



2021 has been another important year for climate action and greener buildings. In July, the Climate Action Act enshrined into law the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. In line with this goal, the Climate Action Plan 2021 set ambitious actions for a more sustainable built environment, including a commitment to introduce life-cycle assessment requirements for buildings and construction products.

2021 was also a special year for the IGBC as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. In 2011, when the organisation was founded, the construction industry was on its knees and green buildings appeared as an exotic concept to many. Anniversaries are both a time for celebration and reflection. Normalising green buildings and neighbourhoods is an ongoing journey, but I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident we can achieve much more.

This year, the IGBC consolidated its position with a major increase in membership. We welcomed 16 new members at partnership level and saw a 40% increase in membership. Collaboration is at the heart of our work and having members from all parts of the value chain is critical in driving change.

One of the biggest moments of the year for the IGBC was the launch of our initial assessment of the carbon emissions associated with construction and operation of the built environment. The report was released alongside our preliminary set of recommendations to address whole life carbon emissions. The recommendations, which will inform our advocacy campaigns, will be developed further over the coming six months through extensive stakeholder engagement.

To facilitate the transition to net zero carbon buildings, the IGBC organised four conferences, three webinars' series and

a number of trainings on green building certifications and life cycle assessment. Over 8,000 building professionals attended these events and training. To make building level LCA easier, we digitalised all our EPD datasets and launched the Carbon designer for Ireland tool. This free tool allows building professionals to quickly assess and visualise the emissions linked to different types of construction techniques and materials choices at an early stage in a project.

2021 was also a landmark year for the Home Performance Index (HPI) as over 5,000 homes are now registered for certification. Furthermore, the HPI was recognised by GRESB as a full points certification system for new homes built in Ireland and Home Building Finance Ireland now offers a discount of up to 0.5% for certified developments.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all our members and sponsors for your support and commitment through the years. To tackle climate change and the other environmental crisis we are facing, the 2020s must be a decade of action. 2022 promises to be another packed year for the IGBC with projects designed to address whole life carbon emissions, promote circularity and support energy renovation. I look forward to working with you as we continue to campaign for a fully decarbonised, circular, resource efficient built environment.



- Declan Alcock
Chair Irish Green Building Council

Chair Message

Driving Change Together



Meet The Board



Declan Alcock
Varming Engineering



Patrick Atkinson
Chadwicks Group



Alan Cawley
John Sisk & Sons



Orla Coyle
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland



Patrice McVeigh
O'Connor Sutton Cronin



Niall Crosson
Ecological Building Systems



Orna Fox
PM Group



Ali Grehan
Dublin City Council



Laura Heuston
Sustainability Works



Philip Lee
Philip Lee Solicitors



Joseph Little
TU Dublin



Joe Miller
RIAI



William O'Donnell
IN2 Engineering



Kevin O'Rourke
Marchena Management Services Ltd.



Krystyna Rawicz
KRA Renewables

We launched the Irish Green Building Council on 24th of May 2011 in Engineers Ireland with 35 founder members. In the room that day there was a real buzz of what might be possible.

It was an interesting time to launch an organization related to the built environment with the doomsayers saying we would never build a house in Ireland again. Like now, we were in a terrible but very different crisis. The construction industry had entirely collapsed, companies were struggling, staff were laid off. It took an incredible vote of confidence in a Green future for the founder members to invest in a fledgling Irish Green Building Council.

However, in times of crisis change happens, old moulds are broken and opportunities seized. Those same companies and organizations had a vision and not surprisingly they

continued to grow through the crisis to thrive in the green sector.

IGBC has now grown to over 260 members who span the entire value chain from development finance to products. A staff of 12 now work on a whole range of projects and programmes aimed at bringing about transformative change.

Things we dreamed about back that May day in Clyde road have come to pass. The founders asked ‘wouldn’t it be great if only green building was valued’

Well ten years later... it is standard to link finance and green construction. Investors ask for Whole life carbon calculations. Government talks about health and wellbeing and deep renovation strategy for 500,000 homes. An environmental product declaration is no longer a rare exotic creature, but almost standard for every Irish construction product manufacturer and supplier. The sustainability team is a core part of every construction organization.

The next ten years will be even more transformational. The ground has been prepared and change will accelerate. The Government and the EU are fully on board with transformational change. A 50-55% cut in carbon in 8 years must now be delivered.

It is no longer a case of dreaming what is possible but implementing at breakneck speed on the dash to zero.



- Pat Barry
CEO of the Irish Green Building Council

CEO Message

10 years of transforming the Building Industry



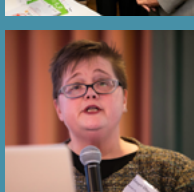
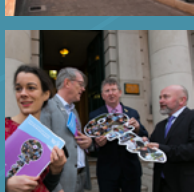
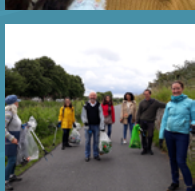
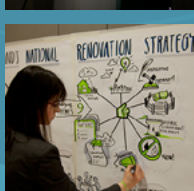
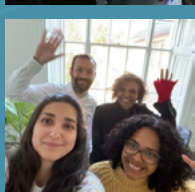
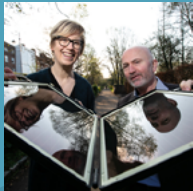
Launch of the Irish Green Building Council

Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government;
Philip Lee, Chairman, IGBC and Prof. J. Owen Lewis, CEO, SEAI



10 years IGBC

IRISH GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL





Launch of a **Net Zero Roadmap** for Ireland, an Energy Renovation Framework for Local Authorities and a Carbon Designer Tool

40% increase

260+ members

99% renew their membership

BUILDING A COMMUNITY



57+ EPD published for **120+** building products

RAISING STANDARDS



5000+ registered & certified HPI homes

IGBC 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

DRIVING CHANGES

28 policy submissions



5300+ registered for webinars

IMPROVING SKILLS

160 email course subscribers

3800+ learning hub page views

300+ professionals trained

RAISING AWARENESS

2500+ people attended our events

14.000+ social media followers

48 press mentions



We Educate

In 2020, the pandemic transformed the way the IGBC provided events and training. We increased our offering of online events and courses and, this year, we decided to maintain this digital format for the safety and comfort of all our attendees and speakers across Ireland and beyond.





Launch of Whole Life Carbon training:
200+ professionals trained on how to measure the carbon emissions associated with their building design



4 online conferences
 with **500+** Attendees on commercial building performance, reducing embodied carbon in construction, renovation and low carbon homes



4 webinar series
 with **21** webinars and **2100+** attendees on circularity in construction, green innovations and IGBC's activities



80+ Home Performance Index
 assessors trained and **80+** trained to take the LEED Green Associate exam



4 mail courses
 with **160+** subscribers on Sustainability in the Built Environment, Advancing Net Zero, Circular Economy and Nature & Biodiversity

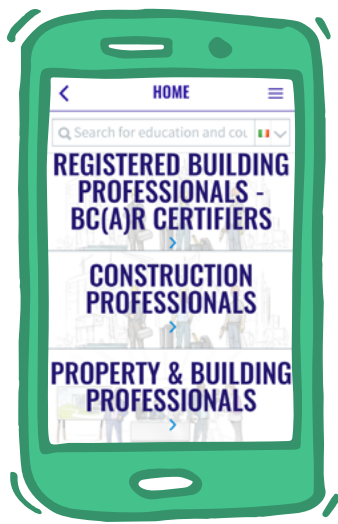


200+ digital resources
 available on the learning hub with **2400** visitors

The IGBC is working on a number of initiatives to facilitate upskilling in energy efficiency, circularity and the digital economy.



Click on the image to see more information.

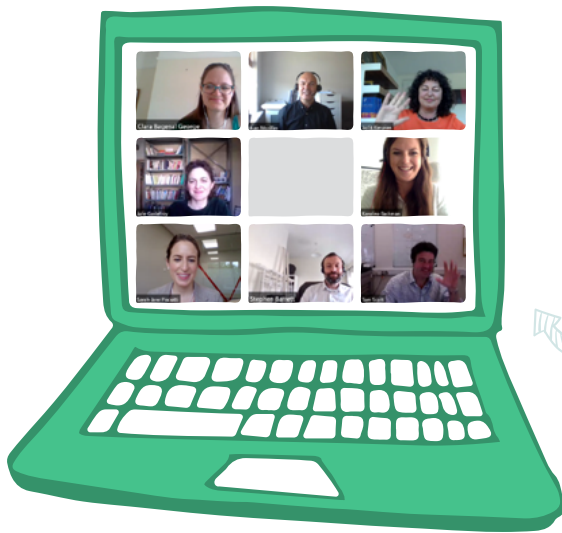


We are improving the **Build Up Skills Advisor App** and providing **new training courses** for builders merchants. ^(note 1) The **Build Up Skills Advisor App** allows building professionals and construction workers to identify energy renovation training courses that suit their needs in a few clicks.

We have also developed a **short online training course for bathroom retailers** to ensure staff understand water efficiency and can guide consumers to make more informed choices.

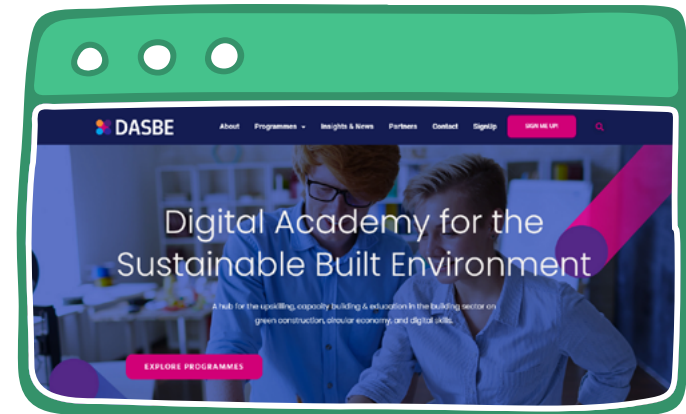
We are also partnering with Irish third level institutions to create a digital learning platform for Ireland, namely **The Digital Academy for Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE)**. **DASBE** aims to provide the construction industry with high quality, flexible and accessible training in a range of disciplines including energy efficiency, circular economy and digital skills.

The IGBC has also delivered **12 webinars on circularity** and carried out a training workshops with members to assist designers and developers to incorporate circularity into their projects. More circular design workshop will follow. ^(note 2)



Upcoming training & events 2022

- Friday 22 April - Whole Life Cycle Conference
- Friday 2 December - Better Homes



^(note 1) Funded by [BUSLeague Project](#)
^(note 2) As part of [CIRCULARlife Project](#)

We Rate



HOME PERFORMANCE INDEX

- **5000+** registered and certified homes (100% increase)
- **8** major developers committed to certification
- **Recognised by GRESB** as a full points certification system for new homes built in Ireland
- Awarded **5 out of 5** for best practice and transparency by the **European Construction Sector Observatory**
- **Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) new green loan** offers a discount of up to 0.5% for developments certified
- **81** Home Performance Index Assessors trained



Next Steps: Home Performance Index Technical Manual to be updated to version 3.0



Corkagh Grange (Dublin) - 109 units - Sisk



Kilbride Court (Bray) - 40 units - Wicklow City Council
This the first multi-units development to reach **gold standard**

EPD IRELAND



- **57** Environmental Product Declarations
- **124** certified products from Ballytherm, Breedon Bricks, Chemoran, Medite , Munster Joinery, Passive Sill, Steel Formed Sections Ltd, Xtratherm, Cement Manufacturers Ireland and Tobermore Concrete Products.
- **110+** EPD available on EPD Ireland Platform from international programme operators
- In 2021 all datasets (CSV and XML) digitalised and available on [ECO Portal](#), ready to use in Building level LCA tool
- **41** companies signed the EPD campaign, committing to ask for Environmental Product Declarations and prefer products with EPD



THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION PROGRAMME

We Innovate

Leading the decarbonization of Ireland and enabling circular economy in the construction sector.

- We launched the [Carbon designer for Ireland](#), an early-stage whole life cycle carbon assessment tool that can be used to inform the brief development and initial design stages of a project. (note 3)
- We are **developing National generic construction data** for Ireland to be used in early stage building level LCA. (note 4)
- We are piloting a scheme to demonstrate a user-friendly system for **the reuse of construction materials** that would otherwise enter the waste stream. (note 5)
- We are supporting Dublin City Council and UCD in gathering better quality data on the effectiveness of **green roofs** in reducing storm water runoff from developments and the extent of flooding.
- We organised **circularity workshops** to introduce people to the general concepts of circular design principles such as Design for adaptability and deconstruction, and circular material and resource use.



Click on the image to see more information.



(note 3) Funded by [CircularLife](#)

(note 4) Funded by [Life Level\(s\)](#)

(note 5) Funded by [CMEx project](#)



Making the Renovation wave roll

We launched the [Build Upon Framework](#) for local authorities to reach their energy renovation targets. The Framework is easy to use and capture high-quality data on the impact of energy renovation programmes. ^(note 6)

We are developing a **One Stop Shop**, retrofit platform that existing one stop shops can plug into. It will include features such as virtual assessment, aggregation and a register for renovation advisors ^(note 7)

We worked with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to develop a **Guidance document** to **facilitate retrofit of traditionally built buildings**.



Cathy Bryce, Managing Director of AIB Capital Markets and Derek O’Shea, Head of Development Finance in AIB with Pat Barry CEO of IGBC



Promoting healthier and greener homes through sustainable finance

IGBC collaborated with AIB on a briefing report on **‘Commercial Real Estate and Sustainability’** which shall be released in the New Year. The briefing paper will be the first in a series on Sustainability, Finance and the Built Environment and it introduces key concepts to investors and developers, in the context of climate risk impacts on both the financial sector and the built environment. ^(note 8)

Advancing Green Public Procurement

- In 2022 we will roll out training to public procurers in LCA
- We are developing guidance on incorporating Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) indicators into public procurement
- We are securing commitment from public authorities to use these indicators to signal a shift to the wider market
- We are developing a competency-based tender clause to be piloted by local authorities to encourage building professionals and construction workers’ upskilling ^(note 9)



^(note 6) Funded by [Build Upon 2](#)

^(note 7) funded by [Turnkey Retrofit](#)

^(note 8) As part of [SMARTER Finance](#) project

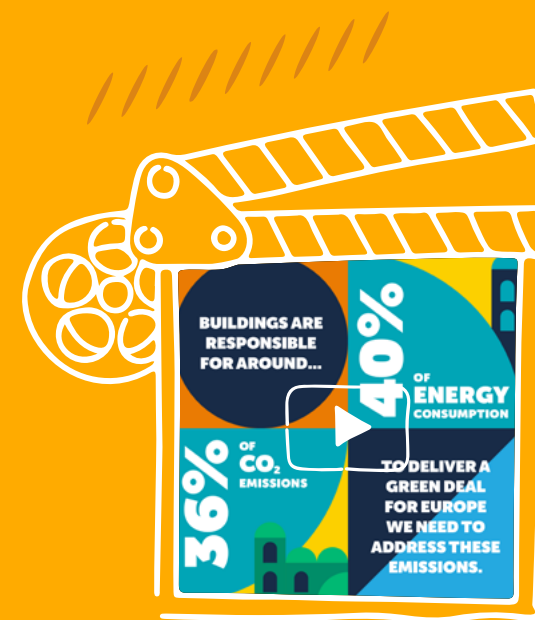
^(note 9) Funded by [Life Level\(s\)](#) and [Busleague projects](#)

We Advocate



- **28** Policy submissions.
- **20** leaders endorsed our **#BuildingLife campaign** by becoming **ambassadors**, promoting our call to address the environmental impacts of buildings across their life cycle.
- **41** companies committed to our **EPD Commitment Campaign**, **22** new in 2021.
- **7** IGBC Members committed to reaching **net zero** operating emissions in their portfolios by 2030.
- We launched a study, in collaboraton with UCD with initial findings of a carbon modelling of the impact of NDP investments to 2050 ^(note 10)
- Developing a **roadmap to tackle whole life carbon emissions in Ireland**. We published preliminary recommendations [here](#).
- Release of the [Renovate to Recover](#) with Renovate Europe, assessing the buildings-related elements of Ireland’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Click on the image to see more information.



Click on the image to play the video.



- Launch of the [Healthy Homes Ireland forum](#) in partnership with Velux. The Forum aims to positively influence public policy by considering how we address the health problems caused by existing low-quality homes and ensure there is no compromise between health and energy efficiency in new build homes.
- Launch of the [#WaterMatters](#) campaign calling for bathroom retailers to communicate the importance of water efficiency to consumers.



We Collaborate

Dublin City Council, Cork City, Offaly Laois and Kilkenny County Councils on the development of the Build Upon Framework – Capturing the Benefits of Energy Renovation

Velux on Healthy Homes Ireland Forum

Government Departments, state agencies and built environment building professionals on the development of a Net Zero Carbon Roadmap for the Built Environment in Ireland under the #BuildingLife project

Renovate Europe on their campaign to prioritise energy renovation in Ireland’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Carrig, KRA, Passivate and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the development of a Guidance document to facilitate retrofit of traditionally built buildings

World Green Building Council across a range of initiatives and projects, including Advancing Net Zero and #BuildingLife Campaigns

US Green Building Council on education and events

BRE on developing case studies for World Green Building Week

UCD and Dublin City Council on capturing better quality data on green roofs

WWETB on the development of nZEB training for construction workers

Appointed by Minister of State Pippa Hackett to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine’s Forestry Policy Group

Participated in Circuire working group on Procurement

ECO Platform, Indata and Building Transparency on international collaboration on EPD and digitalisation

UCD’s Building in a Climate Emergency Research Group for the development of an initial assessment of all emissions associated with construction and the built environment in Ireland.

Irish Water and Unified Water Label Association in promoting water efficiency through training and awareness campaign

CITA - Aistriú in developing and hosting the webinars on Circular Economy

AIB in developing briefing report ‘Commercial Real Estate and Sustainability’

Transport Infrastructure Ireland on developing Product Category Rules for EPD for road surfacing materials.

GMIT on the Circular Economy in construction post graduate.

LAPN and NUIG on CDW and Resource Management Best Practice course

Engineers Ireland, the SCSi and RIAI in delivering Whole Life Carbon training to their members

OneClickLCA in developing an early stage LCA estimate tool

We Communicate



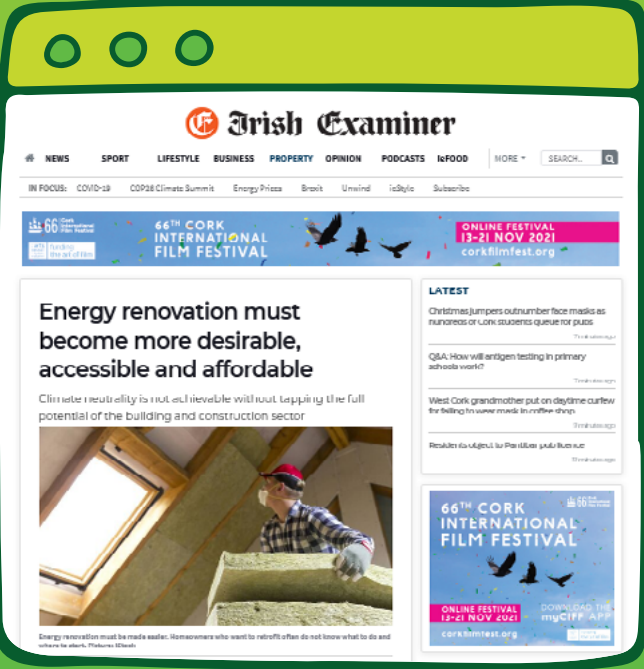
48 mentions in newspaper/online magazine and podcasts



4300+ Newsletter views



150K+ Page views of igbc.ie



Home Performance Index to raise level of data on home quality above BERs



Marion Jarmet

SUSTAINABLE, energy-efficient homes must become the new normal. This year, the Climate Action Bill will enshrine into law the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. Buildings and construction activity account for 36% of greenhouse gases emitted, half of raw materials used and more than 40% of solid waste produced in Europe. Climate neutrality is not achievable without tapping the full potential of the sector.

Most of our homes are energy inefficient. To address this, the Climate Action Plan sets an ambitious target of retrofitting 500,000 homes to a building energy rating (BER) of B2 by 2030. This is almost six homes being retrofitted every hour for the next 10 years. It represents a significant jump from current (low) levels of deep renovation. Last year, approximately seven homes a day were retrofitted to that standard.

To achieve these targets, energy renovation must become more desirable, accessible and affordable. Capturing better quality data on the co-benefits of energy renovation is a first step to increase appetite.

The Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) have developed an energy renovation framework that allows local authorities to capture better data on the impact of their retrofit programmes. It includes indicators such as

CO2 emissions reduction, return on investment, air quality and thermal comfort. Energy renovation must also be made easier. Homeowners who want to retrofit often do not know what to do and where to start. The introduction of a register of trusted energy renovation advisers that homeowners could check, would really help. This would not only improve trust in the outcomes of energy renovation, but also incentive upskilling in the industry.

"Building renovation passports" are a new concept in Europe that could help too. The idea is that the homeowner should get a clear plan to improve their home that they can implement over a number of years. If they don't have the money to do all the work now, they can do it bit by bit in a way that works to an end goal of a super energy efficient and comfortable home.

Finally, finance, as grants and low-cost loans, is vital to support homeowners, but also to provide certainty to the industry.

The retrofitting industry is facing both a labour and skills shortage. To scale up deep energy renovation, businesses need to train staff, build new business models and guarantee long term work for their re-skilled employees.

Retrofitting our housing stock presents significant challenges, but it also presents major opportunities. Besides reducing our emissions, it will create

warm and healthy homes for people.

Furthermore, it presents an opportunity to rehabilitate our town and city centres, including abandoned and underutilised buildings.

By bringing these properties back into use through high quality renovations we could cut building and transport related emissions. This holistic approach is good for the environment and good for people. It represents a fantastic opportunity to make our city, town and village centres more vibrant, enhance air quality, and restore the cultural and aesthetic assets of these areas.

While much focus has been on retrofitting our existing stock, much more can be done to make new homes more sustainable. Significant progress has been made in making them more energy efficient in the last decades.

New homes built to the current building regulations must reach a minimum BER of A2. They are highly energy efficient, however this only tells part of the story.

With an estimated half a million homes to be built by 2040, the conversation needs to move on to the total environmental impact of housing across their full life cycle.

Ireland's new home construction programme will result in huge 'embodied carbon' emissions if we continue to build houses in the way we currently do. These emissions result from mining, quarrying, transporting and manufacturing building

materials, in addition to constructing new homes. They largely happen before the home is even occupied.

In terms of scale, these "embodied" emissions will be each year equivalent to building a new Mounspoint coal burning power station online. Housing construction also impacts on transport emissions, biodiversity loss, resource consumption including water and land use, and flood risk.

Transport is Ireland's second and fastest growing source of carbon emissions. The easiest way to tackle these emissions is by getting planning right, so that all new homes are in compact, suitable communities where most services can be reached within a 15-minute walk. To allow homeowners to identify the most sustainable homes, the IGBC launched the Home Performance Index.

A very high BER is no longer enough. The BER does not take into account some of the biggest environmental impacts of new homes, such as the production of building materials, biodiversity loss, water consumption and flood risks.

The Home Performance Index also encourages home builders to improve the health and wellbeing of homeowners, by improving daylight and acoustics, and minimising harmful chemicals such as radon and volatile organic components (VOCs).

Finally, the Home Performance Index certification gives a third-party verified seal for financial institutions, procurers, homebuyers and developers.

GROWING citizens' support for climate action and recent policy developments are a cause for optimism. Another reason to be optimistic is the growing number of investors which are placing a high importance on sustainability credentials.

The recent publication of the European Taxonomy Regulation will impact investments in green homes in the coming years. The taxonomy spells out detailed technical criteria to identify sustainable activities going beyond energy efficiency.

Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) have already launched a green loan product offering a discount of up to 0.5% on loans to home builders for developments certified with the Home Performance Index. The HBFI Green Funding Product is the first Irish green financial product fully aligned to the Paris Agreement and EU taxonomy regulation.

Decarbonising our built environment is vital in reaching carbon neutrality. Recent developments are welcome, but addressing these challenges require a change of mindset to break the silo approach to decarbonisation and sustainability.

Marion Jarmet is head of policy and advocacy, Irish Green Building Council. Details: www.igbc.ie



2 new blog post series: [#BuildingLife](#) & [IGBChats](#)



A new section of the website called [Green Jobs Hub](#) helping our members to connect with the best sustainability professionals

Click on the icon to visit our social media.



1400+ followers

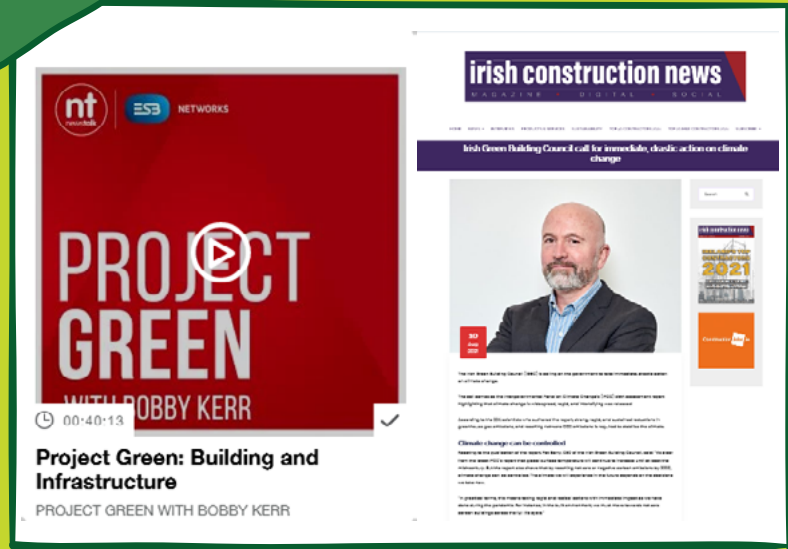


4800+ followers



7900+ followers

Click on the image to listen the podcast.



The Team

From 2011 to 2021 our team has grown exponentially: this year 4 new talented people joined IGBC, and we now have 12 members of staff.



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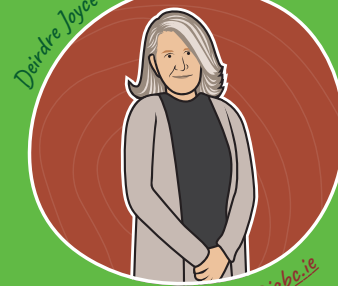
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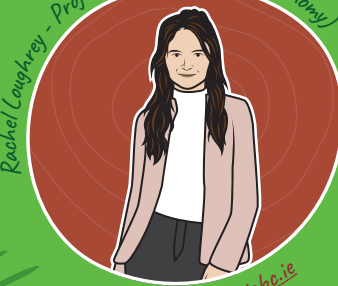
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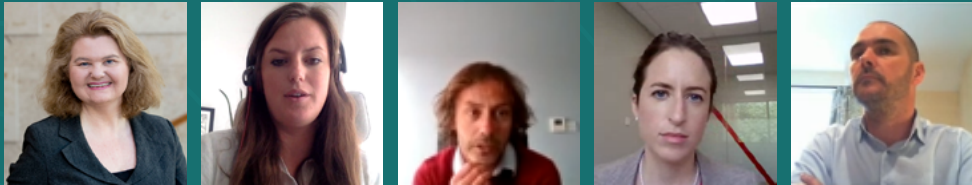
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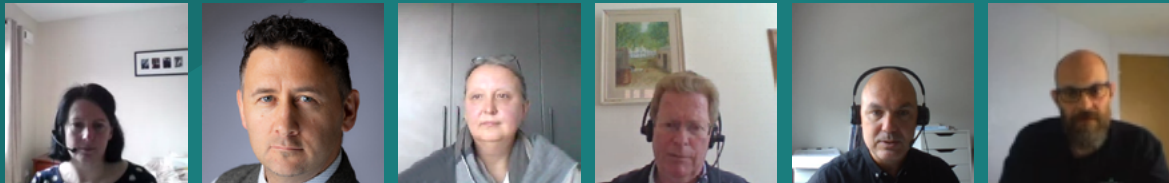
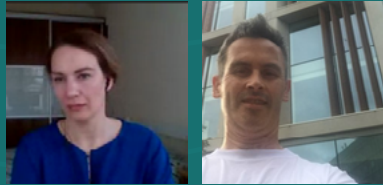
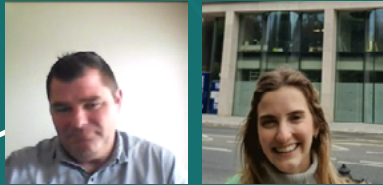
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*Thanks
to all our
members
and
supporters*



Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members



Leadership for a Sustainable Built Environment

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