

# CIOB

## Annual Environmental Sustainability Report 2025

This report covers progress under the Environmental Sustainability Theme of CIOB's Corporate Plan during the period 1 January to 31 December 2025.





# Executive Summary

This is the second annual report on progress under the Environmental Sustainability theme of the Corporate Plan 2023-2028 and the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2024-2028.

During 2025, progress has continued to be strong, with momentum gathering throughout the year, and this will provide a strong foundation to build on in 2026.

Highlights have included:

- Publication of CIOB's first comprehensive Annual Environmental Sustainability Report 2024, which provided a **detailed update** on implementation of this focused corporate plan theme.
- The review of the Professional Review process, the Professional Development Programme, and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy, which fully **embedded sustainability** as a professional review theme.
- The growth of the **Sustainability Ambassadors** Initiative, with all 50 established and developing Hub Committees now represented by member ambassadors (46 Sustainability Ambassadors and 4 interim contacts).
- CIOB's second annual international **Sustainability Conference**, which focused on "Sustainable Construction: Shifting the Narrative" in 2025, with an international line up of speakers and over 200 registrations.
- The **publication** of the report: "Using the SDGs as a framework to help the built environment industry become more innovative and sustainable", which marked the close of the 2024/25 presidential year.
- Detailed **policy research, advocacy** and **consultation** work, including the publication of the "Building Adaptability: How the construction sector can future proof Irish cities" report.
- Extensive **communications** supporting the environmental sustainability theme across all channels as well as a large volume of media coverage for the sustainability theme.
- Development of a **Careers in Sustainability** in Construction video and lesson to support CIOB's Skills Gap agenda.



# CIOB's commitment to Environmental Sustainability

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 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.

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

- **equip** CIOB members 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.

The Environmental Sustainability action plan is a framework to deliver change, setting out activities to embed Sustainability across CIOB directorates and functions for the period January 2024 to December 2028. The measures 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 grades; 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 CIOB is 'walking the talk' in its own operations.

The plan includes approximately **70** actions, to be delivered over a five-year period, aligned with the Corporate Plan period.



# Roles and Responsibilities



## The Board of Trustees

As the governing body of CIOB, the Board of Trustees (BoT) is responsible for the management of the Institute and ensuring that it meets its obligations as set out in the Royal Charter, in addition to relevant legislation and regulations. The BoT will consider this annual report to monitor progress against the agreed Environmental Sustainability objectives and other requirements.

## Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel

CIOB's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel provides a forum for members and non-members with expertise in Environmental Sustainability to support and promote the agenda across the built environment sector. The Panel is coordinated by the Policy Team and works with CIOB and its Head of Environmental Sustainability, to play an advisory role and provide expertise to support the promotion of the environmental sustainability theme across the built environment sector at an international, national, devolved, state and regional level.

## Head of Environmental Sustainability

The Head of Environmental Sustainability role was established in September 2023 and currently reports to Director of Policy, External Affairs & Research (an interim arrangement) on a day-to-day basis and the Board of Trustees annually. The role is responsible for ensuring that CIOB embeds its commitment to environmental sustainability in all directorates and functions and demonstrates leadership across the built environment sector.

## Leadership Team

Each of the actions in the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan has a 'responsible director' who is responsible for ensuring the action is completed. This is generally the Director of the relevant directorate.



# Highlights and Achievements 2025

This is the second year of implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and key highlights and achievements have included:

- i. The first CIOB **Annual Environmental Sustainability Report**, published in February 2025, detailing strong progress under the Environmental Sustainability theme during the first year of implementation (2024). This was presented to the BoT and published on the CIOB Sustainability webpage.
- ii. In line with our high level ambition to ensure CIOB members are equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage and deliver the construction process in an environmentally sustainable manner, sustainability has been embedded as a **professional review theme** in the refreshed Professional Review process, the Professional Development Programme, and an updated CPD Policy, which links a percentage of CPD hours to the professional review themes (including sustainability). Sustainability has also been embedded in a new Chartered Membership Programme for Roofing.
- iii. The conclusion of the presidential term of Professor Mike Kagioglou in June 2025 saw the conclusion of series 1 of the **CIOB Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) roundtables** and was marked by the publication of a **new report** authored by the Head of Environmental Sustainability, which provided a blueprint for linking built environment sustainability action to the SDGs.

In line with Professor Kagioglou's presidential theme, the report focused on using the SDGs as a framework to drive innovation and sustainability in the built environment and provided case studies demonstrating the goals in action. Presented during an interactive workshop at Member's Forum, the report was extremely well received and resulted in extensive media coverage as well as further speaking opportunities in both the UK and Australia.



## Highlights and Achievements 2025

- iv. CIOB's **Sustainability Ambassadors** Initiative aims to see all Hub Committees represented by an ambassador. By the end of 2025, there were 46 Sustainability Ambassadors in post plus four interim contacts (Total 50: 30 UK and 20 international) representing 100% of established and developing Hubs. Sustainability Ambassadors are provided with an induction briefing session, a monthly email update to cascade to Hub Committees, and a quarterly meeting to share ideas, best practice and solutions. In 2025, Sustainability Ambassadors were given Climate Change Coaching Training.
- v. During 2025, we also completed the **review of CIOB's Postgraduate Education Framework** for accredited postgraduate programmes, which has included a refresh of sustainability requirements. This follows the update of the Undergraduate Education Framework in 2024 and supports our high-level ambition to embed environmental sustainability into relevant learning programmes across schools, colleges, and universities.
- vi. Sustainability has the potential to attract new entrants into construction and therefore could contribute to addressing the skills gap within our industry (including a green skills gap). Our digital output has therefore included the development of a new **Careers in Sustainability in Construction** video, supported by a Careers in Sustainability in Construction lesson plan for use by our Construction Ambassadors (published in the Think Construction Toolkit) with additional resources including four longform videos from CIOB members who are sustainability practitioners in the industry.
- vii. Environmental Sustainability has been a key theme in our **knowledge development activities** during 2025. This has included a sustainability workshop as part of Members Forum in June, a total of 47 CPD events contributing to the sustainability theme delivered across our regions in the UK and internationally, two sustainability-focused webinars for Company Members and two activities for Tomorrow's Leaders in 2025. These events attracted over 3.5k registrations in total.

Knowledge development activities were supported by the **publication** of the Arabic Translation of the Retrofit of Buildings Technical Information Sheet as well as the development of a new publication focusing on Climate Resilience in the Built Environment, which will be published early in 2026. Additional sustainability-related publications were added to the CIOB Library, and an enhanced search function makes it easier for members to identify relevant content. A total of 15 sustainable construction case studies is now available in the Sustainability Zone of the CIOB Academy.

**Our portfolio of Environmental Sustainability products and services (e.g. courses, webinars, and publications) available primarily via the CIOB Academy has increased from 159 to 173 in 2025 (8.8% growth) with a 5.4% increase in uptake on 2024, and a 55% increase on the baseline year (2023).**

- viii. In September, we delivered CIOB's second international **Sustainability Conference** (virtual) with the theme of "Sustainable Construction: Shifting the Narrative" with a diverse line-up of speakers and panellists from the UK and internationally. This attracted 205 registrations and fantastic engagement, including CIOB Members, non-members, students and other stakeholders.



- ix.** We have had another strong year in terms of building the case for change through **sustainability-related communications**. We have delivered a comprehensive sustainability communications plan during 2025, which has included 17 sustainability-themed CIOB blog posts, a marketing campaign aimed at raising awareness about the Chartered Environmentalist registration, and regular sustainability-themed communications across all CIOB channels.

**Social media analytics indicate that we had a total of 106 posts supporting the environmental sustainability theme, resulting in 58.4k impressions, a 5.77% engagement rate, a total of 3.5k likes, and 294k video views in 2025.**

We have also seen a significant increase in views of the [CIOB Sustainability](#) webpage this year (3559 compared to 1375 in 2024). In addition to this, the microsite for the [Nature of Building: Biodiversity](#) and the [Built Environment](#) digital series is hosted externally and received 5,200 page views in 2025.



The Head of Environmental Sustainability's own LinkedIn posts on this topic have generated almost 136k impressions in 2025, with 34k members reached, demonstrating the value of CIOB staff being active on social media.

**The member engagement survey in 2025 highlighted that 55% of CIOB members were aware of CIOB activity related to the sustainability theme with 43% engaged in some way (22% highly engaged), compared to 54% aware and a total of 30% engaged in 2024, representing a modest increase in awareness but a stronger increase in engagement.**



- X.** In April 2025, we received our **impact report for the digital series** “The Nature of Building: Biodiversity and the Built Environment” which was launched in Q4 2024. This project was a partnership between the Chartered Institute of Building and Content with Purpose, and it was delivered at no cost to CIOB (being fully funded by sponsored partner content). The series comprises partner content, expert interviews, and case studies, with contributions from both the UK and internationally, and highlighted the role the industry has in protecting and restoring nature, with a focus on solutions.

**According to the Impact Report, we received achieved outstanding engagement in the first six months following the launch, with 3,884,639 impressions and 1,546,037 video views across the 13 videos published.**

Engagement rates were above industry averages, and it was positive to see that our audience was not exclusively in the UK, with the US, India, China and Ireland being key geographies. These results highlight the impact of the campaign in amplifying CIOB’s mission and showcasing the vital role of the built environment in addressing global challenges like biodiversity loss.

- xi.** The Policy, External Affairs & Research Team have continued to do great work to support the environmental sustainability theme, through the ongoing facilitation of an active Sustainability Advisory Panel with a refreshed membership in 2025, and through detailed research, advocacy and consultation responses.

For example, CIOB submitted detailed **written responses** or provided **verbal evidence** to a total of ten relevant consultation processes:

- a. Reforms to the Energy Performance of Buildings Regime Consultation
- b. Protecting Built Heritage Inquiry
- c. Inquiry into building 1.5 million homes
- d. Developer Contributions for Wastewater Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
- e. Planning Reform Working Paper: Speeding Up Build Out
- f. Planning Reform Working Paper: Reforming Site Thresholds
- g. Reformed Decent Homes Standard for social and private rented homes
- h. Northern Ireland draft Climate Action Plan (NI)
- i. Review of the Water Efficiency Standard in the Building Regulations
- j. The Scottish Government’s draft Climate Change Plan (Scotland)

A particular highlight of this work was the evidence given by Dr Joceleyne Fleming to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on the Scottish Government’s draft Climate Change Plan.

In her remarks on behalf of CIOB, she highlighted the ongoing need for more holistic, system-wide policymaking in place of the often



## Highlights and Achievements 2025

disconnected and siloed policy and regulatory landscape currently facing the sector and set out CIOB's concerns about the construction skills gap, highlighting that if the ongoing skills shortage across Scotland is not addressed, the country won't meet its climate or housing objectives.

A key piece of **research**, authored by Joseph Kilroy and published in 2025, was a report focused on "Building Adaptability: How the construction sector can future proof Irish cities", which recommended planning regulation changes to make major urban buildings adaptable, potentially turning commercial vacancy into much-needed homes, with significant environmental and social sustainability benefits. Although focused on Ireland, the findings of this report are readily transferable across the UK and beyond.

Numerous **roundtables and other events** were attended by the Head of Sustainability alongside policymakers in 2025, including the Net Zero Week in Parliament Building Green Skills Roundtable: Achieving the UK's Climate Goals and Boosting Economic Growth; a Circular Economy Strategy engagement event; the Embodied Carbon Summit; the launch of Sector Transition Plans; and a Roundtable on Nature Recovery and Land Use with Natural England.

The Global Working Group completed an exercise to map the **international policy landscape** on environmental sustainability in relation to construction, with support from the Head of Environmental Sustainability.

While CIOB did not receive accreditation as an official observer in time to have a presence at **COP30** in Belém, Brazil, we did actively engage with the event through online attendance at various sessions, as well as holding a Sustainable Development Goals Roundtable focused on SDG 13 Climate Action and branded as the 'CIOB Climate COP' and through a CIOB Blog post: [COP30 commitments to reduce built environment emissions](#) | CIOB.



## Highlights and Achievements 2025

- xii.** We have been very successful in securing **media coverage** of our work under the environmental sustainability theme again in 2025, with great support from the Media Relations Team. This has included numerous pieces in external media and industry press in the UK and internationally, as well as our own publications.

**In 2025, we had 143 separate pieces of media content supporting the Environmental Sustainability theme - 12% of all CIOB media content achieved.**

- xiii.** Environmental Sustainability has been a key theme in **Client Development activities** in 2024 with two sustainability-related roundtables held for client organisations in the housing and asset management sectors. A third client roundtable with the highways and transportation sector was postponed until January 2026 to ensure higher participation levels due to a clash with another major event. The relaunched Client Guide also included a substantially refreshed sustainability section, and additional sustainability-related resources have been added to the Client pages of the website.

- xiv.** In line with our commitment to work in **partnership with other institutes** to affect sustainable change, the Head of Sustainability has been an active member of the CIC Climate Change Committee, the Environmental Policy Forum, the Cross-institution Climate & Nature Forum, and various other groups. This collaboration has resulted in multiple collaborative policy statements during the year, along with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate literacy.

The MoU highlights the importance of advancing climate literacy (understanding society's influence on climate and climate's influence on society) in the built environment industry. It is crucial that built environment professionals understand the fundamentals of climate change, its impacts, causes, and solutions (mitigation/adaptation) and can apply this knowledge to the design, construction, retrofitting, and management of buildings and infrastructure.

- xv.** We calculated the **carbon footprint of holding the Member's Forum in Belfast** as a total of 65.4t of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2025 (compared to 389.1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e when the event was held in Cape Town). This calculation included emissions associated with international and domestic flights, accommodation, catering, and materials. We were unable to include energy use at the venue or waste generated in these calculations, due to lack of data availability.

As well as keeping these emissions as low as possible, for example by sending only essential staff in person, CIOB offset the remaining emissions by purchasing verified carbon credits through the United Nations Carbon offset platform, allowing for some additional units to cover the unknown emissions and supporting a project that aligned well with the SDGs focus of the 2024/25 Presidency.

We did explore the possibility of supporting a project in Northern Ireland but were unable to find a project with verified units available for purchase. In addition to this, delegates were given the opportunity to engage with a Belfast-based social enterprise during the event, in line with our commitment to highlight the importance of social value.

In 2025, CIOB also published scope 3 emissions associated with business travel in the Annual Report 2024 for the first time, alongside scope 1 and 2 emissions.





**All this work has been delivered thanks to collaborative efforts from across the organisation with support from all directorates and functions.**

**[www.ciob.org/industry/sustainability](http://www.ciob.org/industry/sustainability)**

