GlobalABC Newsletter
March 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: Climate Chance Association, Federated Hermes, GCCA, London South Bank University, Quimera Energy and Stellenbosch University
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!
- Climate Chance Association
- London South Bank University - School of the Built Environment and Architecture
- Federated Hermes
- Global Cement and Concrete Association
- Quimera Energy Ltd
- Stellenbosch University

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

See all GlobalABC members

News from the GlobalABC Secretariat

2021 GlobalABC Annual Assembly (for members only)

GlobalABC Assembly 24-25 March 2021
Our 2021 Annual Assembly will take place on **24-25 March 2021, 13:00 - 15:00 CET**. The assembly is a fantastic opportunity to meet all GlobalABC members and discuss strategic direction, and way forward. We will also have space for interactive sessions via break-out rooms.

We look forward to meeting all GlobalABC members very soon!

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*[16-17 March] BETD: Follow GlobalABC's participation in the "Carbon neutral buildings - Waking up the sleeping giant" session on 16 March (17:10 CET)*

Join BETD on 16-17 March for exciting panel discussions and exchange between international representatives from research and industry.

On 16 March (17:10 - 17:40 CET), the GlobalABC will be giving voice to the sleeping giant in the energy transition: the buildings and **construction sector**! During this session, dedicated to "Carbon neutral buildings - Waking up the sleeping giant", the speakers will speak from the perspective of efficient buildings, on the one hand, and on the other hand from the perspective of the (climate neutral) energy sector.

[Register here](#)

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The project “Enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure Investments (CSI)”, funded by the [German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety (BMU)](https://www.bmu.de) organizes the 3rd CSI Global Forum as an online Community of Practice (CoP) Conference.

The GlobalABC will participate in the side event **“Nature-based Solutions in the Built Environment: Green building materials, systems & spaces”** (16:00 - 18:00 CET), where, along two moderated discussions, a diverse group of international experts will discuss and identify up and downstream action
recommendations addressing the following leading questions:

**Break out 1 - Upstream**
- How to permeate NbS into building and infrastructure policy, legislation and regulation?
- What is needed to further develop and enable access to green financial instruments?

**Break out 2 - Downstream**
- How can existing tools and methodologies be used and/or adapted to analyze the performance of NbS enhanced infrastructure/buildings along the project life-cycle?
- Which additional data and know-how is needed? Recognizing that the complexity of natural systems may be less precise.
- How to design business cases to support financing?

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The report presents frameworks of action for 9 sectors of the buildings’ value chain:
- Governments
- Local authorities
- Investors & Asset managers
- Property developers
- Insurers & Reinsurers
- Architects
- Engineering companies
- Material, Equipment & Construction
- Property & Facility managers

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Read the first report of the GlobalABC working group on the adaptation of the buildings and construction sector to climate change!

The study highlights that:
- The built environment is particularly at risk, and as such so are the activities and people living and working within buildings;
- The cost of inaction will far outweigh the cost of taking action;
- In many countries, legislation, building norms and urban planning, do not integrate these future climate risks. Yet climate projections are available;
- All actors along the buildings and construction value chain therefore need to take action. Two questions emerge: how to encourage balanced decision-making in spite of uncertainty, and how to properly put together the timeline to enable the transition;
- Specific measures are required to protect the most vulnerable populations in informal sector and assure the adaptation of the cultural sector and of heritage buildings.

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[Webinar Recording] Mitigation Heavyweights: Effective NDCs for the Building Sector -
What are good NDC targets, and how can NDC targets be translated into action? How can countries be supported to scale up their efforts? This online discussion, hosted by the NDC Partnership and organized by PEEB and GIZ/SPA, brought together experts and practitioners on buildings, energy and climate to discuss these questions.

53 countries mention energy efficient buildings in their NDCs, and 38 specifically call out building's energy codes, but concrete targets and implementation are lacking. Only 183 out of 3.864 implementation requests for support received by the NDC Partnership ask for support on buildings.

GBPN and PEEB presented work on an online toolkit for developing and implementing effective NDCs, building on GlobalABC’s Guide for incorporating Building Actions in NDCs. The toolkit will be launched in summer on the GlobalABC website.

[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. 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.

Interested in joining our COP26 Buildings and Cities task force? Contact us at 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.
From the news:

News articles:
- Value Chain Approach to Action on Sustainable Consumption and Production - IRP
- Waterfront designers rise to the challenge of flood risk - Financial Times
- How new design patterns can enable cities and their residents to change with climate change - Construction21
- Improved urban parks increase communities' climate resilience - Construction21
- How to locate the best low carbon concrete producers - CLF
- EU countries back green building renovations, but quiet on binding standards - Euractiv
- India's Tricky Path To Cooling Itself Without Warming the World - Cool Coalition
- New Energy Efficiency Codes Set Path Toward Green Buildings - PNNL

Reports:
- A Paris-Proof Retail Real Estate Sector - BPIE
- The Road to Climate Neutrality: Are national long-term renovation strategies fit for 2050? - BPIE
- International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure - UNEP
- 2020 CSHub Annual Report - Mit Concrete Sustainability Hub

Recordings:
- VEF Virtual Series: Products Track | February Edition - VEF
- Not Passing on Passive Cooling - #ThisIsCool Webinar - Cool Coalition
- Material Efficiency Strategies for Business: Untapped climate solutions for buildings and mobility - GGKP
- Investing in a climate-neutral recovery - BPIE

The U.S. Department of Energy's ABC Initiative

The Advanced Building Construction (ABC) Initiative integrates energy-efficiency solutions into U.S. construction practices for new buildings and retrofits. To pursue this mission, the ABC Initiative uses a two-pronged strategy: investing in new technologies and engaging private and public sector stakeholders across the buildings industry.

Learn more

Upcoming Events

At this virtual workshop, policymakers and experts in the field of energy efficiency will discuss the benefits of industrial energy benchmarking to support energy efficiency improvements, focusing on concrete and impactful insights learned from global examples.

This workshop aims to share with the international community:
- Key findings of the global benchmarking work on the iron and steel sector as well as the cement sector.
- The potential of the benchmark approach in the context of identifying saving potentials, set and track efficiency targets and actions and the importance of data collection.
- Key policy actions to drive industry energy efficiency with some best examples from key countries.

[Register now]

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The majority of energy consumption worldwide happens in cities, a trend which is only likely to increase. REN21, as the only global renewable energy community of actors from science, governments, NGOs and industry, acts to inspire and equip urban stakeholders to take action towards renewables.

The new Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status Report will give the latest updates on renewable energy uptake in cities, as well as policy success stories from urban areas worldwide. This year’s report has a special focus on cities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Launch day will kick-off with a virtual breakfast, presenting the key findings of the report, with high level speakers and a brief Q&A.

[Register now]

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[22 March] PEEB, Gap Fund, Union For the Mediterranean - Workshop: Natural cooling, an indispensable element of future-oriented housing policies and projects in hot climates

Cooling is crucial for housing policies and projects in hot climate zones. This webinar provides an opportunity for learning more about how improved building designs can significantly curb the energy demand for space cooling in housing. It also points to support available for the identification, development and implementation of such projects. This webinar is designed for the Mediterranean region and will be available in English, French and Arabic.

[Register now]

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[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.

**30 Mar 2021**

**6th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency**

Energy Efficiency Powering Climate Ambition


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**

**[31 Mar] IEA-COP26 Net Zero Summit - IEA**

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

**[20 April] BPIE - Webinar: Pathways to 2050: Deep-dive into policy strategies to boost building renovation**

This webinar, the second of a series on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Housing (see webinar 1 here), will address the Renovation Wave and the role of the Long-term renovation strategies for reaching a decarbonized building stock by 2050.

Register now


During this webinar, organized by Bioregional, two visionary developers, First Base and Windmill Development Group, will discuss on:
- How can regeneration enable communities and local businesses to thrive?
- What opportunities are there to turn brownfield sites into mixed-use spaces that enable people to live sustainable, happy, and resource-efficient lives and restore vitality to our high streets and town centres?

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. As many Londoners have international heritage, connections and experience, LCAW has a global perspective and includes culturally rich events and initiatives with impacts and outcomes felt far beyond London’s geographic boundaries. Come and attend panel discussions, digital campaigns, announcements on new commitments to climate action from business leaders, greenspace celebrations: all of these and more.

[Visit the Website]

[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!

[Learn more]

Calls, Initiatives & Funding

Calls for Proposals

[25 March] EXTENSION OF APPLICATIONS
[25 March] Green Solutions Awards 2020-2021: 10 more days to participate!

Final deadline to participate in this competition! Professionals are invited to submit their best projects to Construction21, organizer of the #GreenSolutions Awards with the support of GlobalABC. The buildings, districts, and infrastructures in competition, as well as sustainable solutions that these exemplary projects integrate, will benefit from wide visibility on the platform and social media. Seize the opportunity, before March 25!

To your case studies!

Register now

2021 UN Global Climate Action Awards

The search for the United Nation's Global Climate Action Awards is on! Applications are being accepted from 8 February through 30 April 2021. Spearheaded by UN Climate Change’s Momentum for Change initiative, the UN Global Climate Action Awards shine a light on the most innovative, scalable and replicable examples of what people around the world are doing to tackle climate change.

The selected activities will be recognized and celebrated at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November 2021.

Register now

Initiatives

[Cool Coalition] Self-paced 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 Platform For Sustainable Cities, and will be presented as a series of four modules:

- Introducing Urban Heat and Its Effects
- Technical Solutions to Urban Heat and Barries to Implementing Them
- Designing, Adopting and Implementing Policies to Cool Cities
- Summary of Recommendations

Learn more

[WorldGBC] eLearning course on Passive Urban Cooling Solutions (Self-paced)

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:
Introducing Urban Heat and its Effects; Technical Solutions to Urban Heat and Barriers to Implementing Them; Designing, Adopting and Implementing Policies to Cool Cities; Summary of Recommendations.

Register now

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

Read more

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.

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.

Read full report