

CONFERENCE



Global Sustainability

Building resilience: Pathways for a sustainable built and natural environment

4th December 2025



Type of event

Digital



CPD Hours

6.5

Formal

Book your place today

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We are delighted to announce the return of the RICS Global Sustainability Conference in 2025. This year, the conference focuses on ensuring the built and natural environment's resilience in the face of climate challenges. This is where innovation meets responsibility – join to hear how leading surveyors, environmental planners, engineers, and policymakers are shaping landscapes that thrive in the face of change.

The event will bring together leading minds in climate adaptation, natural hazard planning, and ecological stewardship. As our planet experiences climate shifts, the role of surveyors in ensuring the adaptability of their projects has never been more vital. Through new technologies, data-driven planning, and strategies for cross-industry collaboration, we can design and maintain infrastructure that protects both people and ecosystems.

The conference will spotlight practical approaches to adapting land use and mitigating risk from natural hazards. Take an in-depth look at high-carbon material production, learn about opportunities for investing in ESG solutions, and ask an expert panel about the conflicting priorities with building homes in a housing crisis whilst working towards net-zero goals.

Attendees will gain insight from expert presentations, real-world case studies, and dynamic panel sessions. You'll discover how geospatial intelligence, environmental modelling, and sustainable design are transforming the way we manage land and water resources.

The conference will also provide the opportunity to hear from the RICS about the work being done across the organisation to bring members up to speed with the legislative and technological innovations in sustainability. Hear more about how our talent and skills initiative is driving engagement with surveying careers that embed sustainable practices.

Don't miss your opportunity to connect, learn, and lead the way toward a greener future.

Programme



APAC
4 Dec
2025



America
4 Dec
2025



EMEA
4 Dec
2025

Time zone:

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Registration and networking

RICS Introduction and opening keynote

Toby Perkins, Member of UK Parliament for Chesterfield; Chair, Environmental Audit Committee

This session will explore how bold innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and resilient leadership can accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future. It will inspire participants to move from commitment to action, directly addressing the most pertinent issues affecting sustainable building.

Conference chair: Frank Hovorka MRICS, RICS Sustainability Chair, Director, FPI France

Panel: Designing housing for a changing climate

This session will address the triple challenge of speed, cost and carbon containment faced in the creation of new housing. Our panel of experts will answer questions including: How can we maximise the capacity to produce new housing whilst minimising environmental impact? What role should social landlords or housing associations play in leading the net-zero transition?

What's the most promising innovation in low-carbon housing delivery right now? How we can encourage sustainable housing to be viewed outside the lens of 'cost burden', and shift the perception to one that focuses on it as a health, equity, and climate imperative. What work are councils doing to support sustainable housing during this crisis?

Moderator: **Emma Fletcher MRICS**, Low Carbon Homes Director, Octopus Energy; Chair, RICS Residential Professional Group Panel

Speakers: **Janani Paramsothy**, Associate Director of ESG, Newbridge; **Jo Shields**, Head of Sustainability & ESG, whg Housing Association; **Ariana Karamallis**, Global Advocacy and Development Manager, Build Change

Short break

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Panel: Breaking silos: Cross-industry collaboration to accelerate supply chain sustainability

What are the best models and strategies for working across disciplines in a sustainable supply chain? This session will ask industry experts where they have seen the most successful examples of collaboration. How can we encourage joint advancement towards industry sustainability targets - at the design stage, in contractor & client relationships during a new project, or on-site? What tools or frameworks, including LCA tools, or open BIM, help align priorities across industries?

Moderated by the chair. Speakers: **Roland Hunziker**, Programme Director, WBCSD; **Tamsin Faragher**, Director, IFLA Climate Action Group, Principal Resilience Officer, City of Cape Town; **Habiba Al Mar'ashi**, Co-Founder and Chairperson, Emirates Environmental Group; President & CEO, Arabia CSR Network; Co-Founder, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, EmiratesGBC

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Short Break

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RICS Update

Get up-to-date with RICS' leading role in strengthening guidance and standards for advancing sustainability in the built and natural environment. In this session, Simon will present the forthcoming Sustainability Guide, discuss development of Built Environment Carbon Database (BECD), the Software Validation Programme, and other recent RICS outputs including research on the impact of carbon markets on the rural economy.

Moderated by the chair. Speaker: **Simon Rawlinson MRICS**, Chair, RICS Knowledge & Practice Committee; RICS Board Member; Head of Strategic Research and Insight, Arcadis

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Short Break

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The finance session – Investing in ESG adaptation methods

This session will examine ESG metrics and frameworks, with a focus on what investors are looking for when investing in sustainable developments, and how organisations can align with these expectations. The session will provide actionable advice for attaining investment through performance-based finance and share insights into current market trends, including capital flows into ESG real estate funds, green bonds, and climate-aligned investment products.

Moderator: **Charles Golding MRICS**, Senior Specialist in Valuation and Investment Advisory, RICS; Speaker: **Amelia Balkwill**, Head of Sustainability Consultancy - European Markets, DTRE LLP

Short break

Decarbonisation, adaptation and resilience

A case-study orientated session examining what it means to create and maintain climate-responsive infrastructure. Our panellists will ask: How can cities and institutions embed a plan for resilience at early stages in the design process? What do developers need from regulators to embed sustainability at scale. Case studies for the panel will explore adaptation at every stage of the infrastructure life-cycle. We'll be asking our speakers how resilience can be embedded in the planning stages of development, and how they've carried out larger scale, urban adaptations in anticipation of climate events such as wildfires.

Moderated by Anil Sawhney, Head of Sustainability, RICS. Speakers: **Stephen Muia**, Carbon Officer, UN OPS; **Liz Varga CBE FCABE FAcSS FHEA**, Professor of Complex Systems, UCL; **Judy Zakreski**, Senior Vice President, Global Operations & Solutions, International Code Council

Wrap up of the first half of the day by conference chair, followed by short break and Americas registration

Welcome back from the Americas Chair

Maureen Ehrenberg FRICS, Senior Vice President, RICS; Executive Managing Director, Strategic Growth and Solution Development, SIREAS Inc

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Materials spotlight: Adapting high-carbon materials and reducing embodied carbon

This session will examine low-carbon alternatives to 'business as usual' materials and spotlight positive case studies of their use. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using these materials, and how might we adapt the manufacturing process for traditionally 'high carbon materials', to make them less carbon-intensive? What is it that incentivises businesses to reduce their carbon and how can they make the most impactful switches? Moderator: **Miranda Gardiner**, Executive Director, iMasons Climate Accord; Speakers: **Jack Rusk**, CEO and Co-Founder, C.Scale; **Cheis Ragobur**, Product Development Manager, NZC Solutions; **Graham Pontin**, Director of Policy, Communications & External Affairs, FIDIC; **Anil Sawhney**, Head of Sustainability, RICS

Short break

Panel: The role of technologies in mapping climate risk

AI, machine learning, GIS, remote sensing, satellite imagery, and drones are transforming the way that built and natural environment professionals are assessing climate risk. This panel will ask: How scalable are these tools? Can they serve both a small coastal town and a megacity? Our group of experts will also enlighten delegates as to the legal and data issues surrounding their use: Who owns the data in these projects? Who has access? How can we make tools and maps available to frontline communities who are experiencing climate threats?

Moderated by the chair. Speakers: **Douglas McNeil**, Managing Director, EOLAS Insight Ltd; **Joel Myhre**, Humanitarian Innovator, Information Technology Specialist; **Cornelia C. Walther**, Consultant, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University and Senior Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

Short Break

Panel: Building belonging - social equity in sustainable spaces

Who benefits from sustainability initiatives in the built and natural environment? How do we ensure that inclusion is embedded into sustainable building design? Join this panel to hear about strategies for embedding inclusion at all stages in the development life-cycle. Our panellists will discuss gentrification and displacement as an unintended consequence of green building, and how to mitigate this impact in the early stages of project development. How councils versus private funding methods are structured to aid and prevent investment in sustainable spaces.

Moderated by the chair. Speakers: **Christa Dodoo**, Chair - Global Board, International Facility Management Association; **Sarah Thorley**, Social Value Advisory, Savills; **Ben Channon**, Head of Inclusive Design, Buro Happold

Wrap up by the conference chair: Looking to the future

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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