

ANZ Programming - April 2020 to March 2021

UKGBC launched its Advancing Net Zero programme in 2018 to help lead the UK's transition to a net zero carbon built environment. In the first eighteen months of the programme, the major output was the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework which has generated significant additional interest and demand from the industry to go even further and provide additional detail. Supporting outputs include a guide for commercial real estate companies on scope 3 reporting, a Climate Commitment Platform to drive climate leadership, hosting a European Summit and other awareness-raising activities. Throughout the programme, the emphasis on industry collaboration and partnership with other industry bodies has helped position UKGBC as the 'go to' body for providing the knowledge, information and solutions for delivering a net zero carbon built environment.

Programme objectives

- Build industry consensus and drive action to achieve a net zero carbon built environment
- Promote the use of in-use operational energy as a key indicator of building performance
- Encourage greater understanding and leading-edge action on addressing whole life carbon
- Raise the ambition of carbon and energy policy at national and local levels in line with a trajectory to net zero carbon

Highlights from phase one of programme

- 166 organisations involved in the net zero carbon buildings task group and consultation
- 4,426 downloads of net zero carbon buildings framework report
- Ongoing discussions with NHS England, DfE and MoD about use of the framework in public procurement
- 1,191 unique visits to the *Climate Commitment Platform* which includes listings for 28 member companies
- 7,216 unique visits to ANZ programme page

Activities 2020-21

The priority for the next phase of the programme is to build on the existing resources and initiatives under the programme, with areas of activity around the Commitment and the Framework, as well as new activities providing bespoke support to members companies and increasing our advocacy work. While there are a number of specific activities and outputs under these areas (e.g. renewable energy guidance), other activities are less well defined at this stage (COP26) or represent ongoing efforts (case studies). This reflects the experience of the first phase of the programme with unforeseen priorities and opportunities arising throughout and, given how quickly this agenda is moving, we expect this to continue. The activities outlined below are nonetheless where we expect we can have the greatest impact over the coming year.

Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment

Commitment Campaign

The WorldGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment is helping to build market demand for net zero buildings and enabling businesses and cities to show climate leadership. So far 16 companies, 1 city and 1 region have signed up to the Commitment in the UK, and UKGBC will continue to push uptake of the Commitment among member companies and cities with a concerted communications and engagement campaign. While uptake numbers are currently behind the KPIs for the first phase of the programme, we are in a stronger position to advocate for the Commitment using the resources developed over the past eighteen months.

Commitment Forum

As a new benefit for Commitment signatories, we will establish a quarterly forum for signatories to share approaches to delivering and operating net zero buildings. It will bring together like-minded member companies who are leading on net zero to provide practical support and help to drive forward the agenda on the ground. Signatories will be able to bring key issues and challenges to the forum, drawing on the expertise of other signatories to identify solutions and opportunities for collaboration. A potential offshoot from the Forum could also be Project Labs which would

bring groups of peers to work collaboratively to support Commitment signatories as they apply the Net Zero Carbon Framework to live projects.

Climate Commitment platform

The Climate Commitment Platform was launched in September 2019 to provide more visibility on the various climate commitments of built environment companies. There are currently 28 listings on the platform and we intend to push the platform with members alongside the net zero commitment. The platform also set out a high level Climate Leadership Model and we will explore opportunities to develop this further through collaboration with other industry bodies.

Case studies

A set of case studies demonstrating practical solutions to delivering the net zero framework was published in early 2020. This case study catalogue will continue to be developed and grown in 2020-21, with further additions of leading projects in order to build an increasingly detailed resource for practitioners seeking to achieve net zero on their own projects.

Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework

Cost evaluation

This activity will bring the principles of the framework to life by exploring the cost implications of pursuing a net zero strategy for new buildings, focusing on offices and residential. An initial net zero cost evaluation project is currently being developed by a focused working group (mainly ANZ Partner organisations) that will use information from case study projects to assess the cost impacts of minimising operational energy and embodied impacts for new homes and offices. The initial work is underway with a plan to have an output ready by mid-2020. There may also be opportunities for building on this as a consistent approach on cost evaluation for other sectors and different regions in the UK.

Reporting and verification

Feedback on the framework has highlighted the need for improvements in certain areas of the reporting and verification processes. UKGBC will explore the options for increasing visibility of the reporting process, taking into account the further detail being added to the framework e.g. energy performance targets, renewable energy guidance. We will also investigate how the third-party verification process could be made clearer and more robust.

Guidance on renewable energy and offsets

Two areas which have frequently been highlighted as challenges to achieving net zero for operational energy are the procurement of renewable energy and offsets. Given the overlap between these areas, we intend to develop a single guidance paper covering both will be developed which will provide further detail for the framework. The guidance will draw heavily on existing resources and approaches, and we will seek input from relevant stakeholders in its development ahead of publication in autumn 2020.

Paris Proof targets for retail

Building on the Dutch GBC Paris Proof methodology, UKGBC published energy performance targets for offices in January 2020 as part of the net zero carbon buildings framework. As a next step, we would convene a small group of members and relevant trade associations to develop equivalent targets for the retail sector. This would involve identifying in-use energy performance data which can be used as benchmarks from which to set a trajectory of targets for net zero retail assets.

Bespoke support for members

The programme has stimulated significant interest from members on net zero along with numerous requests for UKGBC input on specific projects or organisational strategies. In order to provide better access to the programme, we will set out opportunities for members to access free support such as lunch and learns, as well as bespoke support including workshops or online learning resources. The bespoke activities should also open up new income streams for the programme to further supplement grant funding.

Communication, engagement and dissemination

The growing interest in net zero has encouraged numerous related initiatives and projects to emerge from different parts of the construction and property industry. While these initiatives are often aiming for the same outcomes, there is often confusion about how they relate to one another and their relationship with the ANZ programme. UKGBC will undertake activities to try and link up initiatives and provide more guidance to the industry about different resources. This may include the development of an online resource platform, pointing off to different resources and initiatives and explaining their relationships.

Advocacy

COP26

The UN COP26 summit in Glasgow will represent an important milestone in global efforts to tackle climate change. Five years on from the Paris Agreement, signatories will be expected to update their national commitments in line with the ambition of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. UKGBC will be working closely with the WorldGBC, NGOs and business groups to engage with the UK Government as summit hosts and raise the profile of the built environment as a key area for action. Through events and communications, we are planning to use this unique opportunity to encourage greater climate commitments from UKGBC members and the wider sector, and leverage these to push further ambition from UK and global policymakers.

Local Government Climate Emergency response

We are being asked regularly to provide support for cities that have declared 'Climate Emergency' and are exploring how to integrate net zero carbon principles into policy. We would like to respond to this demand in a coordinated and comprehensive way, by producing resources and recommendations tailored to cities, based on the content developed through the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework. This would involve building on the UKGBC Housing Standards Playbook, updating it to take into account all the latest resources being produced through the programme, expanding to other sectors – e.g. offices and/or retail – and putting on a number of workshops and round-tables to support cities where UKGBC has a strong local presence.

Programme timeline and key outputs

Activity	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Framework												
Cost evaluation				Evaluation publication								
RE, offsets guidance											Guidance publication	
Paris Proof retail							Targets publication					
Commitment												
Commitment forum	Forum meeting			Forum meeting			Forum meeting			Forum meeting		
Recruitment campaign	<i>Ongoing campaign, with emphasis on recruitment ahead of COP26</i>											
Commitment Platform	<i>Open call for new listings and updates</i>											
Case studies	<i>Open call for case studies</i>											
Bespoke												
Workshops and training courses	<i>To be scheduled with individual member companies</i>											
Communication and engagement												
Joint events	<i>To be scheduled with relevant stakeholder organisations</i>											
Advocacy												
COP26			Video output									
LA climate guidance						Playbook updates						

Key: Ongoing activity Output or event