



RACE TO ZERO

Dialogues

Outcome Document Built Environment

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Organised by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC) with the support of World Green Building Council (WGBC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Supporting: Gold Standard, for Subnational Climate Finance (SnCF); C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group; Commonwealth Association of Architects; International Renewable Energy Agency; Oxford Martin School Future of Cooling Programme; Rocky Mountain Institute; International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure; SETA Network



Key Messages

1. Key actors across the built environment value chain come together to transform the sector in the race to zero
2. The built environment sector sends a strong call to action to policy makers and the finance sector to enable the net zero transition
3. Key building sector actors demonstrate ambition to jointly transform the sector.
4. Building sector actors recognize responsibility to get to net zero, together.

Post-event summary

- The dialogues reinforced and galvanised actors around the drive towards the shared vision of all new buildings being net zero in operation and for at least 40% reduction in embodied carbon across all buildings and infrastructure by 2030, with all buildings and infrastructure reaching net zero by 2050.
- Sector representatives agreed that we need a new type of spirit – the spirit of collaboration – across value chain and with private and public actors - and we have seen this emerge already. We all have a role to play. And we need to be true partners.
- The built environment's full potential for job growth, climate action, economic development, and increased well-being must be acknowledged and acted upon.
- We have the tools we need to reach net zero, such as the GlobalABC regional roadmaps for full sector decarbonization that are now cascaded to the national level. We heard from governments on how they are already applying this tool on a national level to define targets and actions, align actors, and to lead to radical collaboration across all stakeholders.
- Built environment businesses have committed to accelerate climate action: 76 organisations, including leading property companies, have committed to achieve net zero in their building portfolios by 2030, and thousands of built environment designers and contractors in 25 countries across 5 continents committed to minimising whole life carbon on all their projects.
- 28 Cities have signed C40's net zero buildings commitment that will drive down operational emissions, and cities are urged to sign the new C40 Clean Construction Forum commitment, to be launched on 24th November, will show leadership in minimising embodied carbon emissions.
- Although all stakeholders have a role to play, policymakers have the biggest opportunity to unleash radical system transformation through creating the market for low carbon, circular, resilient, buildings and infrastructure. But we can't wait for this magic bullet - everyone needs to collaborate like never before and act now.

Supporting the narrative

Race to Zero Ambition

What did the Dialogues highlight today as evidence of growing support for the Race to Zero?

- The Dialogues highlighted the support for Race to Zero across all stages of the value chain - investors, materials manufacturers, designers, engineers, construction, asset owners and governments. All of these stakeholders came together to forge the collaborations needed to transform the sector.

- The focus was on radical collaboration and on driving ambition by each actor along the value chain to enable each other to race to zero together.
- The Dialogues demonstrated growing ambition of all value chain actors as well as the action needed to achieve net zero. The message is clear: The solutions and industry willingness exists, but we need stronger policy and finance frameworks to enable the transition.
- The Dialogues demonstrated action in all areas needed to transform the buildings and construction sector: from existing to new buildings, operations, materials, resilience, and clean energy.
- The Dialogues presented a clear call to action to policy, finance and industry: What are you going to do to meet your responsibility as a successful enabler for a net zero, resilient future?

Climate Action Pathways

How did these Dialogues build support for the relevant [Climate Action Pathways](#)?

What was new in the Dialogues about the policy, technology or civil society actions within the Climate Action Pathways that are already underway?

What new understanding was reached in the Dialogues for Pathway actions to be completed by COP26, and how to approach them?

- The sessions opened with an overview of the Human Settlements Climate Action Pathway, which lays out the goals, milestones and enabling conditions for the decarbonisation of the built environment sector.
- There was a dedicated session focused on global, regional and local pathways to net zero and how important they are to driving action and enabling change in the built environment. All of these pathways align with the Marrakech Partnership Climate Action Pathway for Human Settlements.
- The Dialogues highlighted the need for a stronger focus on buildings in NDCs and national policy, and dedicated financial support for the net zero transition of the built environment sector ahead of COP26 - two key elements of the Climate Action Pathway for Human Settlements.

2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit

How did the Dialogues take forward and scale up the transformational outcomes of the UN SG Summit to accelerate transition?

- Aligned with the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit and after outlining needs and solutions, goals will be set for a) roadmaps and pathways to drive coordinated party and non-party action; b) taking a whole-life carbon approach, c) making the built environment more resilient; d) finding a common language and bringing all stakeholders on board – addressing embodied carbon; and d) stakeholders – bringing on board those not yet engaged.



Today's Dialogues' Session Highlights

Session name & lead partner	Highlights from the session (max 100 words per session)
Segment 1: Creating a common vision for getting to net-zero (WGBC)	Representatives from each stage of the built environment value chain come together to agree a common vision for getting to net zero. The focus is on 'getting there', not on how to define net zero. Panellists from the private sector (design, construction, real estate) and from government and science will show that they adhere to the vision of net zero, that they are ready and have already started racing to net zero.
Segment 2: Enabling full-sector transformation (GABC)	A deeper dive on 'how' to achieve net zero, with a focus on policy. The GlobalABC Regional Roadmaps for Africa, Asia, and Latin America provide blueprints for key policy actions in eight areas: urban planning, existing buildings, new buildings, operations, appliances, materials, resilience, and clean energy which can be used by any country or city to transform their sector. The Resource Efficiency and Climate Change (RECC) report by the International Resources Panel (IRP) assesses the potential reduction of GHG emissions from material efficiency strategies applied in residential buildings. The panel will discuss key policies in materials and beyond and commitments needed and already undertaken to provide a conducive framework for racing to zero.
Segment 3: What enables us to win the race? (All)	Short impulse presentations on where we stand regarding policy, finance, and industry were followed by virtual break-out groups and ask our audience the question 'what do you do to meet your responsibility of racing to zero' and 'what is stopping you from going all the way'.
Segment 4: Winning together - fostering radical collaboration (WBCSD)	Bringing together the previous sessions, built environment actors from across the value chain highlight how radical collaboration will accelerate the transformation we need. With representatives from industry, finance, policy, and civil society we will drive home the message that everyone needs and can do their part so that together we can race to zero.