

Call for Task Group Applications: Whole Life Carbon reduction via Circular Economy principles

Introduction

UKGBC's [Whole Life Carbon Roadmap project](#) will outline, with new clarity, the scale of GHG emission reductions required of the UK built environment sector to transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2050. It emphasises the urgency in which materials, energy and other resources must be used more efficiently, and the potential role that circular economy models can play in the UK's decarbonisation trajectory.

Set within this context, UKGBC is launching a new project to explore how Circular Economy (CE) principles can reduce the Whole Life Carbon (WLC) of both new and existing built assets. Conducting WLC assessments to support decision making in real estate is now widely acknowledged as best practice, as it mitigates the risk of unintended consequences and increases awareness of carbon impacts across the lifecycle of the design intervention proposed.

Similarly, circular economy principles are often, with increasing ambition, included within organisational net zero commitments, construction clients' project briefs, etc. However, there is limited understanding of the *extent* to which this can support whole life carbon reductions, and where there may be potential trade-offs or tensions between the two drivers in short-term and long-term decision making. Providing greater clarity over this relationship will help drive the utilisation of circular economy models where appropriate and support a more rapid decarbonisation of the built environment.

Circular Economy principles

A reminder of the circular economy principles as outlined within UKGBC's [Circular Economy Guidance for Construction Clients](#) is provided below:



Project Aims

The project aims to:

- Increase understanding within the real estate sector of how circular economy principles can support whole life carbon reductions, and where there may be potential trade-offs
- Provide greater clarity on how circular economy may be measured and valued in relation to the whole life carbon impacts of building. This will include the potential opportunities, challenges, and solutions in translating the carbon reduction outcomes into financial or other value metrics
- Gather and review further industry research and case studies to help support the above aims

The output is expected to be a report that will set out both the evidence and business case for using circular economy principles to reduce the whole life carbon of buildings, to help inform both investment and design decisions.

The primary audience will be for (1) design, construction and consultancy teams advising real estate clients on their new and existing developments and (2) developers, owners, and investors of real estate.

Task Group Applications – How to get involved

UKGBC will be convening an industry Task Group to lead the development of this report, in line with the above aims. This is so the report builds on existing industry knowledge, initiatives, and real-life project experiences, and to ensure that the guidance is relevant for the industry.

An overview of the expected programme of works is as shown below. The Task Group will convene in October, and across the following four months will collate, review, and develop the evidence and business case based on existing resources and industry best practice. This will be supported by an industry survey in November, which will call out for case studies and other applicable resources. The final output will be published in March 2021.

Please note that all workshops will be held via online video conferencing, unless otherwise agreed with the Task Group.

Task Group Programme

		Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
1	Call for Task Group applicants	█						
2	Working Group workshops / meetings		█	█	█			
	Industry survey: call for case studies, etc.			█	█			
3	Drafting of guidance					█	█	
4	Finalisation of guidance						█	█
	Launch / Publication							█

Table 1 Provisional dates for Task Group workshops

Workshop 1: Kick-Off	Monday 18 th October	13:00 – 15:00
Workshop 2	Monday 1 st November	14:00 – 16:00
Workshop 3	Monday 15 th November	14:00 – 16:00
Workshop 4	Monday 29 th November	13:00 – 15:00
Workshop 5	Tuesday 14 th December	10:00 – 12:00
Workshop 6: Report Skeleton	Wednesday 12 th January	10:00 – 12:00
Workshop 7: Draft report	Wednesday 26 th January	10:00 – 12:00

Please note that provisional dates may be subject to change. Should this be the case, the Task Group will be informed as soon as possible.

Task Group Responsibilities

The Task Group will collectively work towards the following key objectives:

- Review existing industry and academic outputs, including relevant case studies, of (1) the use of circular economy principles within the real estate sector through a whole life carbon lens and (2) how these WLC outcomes might be translated into value metrics
- Based on the above, develop guidance:
 - Exploring the extent to which strategies to maximise circular economy are complementary to strategies to reduce whole life carbon, including discussing the common or perceived challenges in decision making
 - Outline the potential framings in which the measurement and value of circular economy can be presented to make the business case, including addressing common misconceptions to aid investment and design decisions

Task Group Applicants - Criteria

Task Group applicants must be able to:

- Attend workshop meetings (as above dates)
- Contribute a minimum of **8 hours per month** between October and January to the Task Group, inclusive of workshop times – and **3 hours per month** for February and March.
- Actively engage in between meetings on tasks, such as research, reviewing and drafting content
- Represent your sector / area of expertise in workshops discussions, and leverage your knowledge network to link to existing or ongoing work that can contribute to the project and ensure outputs of lasting value to the industry
- Help promote the industry survey and launch of the final output

All Task Group applicants are expected to have **a minimum 5 years of relevant experience.**

We are inviting relevant experts from the UKGBC membership to apply and are seeking a broad range of expertise across the five Circular Economy principles (see page 1).

We encourage applicants from businesses and organisations across the built environment value chain to ensure a diversity in views and perspectives on the Task Group. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Developer, owners, investors of real estate that are exploring how circular economy principles can help support carbon efficiency in various business models, tenure types, or to minimise sources of lost value
- Design, construction, product manufacturers and advisory firms who have, or are implementing CE principles on projects, products or more broadly their own service offerings
- Academics who are engaged in circular economy research in a real estate context
- Advisory services who are knowledgeable in GHG Accounting
- Local planning authorities who are assessing the role circular economy can play in supporting their net zero commitments

Any interested organisations or individuals who are not members of the UKGBC are encouraged to provide input into the project through the industry call out survey in November / December.

➤ Application Procedure

Applications to join the Task Group will be open until **Friday 8th October**.

To apply, please email Emily.Huynh@ukgbc.org using the below template:

Full name	
Job Title and Department	
Organisation	
Please explain your relevant knowledge, experience, and skills for this project (<i>max 200 words</i>)	
Please share any involvement with relevant existing, or ongoing industry or academic research, work, or initiatives (<i>max 100 words</i>)	
Are there any currently any workshop dates that you are unable to attend? (<i>Refer to Table 1, page 3</i>)	
Please confirm that you have put in a calendar placeholder for the Kick-off workshop: Mon 18th October 13:00 – 15:00	

We expect to finalise the Task Group members by w/c 11th October. Applicants will be chosen based on their experience, seeking to ensure a balanced breadth of expertise across the Task Group and an appropriate diversity representation. The overall number will be capped to a practical size.

UKGBC is committed to actively targeting a diverse representation in the composition of all task groups. We want to be inclusive to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political beliefs. This includes targeting an even gender split on this task group.

For any queries or to join the general interest mailing list, please contact Emily Huynh using the above contact details.

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