

April 2026

Retrofit revolution — upgrading the buildings of today for tomorrow's world

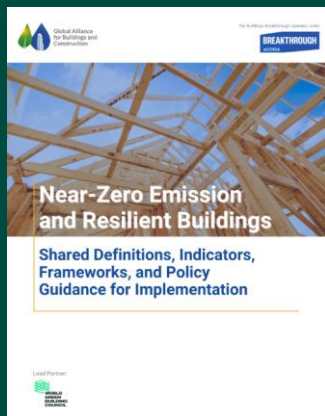


Today, World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) has launched a new position paper, ['Building Retrofits: Why upgrade our existing buildings'](#), to highlight one of the most immediate opportunities for climate action — retrofitting.

Developed with our network of Green Building Councils and partners around the world, the publication focuses on a clear reality: with over 80% of 2050's buildings having already been built, improving what we have now is essential to cutting emissions and preparing for climate risks in the future.

The report presents retrofit as a practical, people-focused solution, based on real-world case studies. In this [Thought Leadership piece](#), Stephen Richardson, Senior Impact Director, WorldGBC, shares his personal reflections on the progress of retrofit so far, and what more can be done to scale up.

[Read the paper](#)



Buildings Breakthrough presents a global language for near-zero buildings

A major [new report](#) developed through a collaboration led by WorldGBC, and coordinated by the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction \(GlobalABC\)](#), has set out, for the first time, a shared global framework to deliver near-zero emission and climate-resilient buildings by 2030. Launched under the Breakthrough Agenda, it aligns definitions, metrics and policy approaches to accelerate action across the sector.

The report provides practical guidance on turning climate goals into practical results — from cutting lifecycle emissions, to strengthening resilience.



Keynote speaker announced — agenda live for WorldGBC Global Solutions Forum

With the agenda now live for WorldGBC's flagship event the [Global Solutions Forum](#) on 22 June 2026, we're thrilled to announce the leading voices in sustainability which will be joining us:



- **Lord Adair Turner**, Chair of the Energy Transitions Commission, who will be delivering the day's opening keynote '*Zero Emission Buildings: Challenges & Opportunities*'.
- **Emma Fletcher**, Innovation Director at Octopus Energy.
- **Brett Ormrod**, Head of Sustainability, Europe at LaSalle Investment Management.
- **Paul Oosting**, CEO of Assemble.

This is just the beginning — with more speakers to be announced soon.

The Forum is delivered in partnership with the [UKGBC](#) as part of [London Climate Action Week 2026](#) and will bring together more than 250 leaders from over 50 countries. The day

will feature keynotes, showcases and interactive discussions focussed on turning ambition into tangible solutions that create lasting change. Join us.

[Book your ticket now](#)

Greening AI Data Centres Coalition

World's leading building standards organisations join forces to ensure investment in artificial intelligence is sustainable



Climate Bonds

Green Building Council Australia

DGNB

bre

USGBC

GRESB

IGBC

GBC SA

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Global coalition launched to drive sustainable AI data centres

Eight of the world's leading building and sustainable finance organisations have come together to launch the Greening AI Data Centres Coalition (GADCC) — with WorldGBC as a founding member. The new global initiative will define what truly “green” data centres look like, setting clear and credible benchmarks to guide sustainable development as demand for AI-powered infrastructure accelerates. [Read on](#)

Across the regional network



Africa's building transition: Nigeria and Kenya lead roadmap implementation

In March 2026, [Green Building Council Nigeria](#) announced that it is [developing a National Decarbonisation and Resilience Roadmap](#) for the buildings and construction sector. The initiative will translate climate ambition into action, by strengthening links between policy, market, and delivery, plus identify investment opportunities.

Proudly supported by WorldGBC through our [Building the Transition Roadmaps programme](#), the roadmap focuses on driving the practical implementation of low-carbon, resilient buildings.

As part of the programme, the [Kenya Green Building Society](#) is also leading implementation of its national roadmap through a 2026–2028 programme. This aims to move the sector from planning to delivery, powering multi stakeholder collaboration to help translate long-term climate ambitions into coordinated action.

WORKSHOP SERIES

transition
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CAGBC RDH BUILDING SCIENCE

CAGBC leads the way on zero-carbon building transition planning

[Canada Green Building Council \(CAGBC\)](#) hosted its latest workshop on 22 April 2026 as part of their [Transition Planning Now initiative](#), which explores pathways to decarbonisation. It introduced the CAGBC Carbon Transition Planning Guide, a framework which supports building owners and asset managers to plan cost-effective routes to zero-carbon, climate-resilient buildings. [Find out more](#)

EU steps up on Whole Life Carbon in buildings

The European Commission has published its long awaited Staff Working Document on Whole Life Carbon (WLC), which outlines how to cut emissions across the full life cycle of buildings. Developed with input from WorldGBC, it highlights practical actions and key levers, which include efficiency, sufficiency, and renewables.

The publication signals growing momentum as Member States prepare life cycle roadmaps under the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). [See WorldGBC's reaction](#)



Learning and events



Sign up for the World Cities Summit, 14–16 June 2026

WorldGBC is proud to be a Strategic Partner of this year's [World Cities Summit 2026](#), in Singapore, from 14–16 June 2026.

Jointly organised by the [Centre for Liveable Cities \(CLC\)](#) and the [Urban Redevelopment Authority \(URA\)](#), the Summit will bring together global leaders to accelerate action, strengthen collaboration and drive transformation towards more liveable, resilient and sustainable cities worldwide.

Lighting the way: IEA spotlights a new wave of smarter solutions

Swire Properties sets course for 2050 with new sustainability report

The [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#) has published a new commentary, '[The Next Wave of LED Lighting: Smarter, circular and more efficient](#)', exploring lighting's role in the energy transition.

As the world enters the “age of electricity,” lighting still accounts for around 8% of global electricity demand. Developed with input from WorldGBC Corporate Advisory Board members [Signify](#), the commentary shows how digitalisation, circularity, and efficiency can unlock further emissions cuts.

WorldGBC Corporate Advisory Board members [Swire Properties](#) has released its [Sustainability Report 2025](#) alongside its annual results, marking a milestone year in its sustainability journey. The company achieved the majority of its 2025 targets — and is building strong momentum for their long-term vision.

At the heart of this next phase is the new Sustainable Development 2050 Strategy 'Building the World's Most Sustainable Communities'.

Final thought from Cristina Gamboa, CEO, WorldGBC

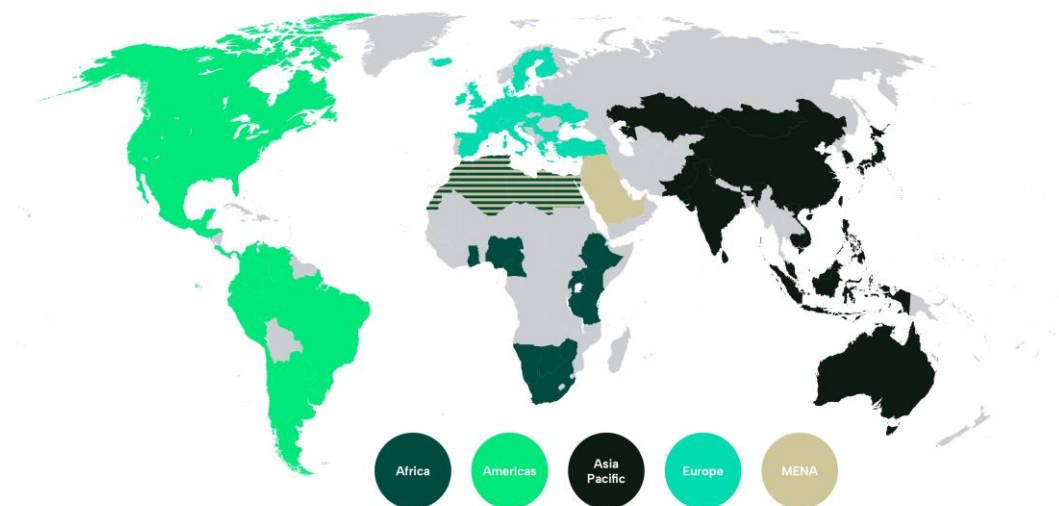
As we continue to accelerate the transition, I'm reminded that real progress happens when ambition meets action — and when we stay focussed on people and planet. This month, we launched our new [retrofit publication](#) as part of our [Building the Transition](#) programme, building on our work on electrification. Together, these publications reinforce a clear message: buildings are central to the green transition.

This was one of my key points when I joined the latest [Energy Efficiency Hub](#) Steering Committee meeting in March 2026, alongside colleagues from the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#) and [The Energy Foundation](#). We are in an age of electrification, and the transition is already underway, delivering real benefits — from cleaner air and lower bills, to more resilient energy systems. [You can read my reflections here](#)

Yet we must also continue to remain mindful that members of our global community face challenges — from conflict and instability, to energy insecurity. I continue to be inspired by the strength of our network — supporting one another and staying firmly committed to our shared mission, even in the face of those challenges.

That is why, looking ahead, I'm excited for the WorldGBC Leadership Summit 2026, a key moment for our global network to come together! [I encourage you to explore the agenda and join us](#) because it is through collaboration that we are turning hope into action — and building the transition together.

Global network



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

Our Corporate Advisory Board

AkzoNobel

ARUP



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MULTIPLEX



SIEMENS

signify

