



November 2023

## Welcome to WorldGBC's November Global Update 'COP Special Edition'

Dear GBCs, partners and sustainable building advocates,

This week world leaders arrive in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for COP28.

This COP is a hugely significant opportunity for policymakers to deliver the future we know is possible and kickstart a decade of action to make the transition to a sustainable future a reality.

The good news is that the building and construction sector can mobilise and scale solutions *now* to deliver a future that is energy efficient, regenerative and just. WorldGBC, our [global network of 75+ Green Building Councils \(GBCs\)](#), and their network of more than 46,000 members can make the COP28 Action Agenda a reality. Not only can we, but we already are.

Our GBCs are supporting governments, businesses and the finance community through local green building solutions that already exist. [Together we're #BuildingTheTransition](#) for COP28 and beyond.

[Our network also welcomes the Buildings Breakthrough](#) initiative led by France and the Kingdom of Morocco as endorsed by 20+ countries. Two of WorldGBC's climate action programmes — [BuildingLife](#) and [Advancing Net Zero](#) — are recognised as key initiatives that support the delivery of the Breakthrough.

But the implementation of the Buildings Breakthrough needs to happen through local action on the ground – this is exactly what our GBCs are doing by mobilising their networks of +46,000 companies to deliver this impact and improve local and national policies.

We must ensure COP28 is *the* COP where we get the Global Stocktake on emissions right, increase ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions, and start building the transition to a sustainable future, together.

Warm wishes,

**Cristina Gamboa**  
CEO, WorldGBC

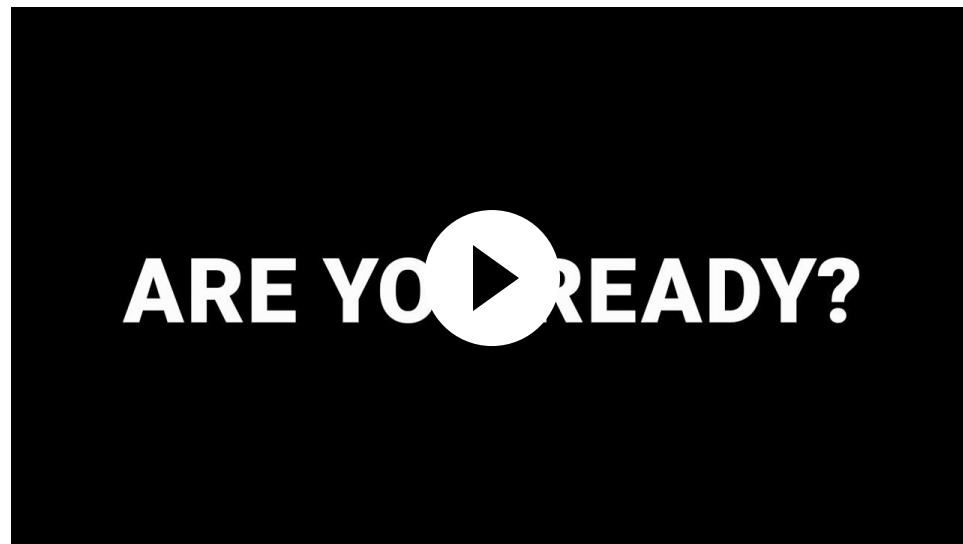
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## News about COP28

### COP28: Why we need urgent action on buildings

COP28 marks a critical moment where policymakers must revisit their commitments and set out an energy efficient, regenerative and just transition for the buildings sector, which WorldGBC's network of 75+ Green Building Councils (GBCs) are ready to help guide and implement.

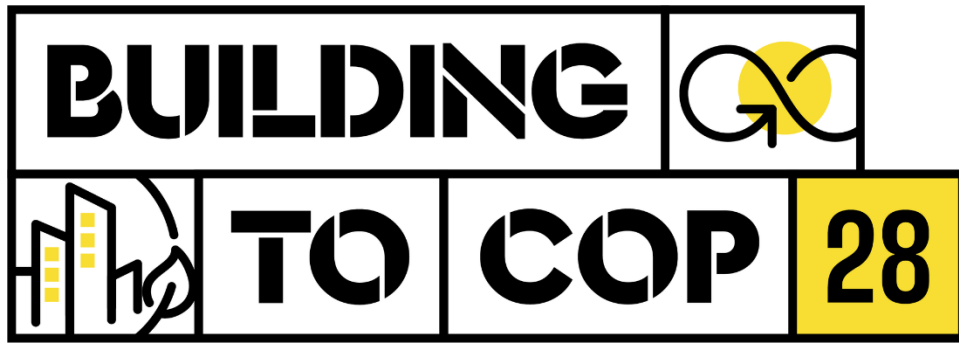
[Read latest thought leadership from Cristina Gamboa](#)



There is no question that the world must undergo a transition to ensure our survival on this planet. The transition required to regenerate and repair our planet will see systemic transformation across all sectors.

As the largest contributing sector to carbon emissions, the built environment has the potential to tackle the tipping point in global warming, humanitarian challenges and economic uncertainties. The good news is that the sector already has the ability to mobilise and scale solutions *now* to deliver a future that is energy efficient, regenerative and just.

[Join us in #BuildingTheTransition for COP28](#)



At COP28, the [BuildingToCOP Coalition](#) will bring world leaders together to promote the built environment's potential to accelerate the transition to a healthy, safe and resilient net zero future. If you're going to be at COP28 or if you would like to watch any of the Coalition events, please have a look at our [events calendar for the two weeks of COP28](#).



**We must ensure COP28 is *the* COP where we get the Global Stocktake on emissions right**

COP28 is a pivotal point in determining our future carbon trajectory and the type of planet we leave for future generations. We must ensure COP28 is *the* COP where we get the Global Stocktake on emissions right.

WorldGBC has written a policy briefing paper on how to work with governments to support the implementation of a decarbonised, circular and resilient society.

[Read more here.](#)



**Join us for the last #BuildingToCOP Forum before COP28**

[Join our #BuildingToCOP Forum](#) as we explore plans to accelerate the built environment's vital, yet overlooked, potential as a pivotal catalyst for a more sustainable and equitable future and receive updates on sector engagement in the Race to Zero.

Join us on Monday 27 November from 14:00 — 15:00 GMT for the final Forum before COP28.

[Register here.](#)

## World Climate Foundation events at COP28

The World Climate Summit returns from 7 — 8 December at COP28 and serves as a platform for front running pledges, commitments and action plans aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The [World Climate Foundation's Impact Pavilion in the Blue Zone](#) serves as a hub for creativity, cross-sector collaboration and the launch of innovative initiatives.

[Find out more here.](#)

## Climate Action Innovation Zone at COP28

WorldGBC is a proud Institutional Partner of the Climate Action Innovation Zone at COP28. The Innovation Zone will facilitate collaboration between national governments, cities and regions, business and investors to accelerate the delivery of more ambitious climate action.

[Find out more here.](#)

## News from WorldGBC

Nearly  
**four billion**  
people are affected  
by water scarcity

Find out how the built environment has a crucial role to play in mitigating the global water crisis.  
[worldgbc.org/water-paper](http://worldgbc.org/water-paper)

Building a water-resilient future for everyone, everywhere  
Examining the role of the built environment in mitigating the global water crisis

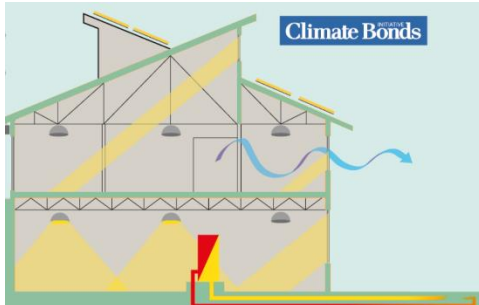
CIRCULARITY ACCELERATOR

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

## WorldGBC launched its Water-Resilient publication ahead of COP28

With nearly half the global population predicted to be denied access to fresh, clean water, this humanitarian crisis has now become as urgent as tackling greenhouse gas emissions in the fight against climate change. That's why we launched an innovative publication, '[Building a water-resilient future](#)', outlining the role of the building and construction sector in tackling the global water crisis.

[Read the full paper here](#)



### WorldGBC contributed to Climate Bonds Initiatives update

WorldGBC contributed to Climate Bonds Initiative's updated criteria for Buildings 2.1. [The Climate Bonds Standard and Certification Scheme](#) is a labelling scheme for bonds and loans.

The New Buildings Criteria 2.1., expands the scope of the criteria to New Buildings and is in line with the EU Taxonomy.



### Our European Regional Network launched the Drastic Project

Members of our European Regional Network (ERN) and project partners gathered at #EnergyVille in Belgium to [celebrate the launch of the #DrasticProject](#).

Drastic is a pioneering initiative that aims to demonstrate affordability, sustainability and circularity within the built environment via a collection of innovative European pilot projects.

### WorldGBC's Leadership Summit is taking place in June 2024 — don't miss out!

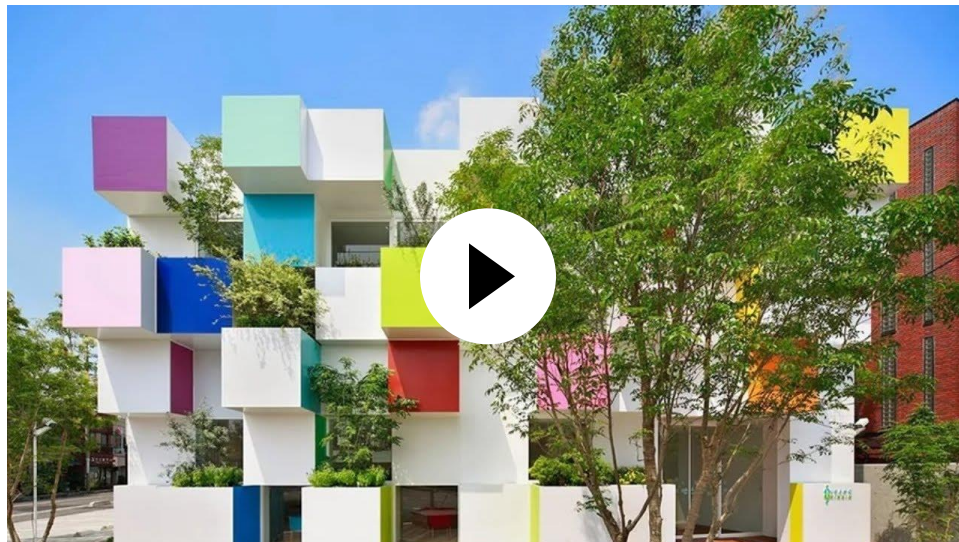
Mark your calendars and get ready for our 2024 Leadership Summit! Join us from 24 — 28 June 2024 when we'll gather in vibrant London for an event you don't want to miss. Stay tuned for exciting updates.

[RSVP here](#)

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## Across the regions

## Awakening New Horizons: The power of colour



Our [Asia Pacific Region](#) has released the second episode in its series — Awakening New Horizons. Colours impact so much of our lives and in this episode we delve into the intricacies of colour with our Asia Pacific Partner, AkzoNobel.

[Watch the episode here](#)

### Consejo Colombiano de Construcción Sostenible has a change of leadership

We would like to congratulate Angélica Ospina who has been appointed as the [new CEO of Consejo Colombiana de Construcción Sostenible](#) (Colombia Green Building Council). We look forward to working with you!

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## Take action



## [#NZCBCCommitment news roundup: November](#)

[WorldGBC's Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment](#) signatories are taking action now to decarbonise their portfolios and our built environments. In the latest [#NZCBCCommitment](#) roundup article we highlight the incredible achievements of six signatories.

[Read the roundup here](#)

### [Look for solutions in action: 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](#)

### [We pay tribute to Professor Saleemul Huq](#)

Professor Saleemul Huq passed away on 28 October 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was a visionary and steadfast leader on climate justice, a champion of developing countries, an advocate for the global poor, and a source of inspiration to thousands worldwide. His sudden death is a blow to the global south.

[Read his final piece of writing](#)

**We're [#BuildingTheTransition](#) together**

Our annual [World Green Building Week campaign](#) was a great success and our global network ensured that the message was shared far and wide. Here are some of our campaign stats:

- 95% of our Established Green Building Councils (GBCs) participated in the campaign
- The campaign had an astounding reach of more than 6.5 million across digital platforms
- More than 120 events were hosted across the globe

[Read about #WGBW23 here](#)

## Learn



### **Cemex is taking steps to decarbonise the built environment**

Cemex is the first in its industry to [offer environmental impact disclosure globally](#) which supports sustainable construction and includes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The company is also supplying its [speciality mix of Vertua concrete products](#) for the construction of Rise Tower in Monterrey, Mexico.

Upon completion, it is expected to be the tallest tower in Latin America



### **The United Arab Emirates government supports the net zero agenda**

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

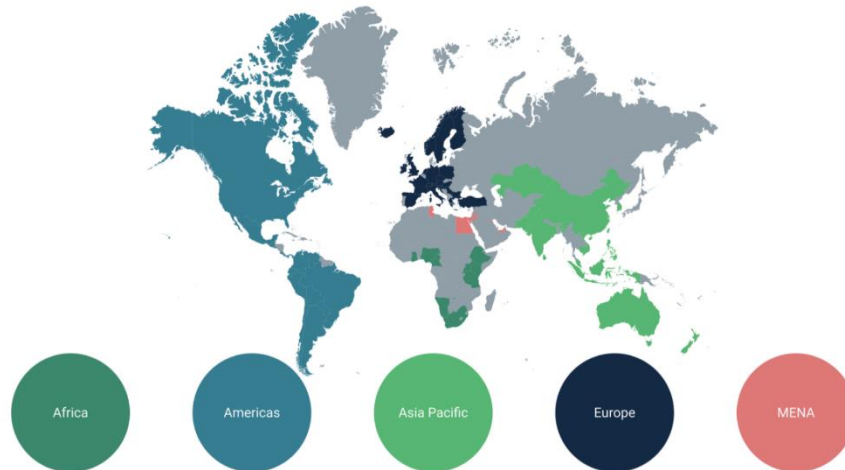
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government is mobilising for sustainability and decarbonisation actions through its UAE-wide target to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030, UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategy, and sustainability requirements within the stock exchange market.



at a height of 475 meters and 100 stories.

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## Global network



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

[View our members](#)

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## Our Corporate Advisory Board

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