GlobalABC Newsletter
January 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. Welcome to new members: BCSD Australia, Build Change, CAI, GBRI, GGGI, REN21 and Schneider Electric
3. GlobalABC member & buildings news
4. Upcoming events
5. Calls, initiatives, and funding
6. GlobalABC flagship products

Welcome to new members

The GlobalABC community is growing!
- Business Council on Sustainable Development Australia - BCSD Australia
- Build Change
- Centro Argentino de Ingenieros - CAI
- Green Building Research Institute - GBRI
- Global Green Growth Institute - GGGI
- REN21
- Schneider Electric

Interested in joining too? Click here and learn how to apply!

See all GlobalABC members

News from the GlobalABC Secretariat

Climate Action Pathways

[MPGCA] Human Settlements Pathway - looking for inputs on Green Infrastructure, and Adaptation & Resilience!
The Climate Action Pathways outline the sectoral visions for a 1.5-degree climate-resilient world by 2050 and set out actions needed to achieve that future. As a process empowered by UNFCCC and under the leadership of the High-Level Champions, these documents were developed by the coalitions and initiatives of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and the Champions Team. The climate action pathway for Human Settlements addresses whole-life carbon mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the built environment, composed of buildings and infrastructure assets, as well as waste and consumption within human settlements, framed by zero-waste cities, 1.5 oC living and social equity.

The GlobalABC leads the Built Environment group and related pathway development under the Human Settlements Pathway, by appointment of UNFCCC. We are now looking for inputs and feedback to strengthen the following areas of the HS Pathways: **green infrastructure, adaptation & resilience**, reviewing the proposed actions in **finance, civil society** and ensuring **geographic representation**. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at [global.abc@un.org](mailto:global.abc@un.org).

[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.
Access the form

[COP26] Buildings and Cities confirmed as topic at COP26!

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.

Additionally, the GlobalABC aims to host a buildings and real estate pavilion under GlobalABC coordination. This pavilion will highlight the critical role buildings and construction has in solving our climate crisis. Each day will be dedicated to a different topic.

We present you an exciting opportunity to become an official sponsor of the construction & real estate pavilion. Sponsorship includes time for your own event, aligned with the topic of the day, as well technical and communications support. The number of time slots available depend on the level of sponsorship (gold, silver, bronze). We would like to invite you to indicate your interest in this opportunity through this short form (6 questions, takes ca. 5-10 minutes), including indication of level of sponsorship and topic.

In the meantime don’t hesitate to contact us at global.abc@un.org for any questions.

Access the form

GlobalABC Member & Buildings News

From the news:

News articles:
- Sustainable Housing and Building - SWITCH Asia
- Germany to spend six billion euros to boost housing energy efficiency - Reuters
- The city of sustainable skyscrapers - BBC
- Cool Roofs: Community-Led Initiatives in Four Indian Cities - Cool coalition
- Research project to inform a buildings energy rating scheme - UCL Energy Institute
- Achieving large-scale housing retrofits in UK cities – a model to emulate - Energy Cities
- Building A Better Future With Sustainable MEP Design - Forbes
- Four new companies join WorldGBC’s Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment - World GBC
- Building sustainable cities with wooden skyscrapers - The Economist
- UK’s green plan offers mixed hopes for post-Covid-19 jobs boom - Guardian

Reports:
- ULI Sustainability Outlook 2021 - ULI
- India Energy Outlook 2021 - IEA

Recordings:
- Practical Steps for Zero Carbon Buildings and Finance - IFC | Edge Buildings
- Integrating Sustainable Cooling in Recovery Policies For a Greener Future - Cool Coalition
- Material Efficiency Strategies for Business: Untapped climate solutions for buildings and mobility - GGKP

iPHA Efficiency: The First Renewable Energy
#EfficiencyFirst

The International Passive House Association and its partner organisations recently launched the global “Efficiency: The First Renewable Energy” campaign. Using the hashtag #EfficiencyFirst, the campaign aims to raise awareness for the vital role
energy efficiency in buildings plays in meeting our climate goals. Over the course of the year, they’ll be running a series of activities and events to promote the significance of an efficiency first approach. The launch includes the #ExplainPassiveHouse competition for social media followers.

[Find out more]

Upcoming Events

[17 Feb] Workshop: Guidelines and Best Practices in North Macedonia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment

UNECE and UNDP cordially invite you to the online training workshop on “Guidelines and Best Practices in North Macedonia for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy Equipment”. The workshop will be held online on 17 February 2021 from 14:00 to 16:00. Working languages of the workshop are Macedonian and English, with simultaneous interpretation.

The workshop aims to increase the capabilities of the MSMEs through identifying the possibilities and best practices in order to overcome the impact of the crisis. You may contact Sashe Panevski, UNECE consultant for this study, at sashe.panevski@gmail.com if you have questions related to the workshop or to the report.

[Register now]

Decarbonizing building construction in India

As India continues its growth story, rapid urbanisation and increasing population will escalate energy consumption and GHG emissions due to increased construction activity. Therefore, adopting sustainable building construction practices becomes essential for a low carbon economy and to achieve the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal.

Sustainable building construction would require considerations on low carbon design approaches, improved construction techniques, circular economy strategies and alternate low carbon material options. In recent years a lot of research is happening on this front. This webinar aims to sensitize key stakeholders on the low carbon approaches including innovations happening in design and construction, alternate materials, and circular economy measures.

[Register now]

[19 Feb] UN SPBF: Bringing Nature to Cities

The UNEP Science Policy Business Forum, which will take place remotely on 18-20 February, is held in the lead up to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

[20 Feb] UN SPBF: Nature Positive Food Systems

The UNEP Science Policy Business Forum, which will take place remotely on 18-20 February, is held in the lead up to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
(UNEA), under the theme: ‘Integrated Solutions # for Nature’.

The session will gather several mayors, ministers and CEOs of companies/organisations to discuss strategies and innovations to redesign, rethink and transform cities and the infrastructure and bring back nature into cities.

[19 Feb] The Value-Chain Approach to action on Sustainable Consumption and Production

In this digital event on the sidelines of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly, members of the IRP-One Planet network Task Group will present the Value-Chain Approach and discuss how it can strengthen the science policy-interface on sustainable consumption and production, in response to UNEP/EA.4/Res.1.

Not Passing on Passive Cooling - #ThisIsCool Webinar Series

In this session, organized within the #ThisIsCool Webinar Series, experts from the field will discuss a newly published brief on "Not Passing on Passive Cooling: How philanthropy can help accelerate the climate benefits" and share insights on how we can accelerate the deployment of passive cooling solutions globally, especially as part of a green recovery.

[16-17 Mar] 7th Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue

Join BETD on 16-17 March for exciting panel discussions and exchange between international representatives from research and industry. The GlobalABC will be there, giving voice to the sleeping giant in the energy transition: the buildings and construction sector! More information to follow!

[22-23 Mar] Middle East & Africa Green Building Congress 2021

WorldGBC’s Middle East and Africa Green Building Congress convenes industry leaders from the built environment to share the latest trends and developments in sustainable buildings. The two-day virtual business forum will be a chance to share best practices and regional case studies on how we can collectively respond to the climate and
social challenges facing the region.

Register now

30 Mar 2021
6th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

The International Energy Agency’s 6th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency will draw together a high-level audience from around the world and will be a major input to the IEA-COP26 Net Zero Summit the following day.

Register now

31 Mar 2021
IEA-COP26 Net Zero Summit

Ministers from countries representing the vast majority of global GDP, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions will take part in the IEA-COP26 Net Zero Summit on Wednesday 31 March. The Summit will be a virtual roundtable, bringing together ministers, CEOs and key leaders of civil society from all corners of the globe. Participants will join in discussions in plenary and topical breakout sessions and exchange on countries’ actions to accelerate their clean energy transitions.

Register now

[14-16 Apr] SBE21 Heritage Conference

SBE21 Heritage will take place from the 14th to the 16th of April 2021. Thanks to the hybrid onsite-online format you can take part either in person in Bolzano or from anywhere you are.

Meet experts from all over the world and discuss about new exciting project ideas. Learn more about the best practices for a low-carbon built heritage and contribute to shape a sustainable future.

Register now

[6-8 Oct] 9ème Congrès International du Bâtiment Durable

Le Congrès International du Bâtiment Durable est organisé par les centres de ressources et clusters du Réseau Bâtiment Durable français depuis 2012 : cette année, ce sont Envirobat Grand Est et le Cluster Eco Construction de Wallonie qui portent l’organisation de cet événement devenu incontournable pour les acteurs.

Trois thématiques phares au programme pour l’édition 2021: réglementation environnementale, bilan carbone; adaptation au changement climatique; rénovation.

Register now

Calls, Initiatives & Funding

Calls for Proposals
[19 Feb] Passive House: The key to sustainable buildings! - call for papers

This year’s International Passive House Conference in early September will be the 25th of its kind. In 2021, the Passive House Community will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first Passive House building in Darmstadt-Kranichstein. The efficiency-first design and construction principles that are central to the Passive House standard have never been more relevant and urgent for climate protection as they are today. Highly energy-efficient buildings – both for new builds and retrofit projects – are within reach, evidenced by 25 years of research from the Passive House Institute. As such, the Passive House Institute would like to encourage last-minute contributions to the 25th International Passive House Conference, that did not meet the Call for Papers deadline, to be submitted until end of this week, Friday the 19th of February. We look forward to your contributions on new developments and research, as well as presentations on successful projects and best practices to share with our global audience on September 10-11.

Register now

#ExplainPassiveHouse Competition

In order to celebrate the announcement of the Efficiency: The First Renewable Energy Campaign, iPHA is running the #ExplainPassiveHouse competition for their social media followers! To take part, simply follow iPHA on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn and post your description of how a Passive House building works using common items with the hashtags #ExplainPassiveHouse and #EfficiencyFirst between the 15th of February and 1st of March to win!

Read more

Initiatives

[OID] Barometre 2020 in French

Ce Baromètre vise à accompagner les gérants immobiliers en proposant une mesure périodique du niveau d’avancement des acteurs de l’immobilier d’investissement sur l’intégration des enjeux ESG dans leurs stratégies. C’est un outil ESG de référence pour les acteurs de l’immobilier professionnellement géré.

Read more

[WorldGBC] Online Case Study Library

WorldGBC’s interactive digital case study library map showcases some of the world’s most cutting-edge sustainable buildings. Launched in November 2019, it recognizes the growing market demand to highlight the ‘best in class’ buildings that excel in key areas of sustainability, and the role of certification schemes to provide third party assurance of performance. Click the button below to learn how to submit a case.
Climate Framework
Climate Framework is a new, transdisciplinary and holistic initiative that unites the building industry and academia for climate action. It aims to define the knowledge base to equip the built environment professionals (and academia) with the effective knowledge and skills to accelerate the transition to net zero carbon built environments - fast and scale.

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.