construction workers to achieve climate and housing targets

The Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) has warned that ambitious plans to halve Ireland's carbon emissions by 2030 and beyond would require a huge influx of workers. The group says that the construction industry will need to attract 120,000 new workers by 2030 to meet the targets.

Pat Barry
 Irish Green Building Council
 Host
 Juan A. Morillas

#11 Pat Barry
 Irish Green Building Council

Host
 Juan A. Morillas

Share Your Green Design

Why your new house should be a timber house

Updated 7 months, 10 Jul 2023 5:23P

While the sources of air pollutants —

What makes a home sustainable?

Guide

1. Energy efficiency

2. Water efficiency

3. Indoor air quality

4. Sustainable materials

5. Waste reduction

6. Renewable energy

7. Green roofs

8. Smart home technology

9. Local sourcing

10. Health and wellbeing

The Green Home

Pat Barry

Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Irish Green Building Council



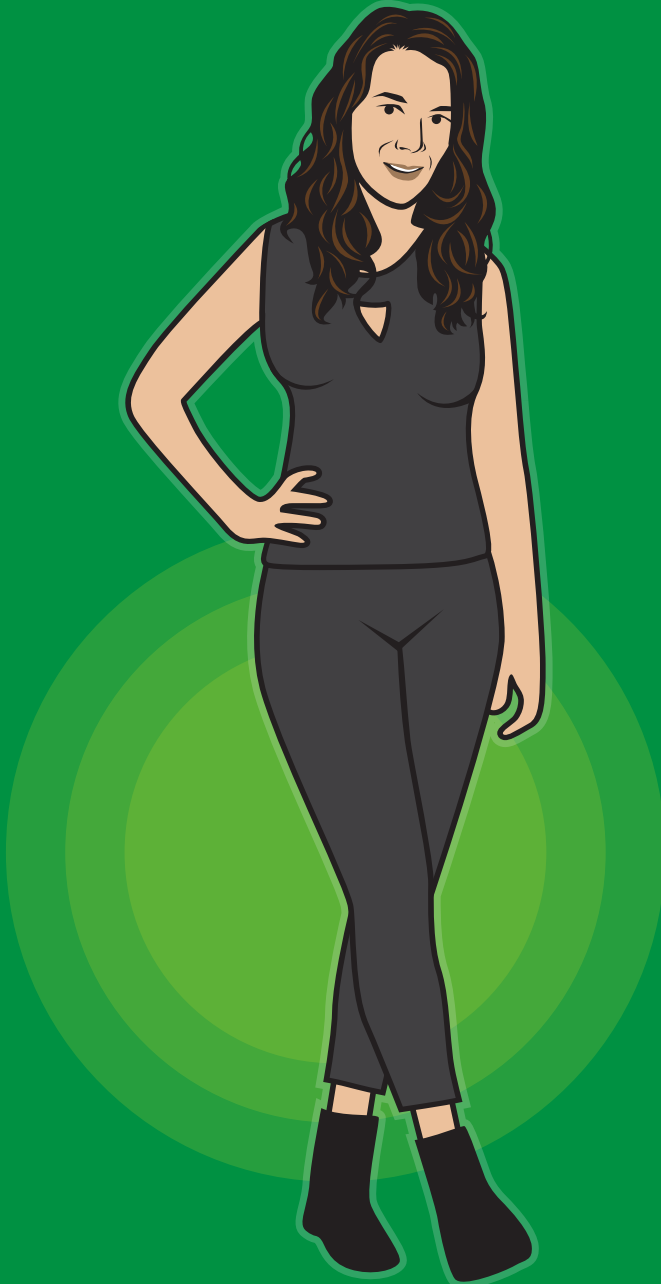
Interested in writing a blog post?
 Want to discuss marketing opportunities?
 Get in touch with **Irene**

Meet The Team

In 2023 our team has grown: 4 new talented people joined IGBC, and we now have 18 members of staff.



Pat Barry
CEO
pat@igbc.ie



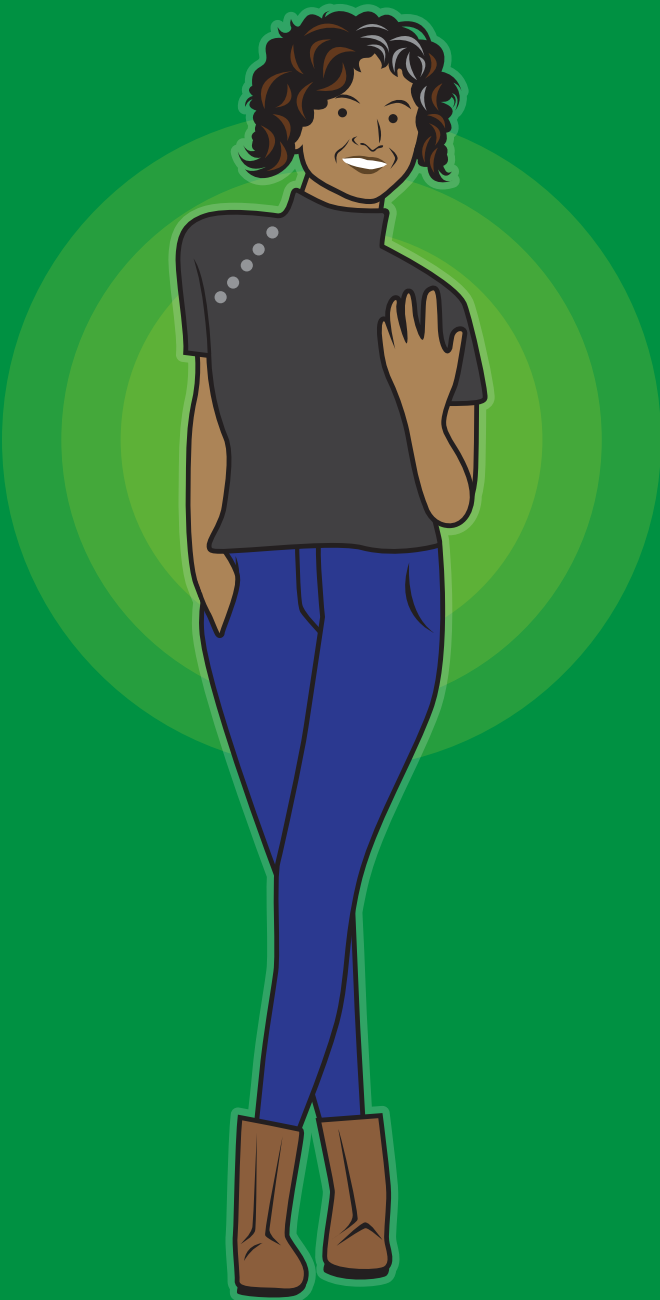
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Meet The Team



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Meet The Team



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Giovanni Impoco

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Anne Molloy

Learning & Development Lead

anne@igbc.ie

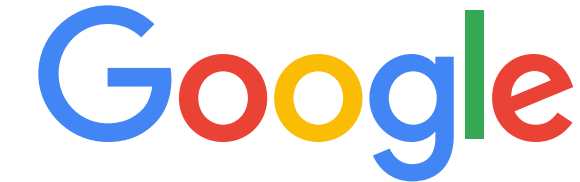


Michael Hayes

Researcher

michael@igbc.ie

Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members



