



June 2026



The transition in action — highlights from the WorldGBC Leadership Summit 2026

On 21–24 June 2026, the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) Leadership Summit 2026 welcomed our global network to London, UK, for a week of collaboration, innovation and action.

A key highlight of the week was the WorldGBC Global Solutions Forum, a flagship event of [London Climate Action Week](#). We welcomed 250 attendees from around the world, including 62 Green Building Councils (pictured above), to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships and accelerate solutions.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped to make this year's Summit such an incredible success — from those who travelled from across the world to be with us in London, to those supporting and contributing virtually.

We also extend our thanks to our inspiring speakers, whose expertise and insights made the week so impactful, as well as [UKGBC](#) for supporting the event, and our sponsors [Arup](#), [Sidara](#), [City Developments Limited](#) and [Swire Properties](#), and philanthropic supporters [Ikea Foundation](#) and [Laudes Foundation](#).

Together, we reinforced a clear message: the transition is already underway, the solutions are proven, and we must focus now on accelerating delivery at speed and scale.

Thought leadership from our CEO

Cristina Gamboa explores why the next phase of the transition will be defined by delivery.

[Read on](#)

Check out the photos from the event

Visit our [Flickr page](#) to see the key moments from across the week, plus our [video playlist](#) coming soon!

[Online gallery](#)

See the updates from the Summit

Follow [@WorldGBC](#) [on LinkedIn](#) to see the big takeaways from the week and join the global conversation.

[Join us](#)

ELECTRIFY NOW



The age of electricity has arrived

WorldGBC is proud to join more than 40 organisations and alliances worldwide in launching [#ElectrifyNow](#), a global campaign to accelerate renewable-powered electrification and place it at the centre of the clean energy transition. As countries seek to strengthen energy security,

improve affordability and boost competitiveness, electrification is emerging as one of the most practical solutions available.

Buildings are a critical opportunity for action, with electrification and energy efficiency able to deliver nearly 70% of building sector emissions reductions by 2050.

As part of the campaign, WorldGBC is also supporting a global [statement](#) led by the [We Mean Business Coalition](#) and the [Global Renewables Alliance](#), calling on governments to make electrification a central pillar of economic strategy.



Built environment priorities gain ground ahead of COP31

As momentum builds towards COP31, [WorldGBC leadership was active at key international convenings in Istanbul and Bonn this month](#), helping ensure the built environment remains central to global climate action. CEO Cristina Gamboa joined discussions with Climate High-Level Champions, ministers and global leaders at the [Zero Waste Forum](#), while Audrey Nugent, Director of Global Advocacy & Campaigns, represented our network at the SB64 Climate Meetings.

In Bonn, the COP31 Presidency outlined ambitious global targets, including increasing electricity's share of final energy demand to 35% by 2035, reducing building energy intensity by at least 25%, and raising global circular material use rates to 15%. WorldGBC contributed directly to these discussions, including through an official side event co-organised by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Energy Efficiency Council. We highlighted the critical role of demand sectors, particularly the built environment, in delivering electrification at scale.

Looking ahead to COP31, WorldGBC is supporting the UNFCCC, Climate High-Level Champions and COP Presidency through the Global Climate Action Agenda's Plans to Accelerate Solutions (PAS), including Building Efficiency, Electrification and Renewable Integration (BEERI) and the Decarbonisation and Resilience Roadmaps. BEERI focuses on

integrated approaches to reduce energy demand, optimise building electrification and accelerate renewable uptake, while the Roadmaps.

Through these PAS's, WorldGBC is providing country and region specific pathways that translate global targets into actionable policy and industry measures aligned with national priorities. [Find out more](#).

Across the regional network



How green buildings are shaping the World Cup

Across the WorldGBC [Americas Regional Network](#), a new [Associated Press](#) feature has spotlighted the growing impact of [U.S. Green Building Council's](#) (US GBC) LEED certification programme, with 13 of the 16 FIFA World Cup 2026™ host stadiums now certified as green buildings.

The achievement highlights how GBC-led certification systems are helping to transform some of the world's most high-profile venues. You can also check out this [interactive map from US GBC](#) to explore some of North America's most environmentally responsible venues!

Improving existing homes for a more sustainable future

Also in the Americas, [Colombia Green Building Council \(CCCS\)](#) is helping to profile an often-overlooked opportunity in the sustainability transition — improving the homes that already exist. In Bogotá, new initiatives are demonstrating how home upgrades can improve health, comfort and resource efficiency while contributing to wider urban sustainability goals.

With millions of households across Latin America facing challenges such as poor ventilation, inefficient energy and water use, and deteriorating building conditions, sustainable home improvement offers a practical pathway to creating healthier, more resilient communities at scale. [Find out more](#).



A month of collective action — Europe

From shaping policy discussions to advancing market transformation, there has been no shortage of activity from the [Europe Regional Network \(ERN\)](#).

On 27 May 2026, the ERN sent a [united call](#) for ambitious National Building Renovation Plans in a campaign which urges governments to prioritise energy efficiency, accelerate electrification and ensure a fair transition.

[Read on here.](#)



Scaling climate action that puts people first: WorldGBC and Ramboll launch partnership

WorldGBC is delighted to announce a new strategic partnership with the [Ramboll Foundation](#), building on more than a decade of collaboration to help make quality of life a measurable outcome of the built environment.

While reducing carbon emissions remains critical, the built environment also plays a powerful role in shaping health, wellbeing, resilience and the way people experience everyday life. Together, we will equip Green Building Councils, industry and policymakers with the tools, evidence and frameworks needed to move beyond carbon-only metrics and

create places that are healthier, more equitable and resilient for people and communities.

[Explore the partnership.](#)

Pictured above from left to right: Peter Heymann, Ramboll Group CCO, Cristina Gamboa, CEO, WorldGBC and Asbjørn Kristensen Høgsbro, Head of Philanthropy, Ramboll Foundation.

Learning and events



The banner features a dark green background. On the left is a green hexagonal logo with the text 'World Green Building Week 2026' and 'Build it Ready'. In the center, the hashtag '#BuildItReady' is written in large green letters, followed by 'World Green Building Week' and '7-11 September 2026'. On the right is the 'WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL' logo. Below this, the text 'Join the world's biggest green building campaign' is displayed in white. A paragraph follows, explaining the theme and the campaign's goals. At the bottom, a red button with the text 'Find out more' is centered.

World Green Building Week 2026
#BuildItReady
World Green Building Week
7-11 September 2026

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Join the world's biggest green building campaign

[World Green Building Week](#) returns on 7-11 September 2026 with the theme #BuildItReady, exploring how the organisations that invest in better buildings today, are preparing for a more resilient, efficient and successful future.

Led by WorldGBC's global network, this year's campaign will showcase how sustainable buildings can help businesses and communities reduce risk, unlock opportunity and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

[Find out more](#)

Could your project take centre stage at COP31?



Applications are now open for the International [Sustainable Building Competition](#), a global initiative designed by Türkiye and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to celebrate outstanding sustainable building projects from around the world.

From innovative design and healthy indoor environments, winning projects will be recognised as leading examples of sustainable construction and showcased throughout COP31 in Antalya. Closes on 15 October 2026, [apply here](#).

Final thought from Cristina Gamboa, CEO, WorldGBC



The WorldGBC Leadership Summit 2026 left me feeling energised and optimistic about what we can achieve together.

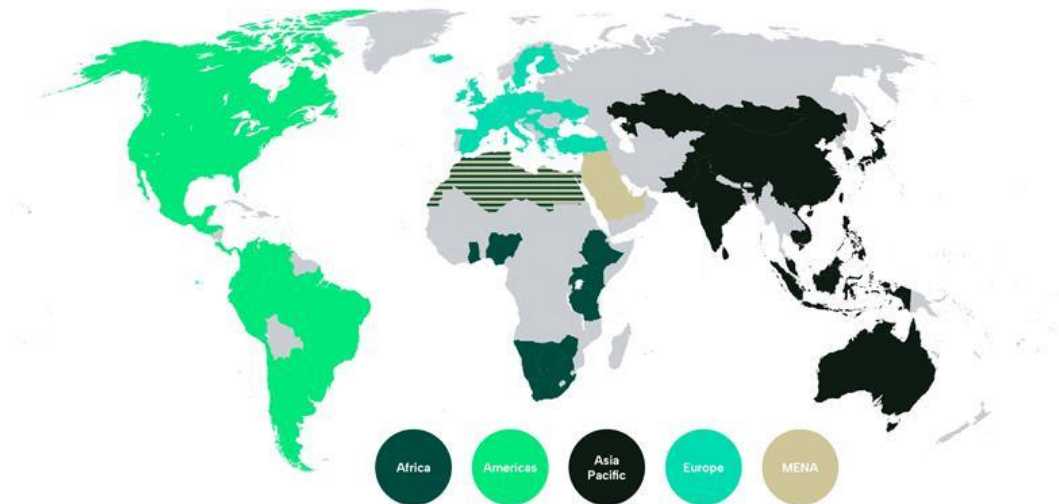
We had a stark and timely reminder of the urgency of our work, as we experienced an unprecedented heatwave in the UK during the Summit. Yet even amid that reality, what stood out most was the determination and practical optimism across our global network.

There is something uniquely powerful about bringing together our community in person — sharing ideas, strengthening relationships and turning ambition into action. Throughout the week, I was inspired by the passion and leadership of Green Building Councils, partners and members from around the world, united by a shared belief that the transition is already underway and that our focus now must be on accelerating delivery at speed and scale. [You can read my reflections here.](#)

That same spirit continued through our conversations across [London Climate Action Week](#) and beyond. From discussions at the [Global Energy Transition and Electrification Summit](#), to the [Financial Times Climate & Impact Summit](#) on scaling retrofit and resilience, and the [Connecting London and Hong Kong event](#) exploration of how cities can better align policy, finance and standards, we explored how creating the right conditions for implementation will be critical to unlocking progress at scale.

Currently, I am in Montreal for the [International Energy Agency's 11th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency](#), and the conversations are encouraging because there is growing recognition that buildings must play a central role in the energy transition. Across every conversation, one theme remains constant: progress happens when we work together — and I look forward to continuing that journey with all of you.

Global network



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

Our Corporate Advisory Board

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