

CONFERENCE



Global Sustainability

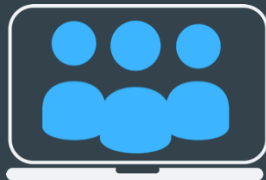
5 December || Online

Shaping a sustainable future: The built and natural environment's journey



5 December

CST GST GMT EST



Online

Introducing an exclusive event, the Global Sustainability conference provides an opportunity for key stakeholders to engage in critical discussions on latest sustainability practices in the built and natural environment.

Featuring a line-up of keynotes, panel discussions and specialised sessions, the event focuses on RICS' vision for a sustainable built and natural environment. It explores cutting edge trends relating to environmental, social, economic and governance aspects of sustainability whilst fostering debates on practical approaches for integrating new practices across the industry.

Over one day, participants will build a picture of the current landscape and will gain exclusive knowledge of latest industry practices, guidance, and insights.

By joining the conference attendees will:

- Delve into how sustainable practices are being implemented within the built environment
- Explore how advancements in data analytics, AI, IoT, and other emerging technologies are driving sustainability within the built and natural environments
- Prepare for political and economic shifts that may impact sustainability efforts and understand how to navigate these changes effectively
- Learn to integrate ESG criteria into financial decision-making and real estate valuations and grasp the implications and dynamics within the market.

The event will conclude with a call to action, providing delegates with the knowledge, tools, and partnerships needed to foster collaboration.

Join us for an engaging day designed to inspire transformative discussions and provide actionable takeaways that will empower participants to push the boundaries of what's possible in sustainability. This conference is set to inspire attendees to strive for groundbreaking advancements in their fields, contributing significantly to the global sustainability agenda.





Thursday 5 December



Time zones:

CST GST GMT EST

CST ¹	GST ²	GMT ³	
15:30	11:30	07:30	Registration and virtual networking
16:00	12:00	08:00	Introduction from RICS and welcome keynote address: Setting the stage for a sustainable transformation

The opening introduction and keynote address promises to be both visionary and grounding, as it outlines RICS' commitment to sustainability within the built and natural environments. It emphasises the critical urgency of addressing the climate crisis and demonstrates the pivotal role of our profession in spearheading this transformative journey. This session will set a powerful tone for subsequent discussions, underscoring our collective mandate to confront and master the planet's most pressing challenges, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

- Discuss the critical global trends such as climate change, resource depletion, and urbanisation pressures that are reshaping the built and natural environments. Explore how these trends necessitate a strategic rethink in our approach to development and sustainability.
- Align with RICS' vision that seeks to champion sustainable development across the globe.
- Examine the intricate risks associated with shifting towards sustainable practices—economic fluctuations, policy evolutions, and technological breakthroughs. How these challenges can be navigated successfully, ensuring that sustainability efforts are both equitable and inclusive, and fostering opportunities for growth across diverse demographics and regions.
- Be inspired to actively contribute towards the SDGs, applying the knowledge and strategies shared to effect tangible, impactful changes in society.

12:20	08:20	Short comfort break
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¹ China Standard Time

² Gulf Standard Time

³ Greenwich Mean Time

16:30 12:30 08:30 Navigating the path to net zero: How prepared are we to implement transformative carbon strategies?

This session is dedicated to advancing the understanding and application of carbon assessments within the built environment, highlighting its pivotal role in combating climate change and promoting sustainable development. It aims to arm professionals across the global construction and urban planning sectors with cutting-edge tools, innovative strategies, and comprehensive insights to effectively reduce carbon emissions.

- How to integrate carbon assessment practices into the planning, development, and management of built environments to meet global carbon reduction targets and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Explore the latest advancements in tools and technologies for carbon assessment, to transform the accuracy and efficiency of real-time carbon monitoring and decision-making.
- Understand the evolving regulatory landscape that shapes carbon assessment practices worldwide, focusing on both the challenges and opportunities these regulations present.
- What is the impact and application of the RICS Whole Life Carbon Assessment Standard in guiding industry practices towards comprehensive carbon management and accountability throughout the lifecycle of a project.

17:15 13:15 09:15 Short comfort break

17:30 13:30 09:30 Investing in tomorrow: Integrating ESG into financial decisions

This session will explore innovative models that integrate ESG criteria into financial decision-making, emphasising the correlation between investment value and sustainable practices. It will delve into how the sector is building investor confidence through data that mobilises capital, the challenges of ESG integration, and the impact on lending and investment landscapes.

- How ESG factors are increasingly incorporated into financial decisions, focusing on risk assessment and its influence on investment strategies
- Understand the critical role of transparent and comprehensive financial reporting in ESG integration. How incorporating ESG metrics into financial reports aids lenders, investors, and regulators in assessing the sustainability performance of borrowers and projects.
- Explore the motivations behind the rising demand for ESG-focused lending and investment products—whether driven by investor demand, regulatory frameworks, or market dynamics.
- What are the methodologies for assessing ESG risks, the tools and data utilised, and their implications on financial decision-making? Discuss how these criteria influence the selection and valuation of assets.

18:15 14:15 10:15 Short comfort break

18:30 14:30 10:30 **Grounded futures: Promoting sustainability in land management**

During this discussion our experts will highlight the critical role of sustainable land management in achieving environmental, economic, and social objectives, including combating land degradation, enhancing biodiversity, and supporting sustainable urban and rural development.

- What are the most effective strategies for implementing sustainable land management in urban vs. rural contexts, and how can these practices be scaled?
- How can cross-sector collaboration be enhanced to address the challenges of land degradation and promote sustainable land use practices?
- What role do technological innovations and data play in advancing sustainable land management, and what are some cutting-edge examples?
- How can policies and regulations evolve to better support sustainable land management goals, and what are the key barriers to their implementation?

19:15 15:15 11:15 **Short comfort break**

19:30 16:30 11:30 **How green is our growth: Integrating biodiversity into the built environment**

This session will spotlight the essential role of biodiversity in shaping resilient, sustainable, and healthy urban landscapes. As the impact of the built environment on natural ecosystems becomes increasingly significant, this session will explore innovative strategies for preserving and enhancing biodiversity within urban planning, construction, and real estate development. Experts will discuss the benefits of biodiversity for ecological, economic, and social wellbeing, offering insights into best practices for embedding biodiversity considerations into projects and policies.

- Why is biodiversity critical to the sustainability of the built environment, and what are the key benefits of integrating biodiversity into urban development projects?
- What are the most effective strategies and design principles for incorporating biodiversity into new and existing urban spaces?
- How can policymakers, developers, and professionals work together to overcome challenges and barriers to biodiversity integration in urban environments?
- What emerging trends and innovations hold the promise for enhancing biodiversity within the built environment sector?

20:15 17:15 12:15 **Short comfort break**

20:30 17:30 12:30 **Holistic habitats: Integrating health, safety, and sustainability in building designs**

This session focuses on the critical aspects of creating and maintaining healthy buildings, ensuring fire safety, and optimising building operations within the framework of sustainability. As the built environment evolves, the importance of designing and managing spaces that promote occupant wellbeing, safety, and environmental stewardship becomes paramount. This comprehensive discussion will cover the latest standards, practices, and strategic approaches to integrate health, safety, and operational efficiency into the lifecycle of buildings.

- How do healthy building standards and practices contribute to sustainability, and what are the key components of a 'healthy building'?
- What are the latest advancements in fire safety engineering and management that align with sustainable building practices?
- In the context of building operations, what strategies ensure efficiency and sustainability while maintaining a focus on health and safety?
- How might emerging technologies and policy developments further enhance the integration of health, fire safety, and operational sustainability in the built environment?

GST 18:15 GMT 13:15 EST 08:15 **Short comfort break and Americas' registration**

18:30 13:30 08:30 **Reviving spaces: retrofitting for a sustainable future**

Retrofitting is emerging as a crucial strategy in the residential sector and in this session, we will explore the vital role of retrofitting in transforming existing residential sector towards sustainability. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how retrofitting not only reduces carbon emissions and energy usage but also improves the overall quality of life for occupants.

- Explore how retrofitting can mitigate residential heat islands, especially in densely populated areas.
- What are the existing and potential policy frameworks that can promote retrofitting at a local, national, or international level.
- What are financial barriers and what revolutionary funding models and incentives can be introduced to make retrofitting accessible to all?
- How RICS Residential Retrofit Standard emerging as a frontrunner?

19:15 14:15 09:15 **Short comfort break**

19:30 14:30 09:30 **Data-driven sustainability: How far can technology take us?**

In the age of information, data and technology play a pivotal role in driving sustainability initiatives across various sectors. This session will focus on the intersection of data, technology, and sustainability, exploring how organisations can harness the power of data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging technologies to advance environmental conservation, resource efficiency, and sustainable development goals. Attendees will gain insights into innovative approaches and best practices demonstrating the transformative impact of data-driven solutions on sustainability outcomes.

- Discuss the power of data analytics in providing actionable insights for sustainability initiatives and how organisations can leverage data to identify opportunities for improvement and track progress towards sustainability goals.
- Explore the role of technologies like IoT sensors and satellite imagery in monitoring environmental parameters, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and mitigating environmental risks.
- Understand the potential synergies that arise from integrating AI and ML technologies to optimise energy efficiency, reduce waste, and enhance indoor air quality.
- Explore how these technologies can work in tandem to identify interdependencies, uncover hidden efficiencies, and drive holistic sustainability improvements.

20:15 15:15 10:15 **Short comfort break**

15:30 10:30 **Full circle futures: Can we redesign reality with circular economy principles?**

This session aims to shift perspectives towards a more regenerative and restorative approach, moving away from the traditional linear model of consume-and-dispose. By exploring the principles of circular economy, participants will learn about innovative practices, challenges, and the transformative potential of circular principles in creating sustainable, resilient, and efficient built environments.

- How can the built environment sector adopt circular economy principles to reduce waste and enhance sustainability?
- What are the initial steps for businesses looking to transition?
- What are the main challenges in integrating circular economy practices within existing built environment projects?
- How can challenges be overcome and what are successful implementations?

16:15 11:15 **Short comfort break**

16:30 **11:30** **Future-proofing our cities: Pathways to adaptation and resilience in the built environment**

This session delves into a visionary approach for enhancing the resilience of our cities, empowering them to not only withstand but thrive in the face of climate change, rapid urbanisation, environmental uncertainties, and water-related challenges. Participants will engage with cutting-edge strategies aimed at pre-emptively reinforcing infrastructure, community, and ecological robustness against nature's extremes. The focus will be on the synergy between resilience, sustainable water management, and sustainability, underscored by innovations that facilitate dynamic, adaptive responses.

- How does resilience manifest in the built environment, and why is it a cornerstone for future-oriented urban development?
- What methodologies and emerging innovations in the built environment can enhance urban resilience, particularly in adaptive resilience and effective water management, and what policy transformations will bolster this resilience against global challenges, including water-related disasters?
- In the quest for resilient urban ecosystems, what are the pivotal challenges and transformative opportunities, particularly in managing water resources and preventing flooding?
- How can the imperatives of climate adaptation and equitable water management be seamlessly integrated into urban development, particularly in developing regions, ensuring equitable resilience and prosperity.

17:15 **12:15** **The Nexus Approach: Integrating water, energy, and food for global sustainability**

This session will focus on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus, a critical framework for understanding and managing the interconnectedness of water, energy, and food systems in a sustainable and synergistic manner. It will explore how integrated approaches to these vital resources can enhance security, support economic stability, and promote environmental sustainability on a global scale.

- How the interdependencies among water, energy, and food sectors can impact global sustainability and how this approach can contribute to greater resource security and resilience to climate change impacts, particularly in vulnerable regions.
- Understand the main challenges in managing water, energy, and food in a cohesive manner, including resource allocation, policy coherence, and technological barriers.
- Explore how policies can be designed to better manage trade-offs and synergies among water, energy, and food sectors.
- What are the economic benefits of adopting nexus approaches, including cost savings, enhanced resource productivity, and the creation of new economic opportunities.

18:00

13:00

Closing keynote: Charting the course forward

- Summary of key insights and takeaways
- Call to action: Commitments to sustainable practices and partnerships
- Looking ahead: RICS' role in advancing global sustainability goals

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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