

UKGBC Circular Economy programme – how to get involved

This document provides UKGBC members with an overview of the UKGBC Circular Economy programme and activities for getting involved over the coming year.

Overview

Following research carried out in 2017 to understand how UKGBC Gold Leaf members are addressing circular economy and where they see the barriers, opportunities and solutions, UKGBC is taking forward a [Circular Economy programme](#) that will achieve practical outcomes using live projects. These practical outcomes will be created, explored and tested by a UKGBC Task Group over two years, which will form the main part of the programme. To support the programme, a series of related awareness raising events and courses will take place across the UK with a launch event presenting and sharing the solutions generated by the task group.

Objectives

Over the next two years UKGBC will be running a series of live experiments, testing the application of circular principles on real estate assets and construction projects. Through this programme we hope to achieve the following:

- Facilitate collaborative approaches to overcome common obstacles preventing a circular economy and improve circular outcomes across a series of real-time projects
- Create practical support documentation and lessons learnt for mainstream application for those at different stages of the journey towards a circular business/built environment??
- Address business models and wider systemic changes needed to advance a circular economy including policy interventions

Activities – how to get involved

Partner and Sponsor – if your organisation is looking to be a leader around circular economy, there is an opportunity to join a number of forward thinking organisations to partner (spanning 2018 – 2020) or sponsor (spanning 2018-19) the UKGBC Circular Economy programme, please see [the proposal here for more information on benefits and costs](#).

Supporter – if you are a charity, NGO or trade association working in the circular economy and built environment area, there is an opportunity to collaborate and support the programme by contributing content and knowledge and sharing findings within your network, please see [the proposal here for more information on benefits and requirements](#).

Research – following the circular economy research we carried out in 2017 as part of [the Sustainability 360s](#) we made the findings available through [this write up](#). The research looked to understand what UKGBC Gold Leaf members are doing around circular economy and what they saw as the opportunities, barriers and solutions to the circular economy. We have also shared

some examples of best practice. This document will continually be updated with new examples of best practice - if you have more examples please send these to Anna.Surgenor@ukgbc.org

Events and debates – debates will take place in [Bristol](#), [Birmingham](#) and Manchester. These are free to attend events, please sign up as places become available. They will be lively debates exploring the opportunities for applying circular principles. If you would like to take part on a panel as a speaker, please contact Anna.Surgenor@ukgbc.org.

We are collaborating with Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute to hold a workshop, more details for this event and other related events can be found [here](#).

Courses – we will be providing education around the topic of circular economy in a number of formats. We will give an overview of circular economy through Coursemails, hosting Insight and Innovation webinars where we will be sharing the latest trends around circular economy and we will host masterclasses sharing practical tips on how to apply circular principles to projects, [please visit the website for more information](#).

Policy – we will be holding a policy roundtable to scope out the role of Government around circular economy in December 2018, if this is of interest to you please let Anna.Surgenor@ukgbc.org know.

Task Groups – In finding solutions to specific challenges around how clients can drive circular outcomes and how to encourage greater reuse on projects, a Task Group of eleven individuals has been formed comprising experts drawn from member and supporting organisations.

Details of Task Groups

Two challenges have been identified by the project partner and sponsors. The challenges will act as the basis for the Task Groups to generate appropriate solutions, using sponsors' current live projects as a test bed. The solutions identified will be transferrable to wider construction and built asset projects beyond the sponsors projects.

The Task Groups will be established through participation from the UKGBC membership and supporter organisations. Individuals will bring relevant expertise; it is envisaged support will be required from circular economy experts, professionals from across the value chain as well as legal, procurement, and project management teams. Communications consultants will be engaged to ensure the output is engaging and communicates to professionals beyond sustainability experts.

The solution should also address the flaws associated with current business models and look to define how the future construction and operation process could work more effectively.

They should also consider the following issues within their solutions and how the solution relates to: Climate change, Resource use, Nature & biodiversity, Health and wellbeing, Socio-economic impacts, business case, innovation, leadership.

Challenge 1: How can clients encourage a greater reuse of materials (with a focus on building services, glazing and soil) while ensuring technical integrity, liability and legal issues are covered to reduce project risk or build in allowances for impact on quality, budget, programme?

Background: More often virgin materials are specified on projects, (in some cases secondary and recycled materials are specified, such as recycled aggregate and cement replacements). How can clients gather the right information to enable surplus materials to be reused and designed into construction and built asset projects?

Live projects to use as test bed: HS2, Clarion, others TBC

Who to engage: Designers, Contractors, Legal, Procurement, Demolition, Agents, Circular Economy experts, others TBC

Organisations to engage: GLA/LWARB, RIBA, CPA, BRE, EMF, ASBP, NHBC, RICS, others TBC

Challenge 2: What requirements can clients and planners set within their development briefs, planning requirements, procurement tender documents and contractual clauses to ensure circular economy principles are applied to developments?

Background: Often clients will ask for high level targets relating to circular economy, some will ask for ‘a circular approach’ without being prescriptive. Clients would like to provide greater clarity within contract clauses to the supply chain around what is expected at different stages of the RIBA Plan of Works (PoW). This aims to drive more circular outcomes ranging from simple approaches such as specific targets, to more challenging and forward looking briefs and specifications. This could take the form of a long term roadmap aiming for true circular outcomes and step by step approaches for organisations to take.

Live projects/organisations: HS2, TCE, Telford Homes, Clarion, TFT (Grosvenor), others TBC

Who to engage: Designers, Contractors, Legal, Procurement, Agents, Circular Economy experts, others TBC

Organisations to engage: GLA/LWARB, BBP, EMF, RIBA, RICS, others TBC

Timescales

The task groups will run as follows:

Activity	Dates
UKGBC members submit expressions of interest in joining task group & UKGBC review participants	July - August 2018
Establish task groups	Sept 2018
Task group carry out work	Sept-Jan 2018 <i>Time contribution: Approximately 0.5 days a week to include meetings, workshops, telephone conference calls, input into developing output which may consist of</i>

	<i>guidelines, video, animation (depending on budget available)</i>
Consultation and develop outputs with industry	Jan-March 2019
Present findings	March - April 2019

If you would like to get involved in the task groups, please complete the following form and send to Anna.Surgenor@ukgbc.org by **28 August 2018**

Name.....

Job title.....

Department.....

Organisation.....

Experience around Circular Economy, Procurement, QS, Legal, Demolition, Project/Development Management, Agents (100 words max)

Confirm availability and what skills and expertise you can contribute (100 words max)

