

Global Update



December 2023

Welcome to the WorldGBC December Global Update

Dear GBCs, partners and sustainable building advocates,

I have returned from two weeks in Dubai for COP28 where the team and I were proud to represent the sustainable building agenda, ensuring that the built environment continues to gain recognition as a key solution to tackle the global climate crisis.

We arrived at the UN Climate Summit with one message – a message of confidence – confidence to governments and businesses that our network of Green Building Councils (GBCs) and partners can make the transition to an energy efficient, regenerative and just future a reality. And already have the solutions to do so.

We brought this message to over 30 built environment events hosted during the two weeks of COP28, elevating our sector's critical role in the transition to the "road map to mission 1.5C."

Under our [campaign #BuildingTheTransition](#) we stood united, and demonstrated the strength of our sector with 360+ organisations, (including all GBCs) from across our global network, signing our [Open Letter](#) to political leaders and policymakers at COP28, with a call to action to step up and accelerate the total decarbonisation of the built environment.

Through this joint action, we showcased the collective confidence in our network on the potential of the built environment to tackle global heating, whilst showcasing the solutions being implemented by our network.

We come back feeling invigorated and ready to continue [#BuildingTheTransition](#) into 2024 and beyond.

As we wind down for the year and prepare to take a well deserved break, we must remember that our collective efforts will drive the change we need to see. It was heartwarming and reassuring to see the buildings and construction sector unite with a shared vision.

I would like to thank every one of you for your continued support throughout the year. Without you, we would not have been able to achieve the remarkable momentum we have seen in 2023.

Warm wishes,

Cristina Gamboa
CEO, WorldGBC

News from WorldGBC



Pictured above: WorldGBC team at COP28.

It's now been a couple of days since the UAE COP28 negotiations finally closed and the world's first Global Stocktake concluded.

The agreed text (the UAE Consensus) marks not only a first in its call to transition away from fossil fuels, but also includes a new specific target to triple renewables and double the rate of energy efficiency by 2030.

Such results essentially represent an unequivocal mandate to decarbonise the building and construction sector.

Ahead of COP29 and COP30, it is now up to countries and industry to deliver an ambitious response to the Global Stocktake, and that's exactly what our network is already doing!

[Read the full thought leadership article here](#)



We're [#BuildingTheTransition](#) together

On 6 December we launched our Open Letter at COP28 with the backing of our global network of 80+ Green Building Councils, Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment signatories and partners. Commitments from our network keep coming in and now we have more than 360 businesses and organisations who have signed up to help us to achieve total decarbonisation of the built environment.

[Join us in #BuildingTheTransition](#)

We joined forces for #COP28

We need to collaborate to see systemic change. So that's exactly what we did for COP28 – we joined forces with our 80 Green Building Councils, Commitment signatories and partners to continue #BuildingTheTransition to an energy efficient, regenerative and just future for everyone.

[Join us in #BuildingTheTransition](#)

How did we do:

- 360 businesses and organisations have joined our Open Letter
- Our #BuildingTheTransition campaign has had a reach of over 1.2 million across social media
- 33% of our global network of Green Building Councils participated in the campaign

Across the regions

We are delighted that our [Green Building Council network](#) continues to grow.

We recently welcomed Denmark as an Established GBC and Mostadam (Saudi Arabia) as an Affiliate Partner.

We look forward to welcoming Morocco and Ukraine GBC as Prospective members and Iraq and Earthna (Qatar) as Affiliate Partners.

Our network is already working with businesses, organisations and governments to ensure an energy efficient, regenerative and just transition for everyone. Together we're #BuildingTheTransition.

Join a Green Building Council today

Take action



[#NZCBCommitment news roundup: December](#)

The Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment (the Commitment) is recognised as a key initiative for the delivery of the Buildings Breakthrough. Our Commitment signatories are taking accelerated action to decarbonise their portfolios and the built environment today and are #BuildingTheTransition.

[Read the latest Roundup](#)



[Look for solutions in actions: WorldGBC's Case Study Library](#)

Our [Case Study Library](#) features examples of the world's most cutting edge sustainable buildings. Each building has demonstrated enhanced performance in health benefits and net zero operational carbon, as verified by established certification schemes, rating tools or other verification systems.

[Submit your case study](#)

Learn



UAE's private sector is committed to achieving sustainability

The United Arab Emirates's (UAE) private sector has set ambitious sustainability and net zero goals for the region. These commitments have been led by the Government and driven by National Agendas, UAE's Year of Sustainability and COP28 hosted in the region.

This is the second installment of our collaborative thought leadership series with [AESG](#), a [Middle East and North Africa Regional Partner](#).

[Read the full article here](#)



'Knowledge to Action' webinar in January 2024

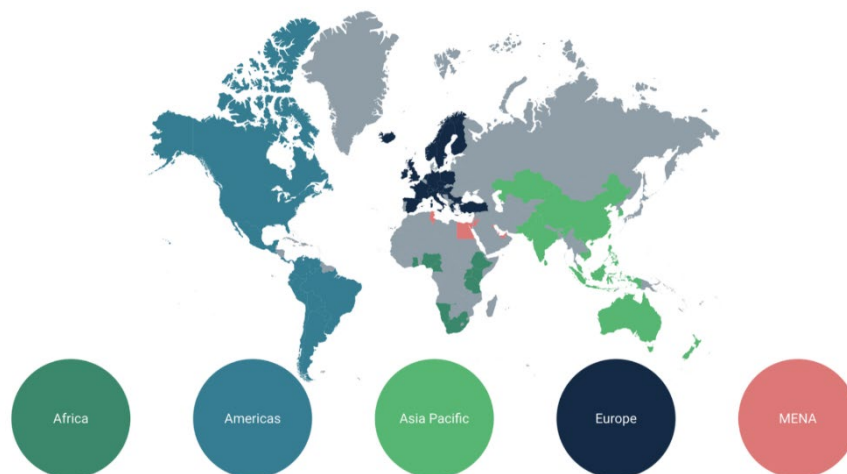
The Circularity Accelerator team is hosting a webinar on 25 January 2024. We'll dive deeper into innovative approaches, opportunities, barriers and trade-offs in getting back on track with decarbonisation across the building and construction industry.

[Register for the webinar here](#)

WorldGBC holiday and New Year opening hours

Please note that the WorldGBC offices will be closed for the winter holiday season from Friday 22 December 2023 to Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Global network



Find out more about our global network of Green Building Councils around the world.



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