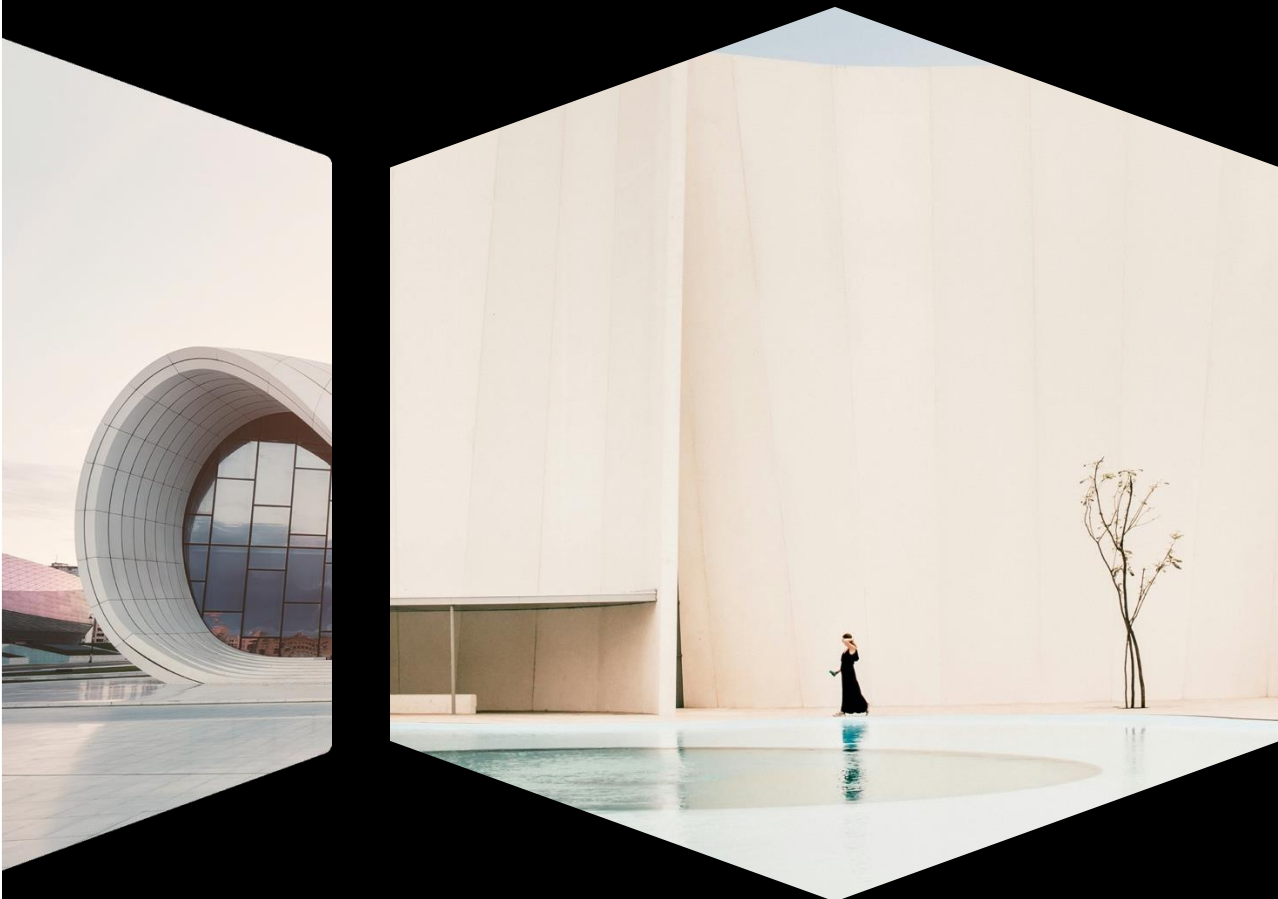




Annual Report

2023 - 2024



About WorldGBC

Transformation often feels hard. But when we work together, we can reach a point where suddenly, the change takes on a life of its own.

At the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) our role is to help property and construction markets around the planet reach tipping points towards decarbonisation and regeneration.

That means building the right policy environments, the right financing environments and the right social and cultural environments to deliver more resilient and sustainable built environments.

Our unique local-regional-global network helps us catalyse waves of change that ripple across cities, countries, companies and communities. Amplifying the leadership of our members and partners; building on success; and scaling local action into global impact.

Today, buildings and related activities are responsible for nearly 40% of all carbon emissions. With our network, we believe we have the scale and shared ambition to target the total decarbonisation of the sector by 2050.

Together, we're building the momentum to create a better future for all.

The largest and most influential local-regional-global action network accelerating the sustainable and just transition in the built environment

Vision

Resilient and decarbonised buildings for a healthy planet and a better future for all.

Mission

To inspire and lead the built environment community to drive local action & create the global momentum necessary for people & planet to thrive.

Goals

Total decarbonisation

of the built environment.

Healthy, equitable and resilient

buildings, cities & communities.

Regeneration of natural systems &

thriving circular economy.

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Milestones

2002

WorldGBC is founded by 8 Green Building Councils (GBCs)

2014

Health & Wellbeing global programme

2016

Climate Action global programme

2018

Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment launched with 38 signatories
The Business Case Report

2019

'Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront' Report

2020

"Sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere" strategy
Beyond the Business Case report
Building Life Project

2021

Building to COP Coalition formed. Built Environment dedicated track at COP26

2022

Resources & Circularity global programme
11 national and one Europe-wide **decarbonisation roadmaps**

2023

74 GBCs, 175 NZCB signatories
Circularity Playbook state of the market report

A message from our CEO & the Chair of the Board of Directors

The built environment is the story we leave behind—a reflection of our priorities, our progress, and our promises to the future. Today, it accounts for **40% of energy- and process-related CO2 emissions**, consumes nearly **50% of the world's raw materials**, and generates **12 tonnes of waste per person every year**. These numbers are stark, but they also hold immense potential. The same sector that poses such significant challenges can become the cornerstone of our most meaningful solutions.

At the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), we are proud to lead a movement that bridges global ambition with local action. With a network of **74 Member Green Building Councils, representing 47,000 members in 74 countries**, our strength lies in our ability to **unite changemakers across industries, regions, and value chains**. We convene leaders to align priorities on the global stage and drive impactful action on the ground. This is where our network is unique: a dynamic force capable of scaling solutions to transform the places where people live, work, and thrive.

The results speak for themselves. Over the past year, WorldGBC has launched **transformative reports and initiatives** that shape the future of the built environment. Our flagship *Circular Built Environment Playbook* provided actionable strategies for integrating circularity into the sector, while the *Advancing Net Zero Status Report* highlighted groundbreaking actions to decarbonise buildings worldwide. Additionally, our *Sustainable and Affordable Housing* report challenged the perception that affordability and sustainability are incompatible, offering proven solutions for global housing challenges. Through projects like the *Buildings Breakthrough* and our advocacy at the UN Climate Summits of COP28 in Dubai and COP29 in Bakú, **we are driving systemic change by guiding global policies, strengthening national roadmaps, and ensuring our collective voice influences decision-makers**. These activities demonstrate WorldGBC's leadership in translating ambition into action and equipping stakeholders with the tools to deliver sustainable solutions.

The results speak for themselves. Over the past five years, our network has certified **5.4 billion square meters of sustainable space**, influenced **policy changes in 31 countries**, and empowered communities across the globe. In our latest Member Value Survey, **90% of Green Building Councils (GBCs)** reported rising awareness of sustainability in their markets, with the strongest gains in **Africa and Europe**. Businesses, governments, and industries are embracing sustainable building principles, particularly in regions where change is most urgently needed.



Cristina a Gamboa,
Chief Executive Officer,
WorldGBC



Jennifer Layke,
Chair of the Board,
WorldGBC



The built environment is not on track to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

But the path ahead demands even greater urgency. With just 2,000 days until the 2030 climate goals, we face a pivotal moment. The scale of the challenge is daunting, but our network shows us daily that change is not only possible—it is happening. Through **shared expertise, collective action, and bold leadership**, we are proving that sustainable transformation is within our reach.

The beauty of our network is its **multi-layered power**. It connects people and ideas across the globe while delivering solutions tailored to local needs. From influencing COP decisions to guiding policy in individual cities, our network's strength lies in its ability to bring together diverse voices and ensure no one is left behind.

This is our time to deliver—not just promises but tangible progress. To shift from **awareness to action**, from **ambition to impact**. With the dedication of our GBCs and the leadership of our private sector partners, we are building a future that prioritizes people and the planet—a legacy we can all be proud of.

Let's rise to this challenge together and prove what's possible when we are united and bold.

Cristina Gamboa, CEO
Jennifer Layke, Chair of the Board

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The path ahead demands even greater urgency. [...] This is our time to deliver—not just promises but tangible progress. To shift from awareness to action, from ambition to impact.

Our thought leadership

WorldGBC's Thought Leadership harnesses the collective expertise of our global network to create guiding frameworks and lighthouse reports that drive transformative action in the built environment.

The circular built environment playbook

The Circular Built Environment Playbook report, launched by May 2023, presents market-leading circular principles and strategies in action, calling on the building and construction sector to accelerate the implementation of circular and regenerative principles. [Read here.](#)

Building a water-resilient future for everyone, everywhere

The 'Building a water-resilient future' paper helps built environment stakeholders understand the urgency of including water conservation, efficiency and equitable access in sustainability strategies, exploring the use of water in the built environment industry at all stages from supply chain and construction processes, to buildings, cities and communities. [Read here.](#)

Global Policy Principles for a sustainable built environment

Launched ahead of the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, the Global Policy Principles for a Sustainable Built Environment aim to guiding national governments in developing effective building policies and programmes to accelerate a decarbonised future. The principles are structured around seven key focus areas: carbon, resilience, circularity, water, biodiversity, health, equity and access. [Read here.](#)

Sustainable Affordable Housing

The 'Sustainable and Affordable Housing' report challenges the widespread perception that affordable and sustainable housing is not a mass market solution. Many of the solutions to the global housing crisis already exist. [Read here.](#)

Advancing Net Zero Status Report

The 2023 Advancing Net Zero Status Report highlights action being taken now to decarbonise the built environment. The report showcases breakthrough action from across the GBC network, including the 35 GBCs participating in WorldGBC's global Advancing Net Zero programme, 175 signatories to the [Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment](#), the wider GBCs network, partners and more. In addition, the report also highlights collaborative efforts from the market that support WorldGBC's mission to achieve 100% net zero carbon buildings by 2050 as well as an expanded map of all GBC roadmaps and external roadmaps. [Read here.](#)

Ahead of the wave

The report highlights that investment, lending, and insurance decisions shape tomorrow's real economy. Investment decisions taken today will have repercussions for the built environment in years to come. [Read here.](#)

Global advocacy - championing ambitious policy

WorldGBC's Global Advocacy Programme expands the development of GBC decarbonisation roadmaps and works with the network to build on the policy outcomes needed at COP29 and COP30.



COP28 Building Breakthrough Announcement, main stage. Left to right: Cristina Gamba, Dave Turk, Uros Vajgl, Graham Stuart

Building confidence at COP and beyond

In the last two years, WorldGBC's delegation arrived at COP28 & COP29 with one message – a message of confidence to governments and businesses that our network of Green Building Councils and partners can make the transition to an energy efficient, regenerative and just future a reality, and already have the solutions to do so.

At COP28, our sector showed up in force, with 360+ organisations, (including all Green Building Councils) from across our global network, signing our [Open Letter](#) to political leaders and policymakers, with a call to step up and deliver the regulatory change the world needs.

[Read our COP29 wrap-up.](#)

Buildings Breakthrough

WorldGBC co-leads the development of the 'Priority Action Standards and Certification' of the Buildings Breakthrough. The Breakthrough facilitates international collaboration between governments and industry and was launched by France and Morocco at COP28 in Dubai, with endorsement from 27 countries and the support of the European Commission.

As part of this role, WorldGBC works alongside GlobalABC to convene a working group consisting of national Green Building Councils, key international organisations and countries to develop and build consensus in defining the common principles required for delivery of 'near zero emission and resilient buildings'.



Buildings Breakthrough 2024 Forum. Left to right: Vincent Minier, Cristina Gamba, Nasra Nada, Jurey Yada, Tina Paillet, Johanna Pirinen

The opportunity for an NDC Scorecard for Sustainable Buildings

Ahead of COP30, countries must submit updated NDCs with the outcome of the UAE consensus requesting that Parties to strengthen their 2030 targets and also to ‘come forward’ with economy-wide emission reduction targets that cover all GHG and sectors within their NDCs. The NDC update cycle offers an opportunity to strengthen the role and profile of buildings in NDCs and national policy frameworks.

WorldGBC alongside 5 'pilot' GBCs will develop a **‘Sustainable Buildings Scorecard and Action Plan for NDCs and Policies’**. The development of this Scorecard will enable WorldGBC network of GBCs and wider stakeholders to support governments in strengthening their NDCs.

This process will:

- Identify best practice building policies that should be in the revised NDCs and integrated into national buildings regulatory frameworks
- Create ownership and buy-in of local stakeholders and increase the chance of success for better policy outcomes and ambition in NDCs
- Prepare and engage market political actors to participate in a wider process to develop a national decarbonisation roadmap with GBCs as facilitators



"BuildingLife EU summit 2024" in Paris

European advocacy

On 12 March 2024, the European Parliament voted to approve an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), in a crucial step towards accelerating climate action on buildings.

The inclusion of WLC measures in the new EPBD arrives following three years of work by GBCs as part of #BuildingLife, who have consulted with the construction industry and national policymakers on the development of 12 national decarbonisation roadmaps (see our [analysis of these roadmaps here](#)).

Driving impact

Roadmaps are a recognised and proven tool to galvanise industry and align policy advocacy. Our success rests on the power of GBCs to co-create roadmaps with input from the whole value chain and create strong support and buy-in.

Three years of #BuildingLife

In three years, the Europe Regional Network's #BuildingLife project has helped to transform the European conversation around Whole Life Carbon (WLC).

Three years ago, there was almost no debate on WLC in the European Union (EU) policy dialogue. Today, WLC has gone from 'no' or 'initial' discussions in 60% of participating countries to all countries now interested in establishing measures in national policies and regulations.

The GBCs driving #BuildingLife have, and are, developing 12 national roadmaps which have full, or high, alignment with EU policies (such as Fit for 55, Renovation Wave, Green Deal), climate-neutrality goals, Level(s) framework and WLC standards

Over 1,550 stakeholders from across the building and construction sector, as well as political and finance sectors, participated in the development of the national roadmaps and The [EU Policy Whole Life Carbon Roadmap](#) launched by WorldGBC in 2022 is recognised and used for reference by the European Commission.

#BuildingLife has successfully entered a second phase. Over €7.5 million funding has been secured from the IKEA Foundation, Laudes Foundation and EBRD for the next four years, of which WorldGBC is directly on-granting 60% to European GBCs.

12 Green Building Councils

92,000+ EU Roadmap page views

194 Campaign Ambassadors

Zero Carbon & Climate Resilience Readiness Frameworks

Presenting a holistic approach to advancing net zero in the built environment, the Frameworks are being developed by GBCs across our five regional networks, supporting the building and construction industry on their journey to net zero emissions by 2050.

Initially developed by the WorldGBC Asia-Pacific Regional Network and subsequently adopted across the five regions, the Frameworks break down the key elements needed to accelerate the uptake of net zero and deliver guidance on how to achieve a decarbonised built environment.

They highlight the market readiness of different countries/regions, celebrating leadership as well as outlining the next steps for those at an earlier stage of their net zero transition, as well as acting as a springboard for individual country roadmaps.

Expanding the reach & scope of roadmaps

All in for a Net Zero Built Environment is a flagship project co-led by WorldGBC, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) and funded by the We Mean Business Coalition. The project spans India and Mexico, driven by the local GBCs in partnership with the WRI local chapters and is aimed at operationalising market transformation in the built environment.

The project is structured into three key components:

- **Strengthen the global vision and narrative** to ensure every stakeholder is aware of the practical and implementable activities that enable and accelerate actions.
- **Foster global alignment** of goals across the key stakeholders of the built environment - business, finance, cities, governments
- **Enable local action** by developing roadmaps and working with local actors to provide guidance on concrete building projects, ensuring no stakeholder is in doubt about how to achieve at least halving emissions by 2030.

Implementing and scaling solutions



Our vision for a totally decarbonised European built environment requires sustainable products and services to scale rapidly. Supporting this market transformation is Built4People, which is our partnership with the European Commission to co-lead the €380 million Horizon Europe funding programme for the built environment.

In 2023, the Built4People Innovation Cluster (B4PIC) network was launched, which aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with a focus on social sustainability to reach new investment and new markets. A call for participants to form collaborative 'clusters' announced in September 2023 with the support of our partners in the linked NEBULA project, has seen over 50 expressions of interest. A first cohort of 16 Innovation Clusters has been selected and collaboration is underway to speed up our industry's response to climate change.



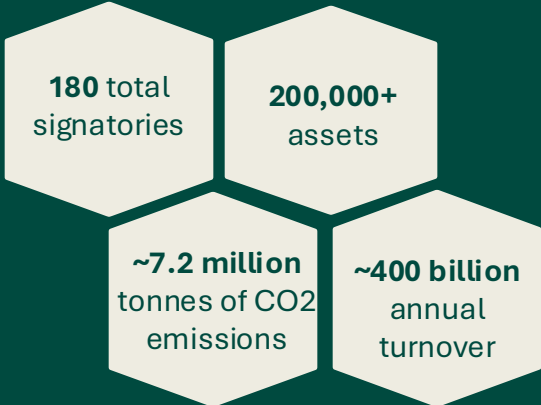
Unlike linear economic models, in which resources are typically disposed of at the end of initial functional use, a circular economy optimises the use of resources whilst minimising waste throughout its whole life cycle.

As part of the Circular Buildings Coalition, in collaboration with Circle Economy Foundation, WBCSD, Metabolic and Ellen Macarthur Foundation and Arup, and with support from the Laudes Foundation, we are focused on transforming Europe's circular economy. Launched during the World Circular Economy Forum 2023, the 'Towards a Circular Economy in the Built Environment' report examines the systemic challenges to accelerating the circular transition in Europe's construction sector and what can be done to overcome them.

The Coalition has opened a call for solutions and has been supporting 10 Blueprint Projects deploying a variety of solutions from building passport alignment to platforms for futures trading.

Championing leading private sector action & ambitious policy

The Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment (the Commitment), recognises & promotes advanced climate leadership action from businesses, organisations, cities and subnational governments in decarbonising the built environment, to inspire others to take similar action and remove barriers to implementation.



Our reach

±1500
press
mentions

±200
speaking
events

+13 mil
social media
reach

**2024 Leadership Summit &
Global Solutions Forum**

52
GBCs

+210
sustainability leaders



WorldGBC 2024 Leadership Summit Attendees

GBCs in numbers



The WorldGBC network is uniquely placed to drive ambition and foster alignment and collaboration among governments, businesses, and communities.

The global network of national Green Building Councils (GBCs) covers 60% of the world’s building stock and 65% of global GDP. The countries represented in our network account for 72% of built environment emissions and 60% of the world’s urban population.

The national GBCs have access to and can influence over 47,000 members, ranging from private sector businesses to national and local governments, academic institutions, private individuals and many others.

Our collaboration with our members and more than 70 other influential international not-for-profit organisations and business partners capitalises on the strength of a unified voice, focusing resources to deliver an impact bigger than the sum of individual efforts.

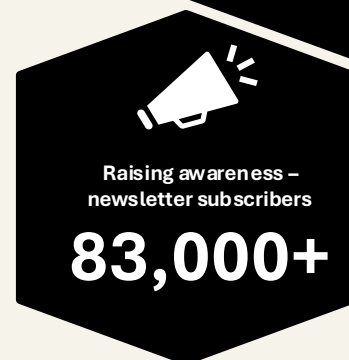
GBCs building momentum

72% of GBCs reported an **increase in awareness** of the importance of sustainability in their market

80% of GBCs reported **industry and businesses are increasingly taking up sustainable building principles**

63% of GBCs reported increasing ambition and/or action within policy frameworks

2024 Member Value Survey



Our members at work 2023 - 2024

Illustrative sample of action. More information available on GBC websites.

<p>CAGBC supports a Tax Credit for businesses on heat pumps for helping overall our advocacy strategy to supercharge the Canadian Retrofit Economy</p>	<p>Green Property Tax in the City of Salvador inspired by GBC Brasil project in South of Brazil</p>	<p>Canadian governing party to develop “Green Buildings Strategy” following advocacy efforts from CAGBC</p>
<p>GBC Australia leadership: Small Business Energy Incentive offers a 20% tax deduction on approved energy efficiency and electrification expenses for small businesses with turnover of less than \$50 million</p>	<p>CCCS supports the Green Taxonomy of Colombia Tax incentives for: access to sustainable housing, national energy transition policy, implementation of local plans against climate change</p>	<p>GBC Italia steers Minimum Environmental Criteria for Public Buildings</p>
<p>Pakistan GBC supports the inception and development of Pakistan's first Policy Guidelines for Green Building Codes</p>	<p>Serbia GBC drives Central National Law on Planning and Construction expansion to include provisions on green building and green certification</p>	<p>The Sustainable Construction Technical Code made mandatory for the public sector thanks to Peru GBC advocacy</p>
<p>UKGBC advocacy leads to ending VAT on energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation in homes + release of £1.1bn funding for energy efficiency in public buildings.</p>	<p>Turkey issues National Green Building certification system with support from GBC Turkiye</p>	<p>Greece GBC supports new regulations on sustainable certification of assets and the corresponding financial and technical benefits provided by the state for certified developments</p>
<p>eThekwini by-laws allow green-certified buildings to apply for a rebate in company rates thanks to GBC South Africa</p>	<p>GBC Iceland leadership drives LCAs to become a requirement for building permits and Energy performance ratings for buildings</p>	<p>Mauritius national circular economy roadmap and Sustainable Procurement Policy for Buildings out for tender supported by GBC Mauritius</p>
<p>GBC Espana advocacy leads to introduction of Whole Life Carbon in the Building Code in Spain</p>	<p>India GBC works with Uttar Pradesh State for Tourism Policy that grants hospitality venues a reimbursement of 50% of the green building certification fee</p>	<p>Incentives for certified affordable housing projects, reducing 25% of construction licence in Guatemala City. Guatemala GBC educates municipality staff and developers on the certification options and provides technical advice on the writing of the policy.</p>
<p>FIGBC supports the Ministry of the Environment in producing a green deal for the built environment sector and whole life carbon legislation being implemented on national level</p>	<p>GBC Brasil work leads to Green Property Tax incentive being created by Porto Alegre City Hall. Green-certified buildings are eligible for tax discounts and economic benefits.</p>	<p>Norway introduces changes in public procurement to give environmental considerations greater weighting in the evaluation of providers, led by Norwegian GBC</p>
<p>With Support from USGBC, Washington state's largest city is introducing its own building standard that targets emissions rather than energy.</p>		

Source: WorldGBC Member Value Survey 2-23 - 2024

Our governance

At WorldGBC, we believe in strong governance and accountability—to our mission, to the sustainable building movement, and our member Green Building Councils. This belief is embodied in the work of our Board of Directors, a group of accomplished global leaders with significant non-executive director experience, a global mindset and a strong capacity for strategic governance.

The profile of the WorldGBC Board reflects its commitment to diversity, expertise, and leadership. This multidisciplinary expertise ensures a holistic approach to tackling the complex challenges of sustainability in the built environment. The Board's global perspective and deep commitment to climate action enable it to steer WorldGBC's initiatives toward meaningful and measurable outcomes, aligning with the 2030 and 2050 climate goals. Through its vision and leadership, the Board inspires the entire network to scale solutions and deliver systemic transformation and decarbonisation across industries.

The Board advises and oversees WorldGBC's strategy and governance, ensuring we operate effectively as a not-for-profit organisation and deliver on our mission.



WorldGBC Board of Directors. Left to right: Elizabeth Wangeci Chege, Johannes Kressig, Tan Swee Yiow, Sean Kidney, Maria Fernanda Aguirre, Matthew Bell, Jennifer Layke, Cristin a Gamboa, Habiba Al Marashi, Rob Benaicha, Davina Rooney.

Our Board of Directors 2024 – 2025



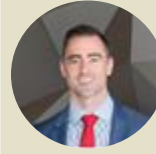
Jennifer Layke, **Chair of the Board**
Global Director, Energy Program, WRI
Nominated by CCCS (Colombia GBC)



Habiba Al Mar'ashi, **Vice Chair**
President, Arabia CSR Network, Co-
Founder & Chairperson, Emirates
Environmental Group
Nominated by Emirates GBC



Davina Rooney, **Treasurer**
CEO, Green Building Council of
Australia (GBCA)
Nominated by GBCA



Matthew Bell, **Secretary**
Global Climate Change and
Sustainability Services Leader, EY
Nominated by UKGBC (United
Kingdom GBC)



María Fernanda Aguirre
Executive Director, Chile Green
Building Council
Nominated by Chile GBC



Michael Brooks
CEO, REALPAC
Nominated by Canada GBC



Elizabeth W Chege, Secretary
CEO & Co-founder, WEB
Limited
Nominated by Kenya GBS



Faustine Delasalle
CEO, Mission Possible Partnership /
Vice-Chair, Energy Transitions
Commission
Nominated by GBC Costa Rica



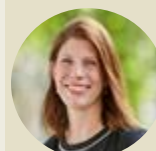
Sean Kidney
CEO, Climate Bonds Initiative
(CBI)
Nominated by IGBC (Irish GBC)



Johannes Kreißig
CEO DGNB
Nominated by DGNB (Germany GBC)



Hugh Lim
Executive Director, Center for
Livable Cities (CLC)
Nominated by Singapore GBC



Rachel Skinner
Executive Director, WSP & President
of Institution of Civil Engineers UK
Nominated by Czech GBC

Our Green Building Councils

Established



Emerging



Prospective



Affiliate



Our Corporate Partners

Corporate Advisory Board



Global Knowledge Partners



Regional Knowledge Partners



Our finances

Resilient financial management, programmatic innovation and successful grant fundraising led to a strong financial result for WorldGBC in 2023.

Financial position

WorldGBC ended 2023 with US\$2.68 million in unrestricted net assets, a figure that increased by US\$812,970 compared to 2022. WorldGBC remained compliant with the Cash Management Policy which requires that the organisation should retain at least the equivalent of a minimum of 40% of its annual expenses in unrestricted net assets to cover for risks.

Auditor's opinion and further information

KPMG, WorldGBC's auditor, issued an unqualified opinion on WorldGBC's 2023 audited financial statements on 5 June 2024. Our members can obtain copies of the complete audited financial statements by contacting the WorldGBC team.

Revenue	2022	2023
Membership <i>Resources contributed by Green Building Councils as members of WorldGBC</i>	US \$720,875	US \$734,208
Partnerships <i>Resources from corporate partnerships, including the Corporate Advisory Board, programme partners and regional network partners</i>	US \$1,280,580	US \$1,423,483
Grants <i>Income from philanthropic organisations for restricted projects</i>	US \$878,416	US \$3,518,545
Other <i>Income from reimbursement and interest</i>	US \$73864	US \$85,114
Total	US \$2,953,905	US \$5,761,850

Expenses	2023
Programme services <i>Focused on serving our GBCs</i>	US \$4,070,091
Fundraising <i>Investments to continue diversifying our revenue stream and that of our GBCs</i>	US \$23,481
Supporting services <i>Administration and operations, communications and marketing</i>	US \$854,808
Total	US \$4,948,380

The financial information presented in this annual report has been summarised by WorldGBC management from audited financial statements.



About WorldGBC

The World Green Building Council is the largest and most influential action network accelerating the sustainable and just transition of the built environment.

We represent a global community of over 74 Green Building Councils, 60 partners, and over 47,000 private sector members around the world.

Together, we drive local action and create the global momentum that's necessary for all people and our planet to thrive. We do this in alignment with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This means building the right policy environments, the right financing environments and the right social and cultural environments to deliver more resilient and sustainable built environments.

Our network has the knowledge, expertise and organisational structure to translate climate ambition into policy implementation. We work with governments all over the world to keep building the transition together so all can enjoy resilient and decarbonised buildings for a healthy planet and a better future for all.

Find out more: worldgbc.org

