GlobalABC Newsletter
May 2021

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Be featured in our newsletter
If you have buildings-related news or events, please feel free to send us by the 13th of each month at global.abc@un.org.

In this newsletter:
1. Join the GlobalABC
3. GlobalABC member & buildings news
4. Upcoming events
5. Calls, initiatives, and funding
6. GlobalABC flagship products

Join the GlobalABC

Be part of the growing GlobalABC community!
Interested in joining the GlobalABC? Click here and learn how to apply!

See all GlobalABC members

News from the GlobalABC Secretariat

GlobalABC newsletter - how can we improve?
Please take a few minutes to answer this form and let us know your feedback on GlobalABC newsletters and what we can do to improve them.
*Obligatoire

Help the GlobalABC improve the newsletter!
Please take a few minutes to take this survey and let us know what we could improve in our newsletter and how. Your opinion will help us shape a better communication tool with the GlobalABC community!

Take the survey!
The EU Taxonomy - What does it mean for buildings?

Briefing paper developed by PEEB

PEEB and GlobalABC Work Area on Finance’s briefing on the EU taxonomy and its meaning for buildings

The EU Taxonomy aims at pushing the financial and industrial sectors towards more investments for climate neutrality in the EU. It does so by establishing a classification framework of sustainable investments. This allows investors to identify which investments are sustainable and can be marketed as such, increasing transparency.

For buildings, technical screening criteria were developed for the construction of buildings, renovation of buildings, sale and ownership of buildings, installation of energy efficient equipment, or for manufacturing in the supply chain. Demonstrating compliance with these criteria requires collecting data and information – likely more than usually available.

The impact of the EU taxonomy is reinforced through a new corporate sustainability reporting directive and a sustainable finance disclosure regulation, which will likely require disclosure against EU taxonomy metrics. It is relevant mainly for actors outside the EU but spillover effects on other markets and jurisdictions are expected.

Click here to read the briefing

2021 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT FOR BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Join the Task Force!

Join the 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction task force!

Work has begun for the development of our 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction!

The Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction is a flagship product of the GlobalABC and provides an annual snapshot of the progress of the sector on a global scale and reviewing the status of policies, finance, technologies, and solutions to monitor whether the sector is aligned with the Paris Agreement goals.

Interested in joining our Buildings-GSR Task Force? Contact us at
The Race to Zero Built Environment System Map is now live (GlobalABC participation)!

This map, developed in a collaborative process between the UN Climate Champions Team, and with participation of the GlobalABC and key stakeholders from the Built Environment sector, is aimed to galvanise engagement for collaboration and better equip the coalition for change. It provides a view of the buildings and construction value chain, and was designed to stimulate more insightful conversations about where and how systems transformation can be accelerated in this vital decade for climate action. The particularly important roles of Government & Policy, and of Finance & Ownership, are also covered in two animated stories on the platform.

Explore how all stakeholders along the built environment value chain can make breakthrough happen with ambitious and synchronised collaboration that accelerates change and delivers the transformation we need.

[COP26] Join the GlobalABC's COP26 Buildings and Cities task force!

While details are still to be clarified, we now have the confirmation of a Buildings and Cities topic at COP26! The GlobalABC is joined by leading organizations in the built environment space to increase visibility to this sector during COP26, in the push to bring more visibility to the sleeping giant of climate action: the buildings and construction sector - GlobalABC is closely working with the High-Level Climate Champions Team for all COP26 related activities.

Additionally, the GlobalABC aims to host a buildings and real estate pavilion under GlobalABC coordination, which will highlight the critical role buildings and construction has in solving our climate crisis. Each day will be dedicated to a different topic. **We are excited to announce that we have achieved our sponsorship target for the pavilion.**

The GlobalABC is also leading the Built Environment track of the Human Settlements Pathway, under the Marrakesh Partnership Global Climate Action. This document sets out the sector's vision for achieving a 1.5°C resilient world in 2050 and draws from GlobalABC Regional Roadmaps, among other reference...
GlobalABC Member & Buildings News

PEEB - Building the Future

Most of today's building designs prioritise economic savings during construction, resulting in very high operating costs later when the building is used. However, at the design and planning stage, there is a great potential for energy savings that can be achieved with the same or only slightly higher initial investment, which significantly reduce long-term operating costs and ensure a better quality of life. But where to start? There are three basic steps you should consider maximising the energy efficiency of a building. Watch the video to learn more!

Watch now

From the news:

News articles:
- Pipe dream: alleviating energy poverty with hydrogen - Euractiv
- Why We Need Embodied Carbon Benchmarks and Targets in Building Standards and Policies: An Open Letter - Canadian Architect
- Cool and COVID-safe: How radiant cooling could keep our cities comfortable and healthy - Science Daily
- Green construction: Creating emissions-free building sites - DW
- Whatever Climate Change Does to the World, Cities Will Be Hit Hardest - Bloomberg
- Sustainable buildings for resilient recovery need national-subnational engagement - The Economic Times
- The decade for sustainable buildings in Europe - Smart Cities / ICLEI

Reports:
- Build Back Better Homes - RMI
- Sustainability in the Built Environment in the 21st Century: Lessons Learned from India and the Region - One Planet Network SBC Programme

Past events - recordings & summaries:
- Sustainable Building and Construction - Climate Chance Association
- WCEF+Climate - the Netherlands and Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
- Community of Practice Discussion - Chemicals of Concern in Building Material - UNEP, ISC3, Bioregional, SAICM Secretariat, University of Cape Town
- A Hot Market for Renewable Cooling - Cool Coalition, SEforAll, IRENA, UNEP
- Chilling Prospects: Tracking Sustainable
Discover BPIE’s latest Renovation Wave gap analysis!

This BPIE’s gap analysis seeks to answer the key question: Is the Renovation Wave action plan leading to adequate measures, putting the EU on track to achieve its 2030 climate objectives?

In this analysis, the BPIE urges the European Commission to intensify political coordination and coherence in the implementation phase of the Renovation Wave strategy, to ensure full decarbonisation of the EU building stock in line with the EU climate goals.

Read the report

Whole-life Carbon: Challenges and solutions for highly efficient and climate-neutral buildings

This report introduces basic concepts and key issues related to the integration of whole-life carbon considerations in building policies. It aims to be a conversation starter for policymakers and key stakeholders to engage in policy gaps and potential mitigation solutions for carbon lifecycle approaches.

Read the briefing

Follow the progress of the Africa-Europe Bioclimatic Collaboration 21 (ABC21) project!

The ABC21 project, coordinated by Politecnico di Milano, aims to identify and document African and European bioclimatic designs (e.g. passive cooling solutions) and the use of local materials as methods to develop and promote sustainable and energy-efficient buildings.

This two-year project, launched in September 2020, already has 9 partners and 15 allies in Europe and Africa, including the GlobalABC and some of its members: ADEME, Construction21, French Ministry of Ecological Transition, AFD, ECREEE, ECOWAS and BPIE.

Publications, webinar recordings, training materials and weather files for future climate will be published in the knowledge centre of the ABC21’s website following the project timeline.

Visit the website

Upcoming Events
[18 May] Accelerating Sustainable Energy in ASEAN Cities - REN21, UNEP, ESCAP

This workshop will bring together representatives of national and city governments, business and academic society to discuss good practices, trends and recent developments on sustainable energy in cities in ASEAN and other countries in Asia and the Pacific. The topic of SDG 7 localization will be discussed. Two reports on the topic will be launched during this workshop: ESCAP’s report on SDG7 Localization: affordable and clean energy in ASEAN cities and REN21’s Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status report.

[18 May] Transforming cities in Latin America and the Caribbean with renewables to achieve net-zero - REN21

This event will be held in Spanish! Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean are frontrunners in setting net-zero targets and many cities already have high shares of renewable electricity! Join REN21 for a panel discussion on the trends & developments captured in their latest report and discuss how cities can accelerate implementation to increase ambition to meet SDG and climate objectives.

[18 May] Webinaire - Observatoire 2021 des pratiques de labellisation ISR des fonds immobiliers (OID)

This event will be held in French! En octobre 2020, les premiers fonds immobiliers ont pu obtenir une labellisation attestant de leur engagement dans une démarche de finance responsable grâce au Label ISR. Comment les sociétés de gestion se sont-elles saisies de ce nouveau label ? Quels sont les fonds qui ont à ce jour été labellisés et quelles sont leurs caractéristiques ? Comment ce nouveau label s'articule-t-il avec les évolutions réglementaires actuelles, notamment le développement du Plan de financement de la croissance verte de l’Union Européenne (Taxonomie, règlement SFDR, Ecolabel, ...)? L’ASPIM, l’OID et Novethic se sont rassemblés pour lancer une réflexion autour de ces thématiques, qui aboutira à la publication d’une première étude : Observatoire 2021 des pratiques de labellisation ISR des fonds immobiliers. Le 18 Mai, venez participer à l’événement de présentation de cette publication!

20 May 2021 09:00—11:00
Advancing Buildings Energy Efficiency in Southeast Asia Webinar


Based on the findings from the GlobalABC Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in Asia, there exists significant potential in policy and technology development in the ASEAN region, across the areas including new building construction, building retrofits, appliances, building operations and construction materials.

This webinar, organised by the International Energy Agency (IEA) will explore some of the key questions around advancing energy efficiency in buildings in Southeast Asia. It will mark the official launch of the IEA’s new online course on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and is part of the IEA’s training programme in Southeast Asia this year. This free online course will be
Register now accessible on the day of the webinar here.

[20 May] #BuildingLife Webinar: Whole life carbon roadmaps for the built environment - WorldGBC

The #BuildingLife project, developed by the World Green Building Council, aims to achieve the mix of private-sector action and public policy necessary to tackle the whole-life impact of buildings. It focuses not only on the operational emissions of buildings, but also the environmental impact of the manufacturing, transportation, construction, and end-of-life phases of built assets – often called embodied emissions. Tackling these emissions is essential to addressing the total impact of the buildings sector and progressing towards the European Green Deal's aim of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.

This first #BuildingLife webinar will explore the whole life carbon roadmaps being developed by 10 European Green Building Councils and participants will discuss how they can make lasting change to help deliver the European Commission Green Deal. WorldGBC's new Whole Life Carbon Commitment pathway will also be presented.

[25-27 May] Innovate4Climate 2021

Now in its 5th year, I4C's 2021 edition will be entirely virtual. It will run over 3 days, from May 25-27, each day comprising high-level plenaries along with a Workshop Program which provides a forum for practitioners to demonstrate how to achieve a resilient and low-carbon future. The three-day program will also include a Marketplace, where public and private sector organizations will be able to showcase their climate action initiatives and engage with conference participants.

[26 May] Webinar "African Cities and Subnational and Local Governments at the heart of the post-COVID economic and financial recovery: The role of the Africa Territorial Agency (ATA)" - UCLG Africa

The objective of this Webinar is to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the financial capacities of local authorities and the role that the Africa Territorial Agency would play in making additional resources available to the financial market and ensuring a revival of the more sustainable financial system. This capitalizing meeting will bring together representatives of African local authorities, national governments, and national associations of local authorities and also representatives of international financial institutions.

[8-11 June] Sustainability

[15-16 June] Covenant of Mayors

[21-23 June] World Cities Summit

The World Cities Summit is an exclusive platform for government leaders
Investment Forum - Energy Efficiency Finance Market Place

The conference will include plenary sessions with high-level representatives from the European Commission, Covenant of Mayors initiative and the investment community. It will feature 44 successful projects on financing energy efficiency, climate adaptation, and innovative energy planning as well as 8 discussion forums and a networking space.

Register now

Investment Forum - Energy Efficiency Finance Market Place

Investment Forum - Energy Efficiency Finance Market Place

Following the change in administration in the US, this event examines how climate-related policy and regulatory change will impact US business and society.

Don't miss the panel discussion on "Transforming New York City buildings for a low carbon future" on Day 2 (9 June) at 5pm CET! The panelists will discuss the April 2019 climate bill, which aims to cut NYC's carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 by retrofitting old buildings and increasing their energy-efficiency.

Register now

Week USA

Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the World Cities Summit is held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore. Highlights of the Summit include the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, the WCS Mayors Forum, and City Solutions Singapore.

Register now

[26 June - 4 July] London Climate Action Week 2021

London Climate Action Week (LCAW) is an annual event bringing together world-leading array of climate professionals and communities. LCAW harnesses the power of London for global climate action. The week-long series of events, creates space for London’s world-leading array of climate professionals to find solutions to climate change.

Register now

[22-24 November] IDoBE International Conference

Join the Centre for the Integrated Delivery of the Built Environment (IDOBE) of the London South Bank University's (LSBU) School of the Built Environment and Architecture (SBEA) for an international conference on the theme ‘Uncertainties in the Built Environment: How can we build a resilient future in the new normal?’

The aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity to understand the challenges the built environment is facing during these uncertain times in different countries, mainly due to the pandemic and BREXIT, in order to draw up a sustainable and resilient plan for the future of the AECO industry.

Register now

Learn more
[27-29 October] PRE-COP26 BUILT ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT

GlobalABC is a convening partner of the Pre-COP26 Built Environment Summit, hosted by the Royal Institute of British Architects and co-hosted by Architecture 2030 and Architects Declare. This coalition of over 100,000 (and growing) architecture, planning, engineering and construction professionals is calling on the world’s governments to provide the necessary support and legislation to accelerate the systemic change in the built industry to stay within the 1.5°C carbon budget.

The consensual declaration resulting from this Built Environment Summit will be presented to the governments of the world to call for the change our collective future demands. 

Save the dates and become part of the impact that we must and will have!

Calls, Initiatives & Opportunities

Calls

[27 May] Call for Speakers - 2021 Green Building Convention

Apply to the South Africa Green Building Council call for speakers for the 14th Green Building Convention. Choose your stage:

- **Workshop**: opportunity to lead the sustainability narrative and engage with a boutique audience of built environment professionals.
- **Track Presentation**: Share your expertise on one of five programme tracks (Build, Leadership, Investment, Value Chain and Cities).
- **Green Innovation Stage**: Showcase your innovative green product, service or initiative that is helping to achieve a more sustainable future.

Vote for the 2021 Green Solutions Awards!

This competition, organised by Construction21 and supported by the GlobalABC, gathered 192 participants from 25 countries, including 148 buildings, 29 infrastructures, and 15 districts! 36 of these 192 candidates are now competing for the #GreenSolutions Awards of the international platform. Look over the case studies and discover exemplary buildings, districts and infrastructures. Then choose the ones that inspire you. 1, 2, 3, Vote!

Vote now
BIM Africa Innovation Awards: Apply now!

The BIM Africa Innovation Awards recognizes the talents and efforts of leading industry professionals and organizations in the construction sector going above and beyond to deploy innovative solutions towards Africa's Development.

Do you know of (perhaps even yourself) exceptional individuals, firms, or projects in the Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operations (AECO) sector across Africa? Here's a chance to shine the lights on them!

Nomination for the Award is open to individuals, groups, project teams, start-ups, small or large corporate institution, students, and professionals across the Architecture, Engineering, Construction, and Operations (AECO) industry.

Apply before 31 July

BES't - Open call for climate action research (RIBA)

Architects Declare and the RIBA and have launched an open call for research to present at the inaugural BES't and to form accompanying report, which will be presented at COP26. The open call seeks evidence, research, and exemplar projects under the following themes:

- The significance of the built environment
- The environmental footprint of the built environment
- How to affect change in the built environment
- The built environment industry's capabilities
- The industry is committed to change
- The industry needs governments' support to change

Alongside the call for research, Architects Declare and the RIBA also invite Expressions of Interest to sit on the BES't Expert Advisory Panel. The Panel will support the selection of contributors and curation of the conference.

Submit your application now

Initiatives

[28 May] MOOC "Sustainable Construction in the Tropical Humid Zone" - ADEME

Take part in the first edition of ADEME's MOOC on Sustainable Construction in the Tropical Humid Zone, which will enable you to take stock of the bioclimatic principles relevant to these zones. You will:

- Get a panoramic view of the main disciplines to be mastered for designing and constructing a sustainable building in tropical humid zone
- Learn how to mobilize human resources and suitable tools needed to optimize the design of a sustainable building
- Acquire a shared common culture in terms of constructing with low energy and environmental impacts
- Engage in an enriching dialogue among the various players in the building industry
- Learn about exemplary achievements in tropical humid zones

This MOOC will be presented in English; some parts of the MOOC will, however, be accessible in local languages for participants from Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Registration open until 15 May!

Register now
**[Cool Coalition] E-Course on Cool Cities: Solutions to Reduce Excessive Urban Heat**

This course will be based on the "Primer for Cool Cities: Reducing Excessive Urban Heat - With a Focus on Passive Measures", published jointly by ESMAP and the Global Plateform For Sustainable Cities.

[Register now]

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**[WorldGBC] eLearning course on Passive Urban Cooling Solutions**

Take part in the eLearning course on Passive Urban Cooling Solutions organised by the World Bank Group Open Learning Campus! The course will be based on the Primer and presented as a series of four modules.

[Register now]

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Would you like to see your organizations events featured in the next GlobalABC newsletter or on the GlobalABC website? Send us your updates at global.abc@un.org.

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**[GlobalABC] Feature your news, events, and resources to our website**

The GlobalABC website highlights the climate action and leadership in the buildings and construction sector in many ways: through our news section, calendar of events and resources database. The website now has a new feature that allows you to submit your own news, events and resources for publication.

[Visit our website]

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**GlobalABC Flagship Products**
2020 Buildings Global Status Report

The 5th edition of this annual snapshot of the progress of the buildings and construction sector globally towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, particularly on the drivers of CO2 emissions and energy demand globally and the status of policies, finance, technologies, and solutions that support a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector. It also features the Building Climate Tracker, a tracking tool specifically developed for the Buildings-GSR and the GlobalABC.

Regional Roadmaps for Buildings and Construction 2020-2050

The GlobalABC Roadmaps help set pathways to decarbonization of the buildings and construction sector by 2050. It presents a comprehensive approach to emission reductions from the built environment along the full life cycle, towards achieving zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction by 2050.

A Guide for Incorporating Buildings Actions in the NDCs

A first edition designed to address the urgent need for further extending the scope and ambition of building sector actions in NDCs. Developed with and through GlobalABC member countries.