## **Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2024-2028**

Society is at a crossroads. The twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, intrinsically linked and both driven by human activities, threaten the stability of Earth's natural life support systems. In fact, by 2023, six of the nine planetary boundaries that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system had already been breached<sup>1</sup>.

According to the Construction Industry Council, the built environment and construction sector accounts for 38% of global carbon emissions<sup>2</sup>. It is also responsible for consuming large volumes of raw materials and creating a significant proportion of the world's waste. The built environment must be a key driver of change, not least because what we build today will define tomorrow, but decarbonising existing stock is also a major priority alongside ensuring new buildings and infrastructure are future fit. We must harness the skill and ingenuity of the sector, as we aim to ensure all projects delivered today make a positive contribution to the future we want to see.

The CIOB's objectives, defined by our Royal Charter, include the promotion for the public benefit of the science and practice of building and construction as well as the advancement of public education in that science and practice. No current definition of public benefit can neglect our role in tackling the environmental crisis, and the CIOB must provide visible leadership for sustainability, promoting environmental sustainability in construction practice, and advancing the development of relevant knowledge and skills to enable members and wider industry to make a positive contribution to a sustainable future.

The CIOB Corporate Plan 2023-28 identified Environmental Sustainability as a focused strategic theme and outlined three ambitions goals to:

- equip CIOB members (individual and company) with the knowledge and skills to manage and deliver the construction process in environmentally sustainable ways.
- embed environmental sustainability into relevant learning programmes across schools, colleges, and universities.
- support industry and stakeholders in building the case for change through environmentally sustainable activities and metrics.

This action plan is a framework to deliver change, setting out activities to embed Sustainability across CIOB functions for the period January 2024 to December 2028. The measures will include providing visible leadership for sustainability on a national and international basis, including influencing policy-makers; ensuring leadership for sustainability is a core part of the value proposition of CIOB membership at all levels; embedding sustainability in relevant learning programmes and ensuring built environment professionals have the knowledge and skills they need to embed environmental sustainability in their approach to modern professionalism; supporting other crucial stakeholders such as clients, and ensuring the CIOB is 'walking the talk' in its own operations.

These activities will aim to deliver the objectives of the CIOB Corporate Plan (2023-2028) and progress will be reported to the Board of Trustees on an annual basis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.cic.org.uk/policy-and-public-affairs/climate-change

## **Summary table**

	Goal	Area
1	Provide visible leadership for sustainability across the construction sector, promoting the benefits and	Leadership &
	opportunities of embedding sustainability in construction practice at an international level.	Governance
2	Provide opportunities for members at all levels to proactively engage with environmental sustainability and ensure leadership in this area is seen as a benefit of membership with CIOB.	Membership
3	Embed environmental sustainability into relevant learning programmes across schools, colleges and universities.	Education
4	Influence policy makers and other key stakeholders on a UK and international basis to promote environmental sustainability in construction.	Policy
5	Communicate the case for positive change in the industry through the promotion of environmental	Marketing &
	sustainability in construction.	Communications
6	Provide built environment professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to understand, embed, and champion sustainability in their professional practice.	The Academy
7	Support clients (both individuals and organisations) in specifying sustainable buildings.	Client Development
8	Ensure we are 'walking the talk' by embedding sustainability in our business operations.	Operations

## **Detailed Action Plan:**

1. LEADERSHII	P & GOVERNAN	CE				
Goal	Actions	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment
1. Provide visible leadership for sustainability across the construction	1.1 Publish and embed an Environmental Sustainability (ES) Action plan for 2024-2028	Head of ES (HES)	CEO	Adopt and publish a new Environmental Sustainability Action Plan to align with and progress the Corporate Plan 2023-2028 objectives for Environmental Sustainability	Action Plan to be adopted by BoT by January 2024	Progress against the goals will be reported to the BoT (annually – Sept/Oct) the Leadership Team (biannually) and the Sustainability Advisory Panel (quarterly).
sector, promoting the benefits and opportunities of embedding sustainability in construction	1.2 Provide visible senior leadership for sustainability in the sector	BoT / CEO / Leadership Team / HES	CEO	Evidence of internal & external messaging promoting Environmental Sustainability in construction from:  Board of Trustee Members  CEO Leadership Team Head of ES	At least annually and on an ongoing basis	
practice at an international level.	1.3 Ensure new BoT and Leadership Team members have awareness of the CIOB commitment to ES in construction and associated strategy and action plan.	HES / BoT / Leadership Team	Director of Governance	1. Develop and deliver Environmental Sustainability training within the BoT induction programme.  2. Develop and deliver Environmental Sustainability training for leadership team inductions.	Induction materials developed by March 2024	See also 8.4 re staff inductions.

1.4 Wor partners with oth institute affect ch 1.5 Estal central r promoti Sustaina across the sector at level for	thip from Policy and others as applicable ange olish a leadership appropriate appropriate as a senior as	CEO	Establish a regular cadence of engagement with a network of key contacts in other industry bodies inc. UKGBC, CIC, IStructE, CIBSE, ICE, RIBA, RICS, RTPI, and LETI etc.  Meaningfully contribute to senior level strategic forums in the built environment demonstrating CIOB leadership and credibility on Environmental Sustainability	Quarterly touchpoints  Evidence of regular attendance and contribution to relevant forums on annual basis to 2028	Aligned with UN SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals  Aligned with UN SDG 17
1.6 Ensu profession code of and compete supports transition sustainal construction industry	onal Governance / HES ence s n to a ble etion	Director of Governance	Review and potential update to code of professional competence and conduct (at next review) to ensure that supporting the transition to an environmentally sustainable construction industry is a matter of professional ethics and obligation.  Build requirement into explanatory notes on mandatory CPD to include environmental sustainability	Next review TBC  By end of 2024	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan
1.7 Fully sustaina CIOB Aw	bility in Governance /	Director of Governance	Review Sustainability Award criteria to ensure they are robust and aligned with the CIC Climate Action Plan.  All categories of award should require applicants to confirm how they have addressed environmental sustainability in their work.	From next round of applications in 2024/25	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan

2. MEMBER Goal	1	Posource	Posnonsible	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment
Goai	Actions	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment
2. Provide opportunities for members at all levels to proactively engage with environmental sustainability and ensure leadership in this area is seen as a benefit of membership with CIOB	2.1 Members (All levels)	Retention / HES	Acting Director of Membership	Establish environmental sustainability as part of the value proposition for individual members with evidence of regular messaging, events (including CPD), and other opportunities promoting Environmental Sustainability in construction.	On an on-going basis to 2028	
	2.2 a) CEnv	Acquisition / Education and Standards / Retention / Marketing	Acting Director of Membership / Director of Education & Standards	Consider KPIs for Regional Managers to promote CEnv membership to support a year-on-year increase in the number of CEnv members and (subject to 2.2b) REnvTechs in due course.	Annual increase in CEnv members, each year from 2024 to 2028	Note dependency: to be converted by Education & Standards and retained.
	2.2 b) REnvTech	Quality Assurance / Acquisition / Education and Standards / Retention / Marketing	Director of Education & Standards	Investigate and (if appropriate) work with SocEnv to provide the opportunity for TechCIOB to achieve REnvTech with Society of Environment.	Route available to TechCIOB members by 2026 (if appropriate)	
	2.3 Company members	Acquisition / Marketing / HES	Acting Director of Membership	Establish environmental sustainability as part of the value proposition for Company membership by providing at least two opportunities annually (e.g., webinars, engagement events, etc) for company members to engage with this topic.	Annually from 2024-2028	Ensure these are cost neutral events (via sponsorship team or existing members)

2.4 Tomorrow's Leaders	Product Owner / HES / Marketing / Academy	Acting Director of Membership	Provide at least two CPD opportunities targeted at the Tomorrow's Leaders audience with an environmental sustainability focus each year.	Annually from 2024-2028	
	Product Owner / HES	Acting Director of Membership	Work with the Product Owner to identify ways to involve the Tomorrow's Leaders community in this transition to leverage on their passion and knowledge for this area.	2024	
2.5 CIOB Construction Ambassadors	Product Owner / HES / Marketing	Acting Director of Membership	Refresh CIOB resources such as the Think Construction Toolkit on the STEM learning platform to strengthen sustainability as a theme and to profile sustainability-related careers in construction.	By the end of 2024	Aligned with the Product Roadmap (already approved)
			Commission the development of new digital resource packs for school children aimed at: Key stage 2 (age 7-11) key stages 3 (age 11-14), key stage 4 (age 15-16),	By end 2026	Could be made more widely available online as well as via the STEM learning platform.
2.6 Role of CIOB Hubs (UK and International)	Senior Regional Manager(s) / Regional Hub Managers / MSECs / HES / Hub Committees	Acting Director of Membership / Associate Director International	Work with regional hub committees in both the UK and internationally to ensure that environmental sustainability (tailored to the geographical location) is a regular theme in regional communications and events (including CPD).	On an on-going basis to 2028	Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education
		CEO			

Head of	Encourage nomination of	All Hub Committees	
Environmental	Sustainability Ambassadors (SA) to	asked to nominate	
Sustainability	Hub Committees	a SA by end 2024.	
(HES) / Digital			
Manager	Develop role profile for Sustainability	By end March 2024	
	Ambassadors and publish online.		
	Develop digital badge for	By end June 2024	
	Sustainability Ambassadors on CIOB		
	Connect		
	Climate change coaching training for	By end of 2025	
	Sustainability Ambassadors		

3. EDUCATION						
Goal	Actions	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment
3. Embed environmental sustainability into relevant learning programmes across schools,	3.1 Embed Environmental Sustainability into accredited learning programmes at undergraduate level	Education & Standards Team / HES	Director of Education & Standards	Ensure sustainability is adequately and robustly represented in revision to CIOB Undergraduate Education Framework through a refresh of the Sustainability Theme.	Revised Framework to be published Spring 2024	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan; Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education Review already underway
colleges and universities	3.2 Embed Environmental Sustainability into accredited learning programmes at postgrad level	Education & Standards Team / HES	Director of Education & Standards	Ensure sustainability is adequately and robustly represented in revision to CIOB Education Framework for Postgraduate Degrees through a refresh of the Sustainability Theme.	Review framework in 2024 Updated framework to be published in 2025	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan; Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education Review already planned

3.3 Promot Environme Sustainabil construction learning	ntal Standards ity in Team/HES/Head	Director of Education & Standards	Develop video for students in HEI/FEIs highlighting the importance of sustainability in construction and role of CEnvs	Video published by end 2025.	Could provide video download free to accredited institutions and make available at a cost to non-accredited.
programm across colle and univer	eges sities				(NB: schools addressed by Construction Ambassadors – see membership)
3.4 Ensure profession membersh assessmen reviewed, revised if necessary, strengthen sustainabil	al & Standards ip t is and to	Director of Education & Standards	Review sustainability question and guidance in <u>Professional Review</u> to ensure it is sufficiently robust, whilst maintaining broad applicability	By June 2024	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan
3.5 Ensure requireme for membe reflect the for green s	nts Standards / ers Governance / need Academy kills	Director of Education & Standards	All members to be incentivised to report CPD related to sustainability (i.e., provide CPD and with preferential points (carrot not stick)  Identify existing content for	By end 2025  By Spring 2024	Partly aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan (which recommends mandatory CPD in sustainability topics)  Aligned with SDG 4 Quality
	Sustainability Advisory Panel to provide expert input		preferential points.  Develop new CPD content/module covering key issues in construction – see 6.4	By end 2025 and ongoing to 2028	Education
3.6 Further promote u of the retro pathway o Building Conservati programm	Accreditation ptake Manager / ofit Certifications f the Coordinator / HES / Assessor on representatives	Director of Education & Standards	Establish a small task group, to include representatives from the Building Conservation Scheme assessor community, to consider barriers to take up, and proposals for solutions, ways of incentivising take	Task group to report by the end of 2024	Leverage on membership of NHIC Carbon & Energy Efficiency Working Group here

			up, and ways to improve the quality of applications.		
3.7 Establish if there is a need to develop a	Education & Standards / HES	Director of Education & Standards	Develop a vocational qualification for sustainability in construction (new CPD content could be starting point)	Vocational qualification available by end	Awarding Body role  Aligned with SDG 4 <i>Quality</i>
vocational qualification in sustainable			to build it from	2026	Education
construction					

4. POLICY						
Goal	Actions	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment
4. Influence policy makers and other key stakeholders on a UK and international basis to promote environmental sustainability in construction	4.1 Facilitation of an active members Sustainability Advisory Panel  4.2 Promotion of CIOB as a sector leader on environmental sustainability in contact with policy makers nationally and	Policy Team / HES  Policy Team / Media Relations	Director of Policy, External Affairs and Research  Director of Policy, External Affairs and Research	Regularly scheduled meetings of Advisory panel at least quarterly with live, progressive actions  Meetings with key policy makers/politicians/officials incorporating discussion on environmental sustainability within construction and related topics.	Evidence of meetings with Sustainability topics on the agenda – annually to 2028	UK wide (including devolved nations) and on an international basis, as appropriate.  Link to global strategy and region/country strategies
	4.3 Influencing the changing policy landscape through	Policy Team / Media Relations / HES	Director of Policy, External Affairs and Research	Ensuring any policy position statement, manifestos and other relevant policy documents are sufficiently robust on environmental sustainability topics.	Ongoing to 2028	

a c r	research, advocacy and contributions to relevant Govt consultations			Continue to carry out and commission research that supports policy development in this area.	As required.	Potential link with Education & Standards Team on research that moves the needle.
T	across the UK & Ireland			Identify and respond to relevant consultations, with stakeholder input, and communicating the CIOB response as appropriate. Potential topics might include (but not limited to) climate policy including net zero, whole life carbon, adaptation and resilience, operational performance of existing and new building stock; nature and biodiversity; and the importance of green skills, etc.	Ongoing to 2028	Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan
il F C E S r	4.4 Mapping the international policy landscape on environmental sustainability in relation to construction.	Membership/ Policy Team / Global Working Group	Director of Policy, External Affairs and Research	Engage with international experts and liaise across departments to produce research, identify and inform opportunities to influence on the challenges of environmental sustainability in construction globally.	Mapping complete by end 2024  Evidence of increased engagement in policy at an international level 2024-2028	Link to global strategy and region/country strategies

5. MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS							
Goal	Action	Resources	Responsible	Measurable outcome	Target	Progress/Comment	
			Director				

5. Communicate the case for positive change in the industry through the promotion of environmental	5.1 Ensure all CIOB publications and channels regularly cover news and features highlighting environmental sustainability in construction	Marketing Team / Content & Comms Team / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Evidence of internal & external messaging promoting environmental sustainability on a regular basis	On an on-going basis to 2028, report annually	
sustainability in construction (including thought leadership, policy, innovation, best practice,	5.2 Ensure communication and content plans include key dates relevant to environmental sustainability.	Content & Comms / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Evidence of internal & external messaging around key dates such as COPs, an appropriate number of relevant Awareness Days, etc	On an on-going basis to 2028	
standards, tools and modern metrics).	5.3 a) Marketing Campaign to promote CEnv membership.  5.3 b) CIOB People to	Marketing Programmes, Content & Comms	Director of Marketing & Comms	Ongoing Marketing Plan for CEnv membership  Minimum of four profiles featuring CEnv registered members per year	Approximately on a quarterly basis	NB: Aligned with Product and Services Communications Plan
	promote CEnv members in the sector 5.4 Produce a bitesize 'down	Head of Content & Comms / HES	Director of Marketing &	Bitesize video overview (the first chapter) available for use internally	January 2024  By Spring 2024	
	the lens' video to highlight CIOB positioning and	Include other voices in later	Comms	and externally.	By the end of 2024	

strategy on environmental sustainability	videos (e.g. Directors)		To be followed by subsequent bitesize videos focusing on different elements of the Action Plan		
5.5 Establish a structured and accessible area on the CIOB website to become a hub for environ sustainability	Digital Manager / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Environmental Sustainability area live on CIOB website	By the end of 2024 and maintained on an ongoing basis.	
5.6 Ensure our events and conferences are organised in line with sustainable events guidance and best practice	Marketing Team / Events Team / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Review sustainable events standards guidance (such as ISO20121) and agree some internal guidance for all major events.  Quantify carbon impact of members forum and offset via an appropriate scheme.  Identify social value opportunities for	Annually from 2024-2028	Agreed with Aimee Fisker  Also, to be disseminated to regional managers and hub committees for hub events.
			members participating in members forum.	Annually from 2024-28	Location dependent
5.7 Promote the CIOB's commitment to environmental sustainability with an annual sustainability conference	Marketing Team / Events Team / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Well attended international annual CIOB Sustainability Conference (hybrid), with appropriate sponsorship, programme of speakers etc. – first conference in October 2024	Annually from 2024-2028	International speakers and panellists  2024 and 2025 conferences already in calendar

5.8 Provide members with an opportunity to comment on environmental sustainability so that we can monitor engagement	Marketing Programmes Team / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Incorporate a sustainability question into members survey to establish and monitor levels of awareness / engagement with sustainability theme	From May 2024	
5.9 Ensure the Annual Review spotlights progress on Environmental Sustainability	Head of Content & Comms / HES	Director of Marketing & Comms	Annual report to highlight the following:  Progress on managing operational sustainability impact. Progress in relation to key activities from the Environmental Sustainability theme of the Corporate Plan	Annually to 2028	

6. THE ACADEM	6. THE ACADEMY								
Goal	Actions	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable Outcome	Target	Comment			
6. Provide built environment professionals with the tools they need to	6.1 Ensure Academy Resources on Sustainability are kept up to date	Academy Team/HES	Director of the Academy	Review and, if necessary, refresh the Sustainable Construction Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to ensure it continues to be current and relevant to a global audience	Review case study content annually Next review by September 2025	Light touch review completed September 2023  Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education			
understand, embed and champion environmental	6.2 Further develop Environmental Sustainability resources for	Academy Team / Technical & Standards Development / HES / Budget	Director of the Academy	Develop and launch relevant Technical Information Sheets for members and non-members.	Minimum of 1 per year from 2024- 2028	To follow the launch of the Sustainability Guide; Agreed with Gina			

sustainability in their professional practice	publication via The Academy			Potential Topics (TBC and informed by engagement) e.g.  • Whole-life carbon  • Biodiversity net gain  • Low/zero carbon energy and decarbonised heat  • Resource use / responsibly		Aligned with CIC Climate Action Plan; Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education
				sourced materials  Climate risk, adaptation & resilience  Nutrient Neutrality	First two Case	
				Develop a library of case studies in the Sustainability Zone of the Academy to profile exemplar projects in sustainable construction	Studies published in Sustainability Zone by April 2024	Supported by new case study template
	6.3 Embed Sustainability in relevant CIOB Academy Publications	Academy Team/HES	Director of the Academy	Reference Sustainability in any revision of CIOB Codes of Practice, Guides & Tech info Sheets (where appropriate) as they are reviewed and developed.	Ongoing to 2028	
	6.4 Offer practical support for members so that they can understand, embed, and champion sustainability in their practice.	Academy Team/HES	Director of the Academy	Develop, source and host further CPD and training resources providing guidance on topics relating to sustainable construction (inc. systems thinking), and host them on the Academy under the Sustainable Construction & Development Theme  Review existing content for currency  Map training needs and identify additional content	By June 2024 By June 2024	Aligned with SDG 4 Quality Education
				required  • Develop/Source and host additional content	Ongoing from 2024-2028	

7. CLIENT DEVE	7. CLIENT DEVELOPMENT								
Goal	Action	Resource	Responsible Director	Measurable outcome	Target	Progress/Comment			
7. Support clients (both individual and organisations) in specifying sustainable buildings	7.1 Raise awareness, and promote innovation, best practice, tools, and modern metrics to support environmental sustainability	Head of Client Development / HES	CEO	Evidence of targeted messaging promoting Environmental Sustainability in construction to clients	Annually to 2028	Alignment with Client Strategy			
	7.2 Promote sustainability guides and case studies to clients	Head of Client Development / HES	CEO	Evidence of targeted messaging promoting Sustainability Guide and Case Studies	Annually to 2028				
	7.3 Gather and share market intelligence and knowledge	Head of Client Development / HES	CEO	Series of cross sector client roundtables focusing on environmental sustainability / net zero	By end of 2024	Aligned with SDG 17			

8. OPERATIONS (HR, Finance, Digital, Data & Technology, and Facilities)								
Goal	Action	Resources	Responsible Director	Measurable outcome	Target	Progress/Comment		

8. Ensure we are 'walking the talk' by embedding sustainability in our business operations.	8.1 Ensure the CIOB's investments continue to be aligned with the overall objectives of the institute.	Head of Finance	COO	Review and evolve the ESG Policy at least annually.  Trustees to review the underlying holdings on at least an annual basis. The output of this will be a RAG review of the portfolio and a progressive desire to move to a portfolio compliant with the expectations outlined in the ESG Policy.	Review completed annually.  Review completed annually	Aligned with the commitments in the ESG Policy
	8.2 Review the Responsible Procurement Policy to ensure environmental sustainability requirements are sufficiently robust, and update if required.	Head of Finance/HES	COO	Updated Responsible Procurement Policy published	By end May 2024	At next annual review
	8.3 Review the Green Pensions Charter and consider with Trustees whether CIOB could become a signatory.	Head of Human Resources	COO	By signing up to this charter, organisations collectively commit to:  Calling on the pensions industry to agree net zero targets for all investments.  Engaging with trustees and pension providers to explore how their staff pension scheme can align to net zero before 2050.	Charter signed, if appropriate, by end of 2024	Contingent on agreement of BoT following a thorough review of the Charter requirements.  NB: Current provider (Aviva) is a signatory of the Green Pensions Charter.

8.4 Ensure our	Head of HR/HES	COO	Develop content for use in inductions	By June 2024	
people u/stand the importance of sustainability in the			Re-engage an internal focus on sustainability – potentially through the staff forum.	By December 2024	
workplace and wider industry			Develop more internal training content on environmental sustainability	By December 2025	
8.5 IT Services – Ensure environmental sustainability is a key	Head of DDAT / IT Manager / HES	coo	Review data storage arrangements to identify opportunities. Raise awareness among staff of appropriate data storage behaviours to promote energy efficiency.	By end Q3 2024 Ongoing	Aligned with forthcoming data storage review
consideration in IT operations, including the management of			Create an IT Sustainable Sourcing Policy.	throughout plan period Q3 2024	
data storage and procurement of hardware.			Review and update specification of hardware such as laptops, desktops, printers and screens to ensure only energy star certified products or those with comparatively high energy	By end of 2024	
8.6 Facilities	FM Manager	Director of Governance	efficiency ratings are purchased.  Manage the office facilities in both Bracknell and London in a manner that minimises impact on the environment.	Ongoing	
	FM / Finance /	coo/	Ensure we maintain SKA Gold standard for all properties in the UK  Quantify and report the carbon	As and when review or refit takes place.	NB: London office lease due to expire Sept 2025
	Comms	Director of Governance	footprint of our operations:  • continue to publish the scope 1 and 2 emissions	Annually	

	associated with our offices annually via the Annual Review  add business travel from the 2024 Annual Report onwards.	Annually from 2024 Annual Report (published in 2025)	
	Quantify and report wider scope 3 emissions associated with our operations.	From 2025	Building on earlier preliminary work