

UKGBC joins industry leaders calling for Government to regulate embodied carbon

1 year ago



Ahead of an election expected this year, leading industry voices have come together with a new [Policy Position Paper](#) to call on the UK's political parties to finally get a grip of [embodied carbon](#) in the built environment.

Despite totalling more than 64 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually – greater than the UK's aviation and shipping emissions combined – measurement and reporting of embodied carbon in construction remains staggeringly unregulated. A whole life carbon perspective is urgently needed across the industry to ensure comprehensive decarbonisation on our path to net zero.

UKGBC joins the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Construction Industry Council (CIC), Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), UK Architects Declare, RIBA, RICS, Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE), and Part Z in calling on political leaders to urgently reform the regulation and management of embodied carbon.

Louise Hutchins, Head of Policy for [UKGBC](#) says: “With time running out to keep global temperatures to 1.5C it's astounding that 1 in 10 tonnes of UK climate emissions are still unregulated. From Europe to California, embodied carbon emissions are already regulated so we know it's feasible. And we know from our members that industry is keen to play its part, but it needs government to set a nationwide approach to drive action at scale and pace.”

While industry-led initiatives have made progress in the space, supported by hundreds of businesses ranging from housebuilders to financial institutions, this latest call focuses on the need for consistency and

acceleration that can only be provided by Government action.

IstructE, UKGBC, and our partners are calling for three specific steps:

1. Within six months of taking office: policy signalled confirming the dates and interventions below.
2. By 2026: Mandate the measurement and reporting of whole-life carbon emissions for all projects with a gross internal area of more than 1000m² or that create more than 10 dwellings.
3. By 2028: Introduce legal limits on the upfront embodied carbon emissions of such projects, with a view to future revision and tightening as required.

These steps complement UKGBC's recommendations previously set out in the [Whole Life Carbon Roadmap](#), launched at COP26, which sets out how the UK's pathway to net zero carbon will affect embodied carbon emissions through design efficiency, material reuse, and other transformative impacts.