



CONFERENCE



Global Sustainability

From ambition to action in a nature-positive built environment

3rd December 2026



Type of event

Digital



CPD Hours

6.5

Formal

Book your place today

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The RICS Sustainability Conference 2026 brings together professionals from across the built and natural environment sectors for a full day of insight, collaboration, and practical learning on how nature-positive sustainability practices can be embedded across the property lifecycle. Beginning with registration and networking, the event opens with a keynote that sets the tone for a programme focused on integrating environmental responsibility into industry practice. A headline panel discussion explores how digital tools, partnerships, and data-driven approaches can help deliver measurable improvements in the sustainability of developments.

For a section of the morning, attendees can choose between parallel breakout streams that are more relevant to their practice. Sessions explore how biodiversity can be integrated into asset valuation and investment decisions, nature risk during landscape planning, and how environmental considerations can shape site selection, consent strategies, and long-term land stewardship. Later sessions highlight case-studies for nature-positive commercial developments and conversations between project managers on how sustainability considerations can be embedded from initial design, through to construction and completion.

In the afternoon, the conference shifts its focus to future skills, professional standards, and inclusive approaches to integrating sustainability in the built environment. Discussions examine how industry professionals can develop the capabilities needed to deliver sustainable outcomes while fostering collaborative cultures that support the adoption of climate-friendly standards. The programme concludes with a *Sustainability in Action* case study session and a forward-looking address on the skills required for the next generation of professionals, before closing remarks bring together the day's insights and outline the path ahead for sustainability leadership across the built and natural environment.

Programme



APAC
3 Dec
2026



America
3 Dec
2026



EMEA
3 Dec
2026

Time zone:

CST

GST

GMT

15:30

11:30

07:30

16:00

12:00

08:00

16:30

12:30

08:30

17:30

13:30

09:30

Registration and networking

RICS Introduction and opening keynote

The day's opening keynote will connect global *ambitions* regarding sustainability with *plans* for the inspirational, in-industry delivery of nature-positive projects, outlining how biodiversity, climate resilience and natural capital prioritisations are reshaping property and asset development across lifecycles, and what this means for professionals driving measurable change.

Speaker: **Sarah Gibson**, Member of Parliament for Chippenham;
Justin Young, CEO, RICS

Panel - Beyond 'just' sustainability: the imperative for nature-positive and regenerative growth

This session explores the shift from traditional sustainability toward regenerative growth - an approach that not only reduces harm, but actively restores ecosystems, strengthens communities, creating long-term resilience. Bringing together leaders from across engineering, design, and environmental strategy, our expert speakers will examine how organisations can embed nature-positive thinking into business models, infrastructure, and urban development.

Moderated by: **Anusha Shah**, Founder and CEO, Plan for Earth
Speakers: **Tom Butterworth**, ARUP Fellow and Director, Nature Lead;
Daisy Hessenberger, Global Subject Matter Expert - Nature and Biodiversity, Arcadis.

Short break - return to your personalised stream

Programme



APAC
1 Dec
2025



America
1 Dec
2025



EMEA
1 Dec
2025

Time zone:

CST

GST

GMT

17:45

13:45

09:45

19:00

*Short
break*

19:15

15:00

*Short
break*

15:15

11:00

*Short
break*

11:15

Addresses & joint Q&A - Measuring what matters – valuing biodiversity in practice

Exploring emerging approaches including natural capital accounting, biodiversity net gain metrics, risk-adjusted cashflow modelling and disclosure frameworks, this session will examine how biodiversity considerations are being integrated into valuation methodologies, investment decision-making and portfolio strategy, moving beyond narrative ESG commitments toward quantifiable impact.

Speaker: **Dianne Rossard**, Head of Nature Strategies, Finance for Biodiversity

Addresses & joint Q&A - Nature risk & landscape planning - embedding sustainability into site selection, consent strategy and long-term land stewardship

Bringing together expertise from planning policy, development and environmental advisory, these discussions will highlight how a landscape-led approach can deliver more resilient developments while supporting ecological connectivity and long-term value creation. The first address will highlight the work done by environmental trusts to centre landscape and environmental in discussions about development. The second will move to discuss the major developers working in urban environments.

Speaker:

Case-study-led address: Designing with carbon sinks to ensure nature-positive commercial developments

As biodiversity expectations grow across planning policy, investor mandates and occupier demand, commercial developments are increasingly expected to demonstrate measurable environmental value. This session will include key case studies from commercial developments from a leading firm, discussing how they have used sinks to offset the carbon contributions of their projects.

Moderated by:

Fireside chat: Aspirational management: embedding sustainability considerations from site to completion

Two leading project managers come together to discuss collaboration across the design and delivery stages of a landmark project. Drawing on the experience of one or multiple significant developments, the speakers will discuss how teams collaborate with ecologists, designers and contractors to translate biodiversity commitments into measurable outcomes on site. Delegates will gain practical insight into procurement strategies, risk management approaches and project governance mechanisms that help ensure biodiversity targets are delivered in practice, not just promised in planning documents.

Speaker: Inés Idzikowski Pérez, Net Zero Lead, Europe and India, AECOM

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16:15

12:15

08:15

Lunch and Americas registration, before return to plenary sessions

17:15

13:15

09:15

Addresses: Nature for all – Inclusive approaches to biodiversity in the built environment

Drawing on current policy drivers and industry practice, these addresses will examine how green-blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions can deliver multiple benefits - from climate resilience to health and wellbeing - while addressing the growing “nature gap” between communities. Central to the discussion is the idea of inclusive biodiversity, ensuring equitable access to nature through thoughtful, people-centred design that reflects diverse needs and local contexts. Through case studies and cross-disciplinary insights, speakers will highlight the importance of community engagement, co-design, and collaboration in delivering meaningful outcomes, alongside emerging approaches to measurement, policy alignment, and investment. The session ultimately positions biodiversity as essential infrastructure, challenging professionals to create places where nature and people can thrive together.

Speakers: **Anyi Hobson**, Director, SEAM Advisory

16:05

14:05

10:05

Short break

18:15

14:15

10:15

RICS standards and leadership update

Join this session for updates on RICS standards and the work of the sustainability team across the profession.

Speaker: **Anil Sawhney**, Head of Sustainability, RICS

18:45

14:45

10:45

Short break

19:00

15:00

11:00

Sustainability in action: Case study session

At this year’s Global Sustainability Conference, we want to shine a light on the practical steps RICS members are taking to turn sustainability into action. Ahead of today, RICS members have submitted short Sustainability in Action stories that showcase how sustainability principles have been applied in their practice.

20:00

16:00

12:00

Short break Short break Short break

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20:50

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12:50

Closing discussion: Future skills – Industry reform for a sustainable future

As the built and natural environment undergoes rapid transformation driven by sustainability, biodiversity and digital innovation, the skills required in the profession are evolving just as quickly. This session will explore how roles across surveying, development, construction and land management are changing, and what individuals and organisations must do to remain relevant in a nature-positive, but data-driven economy. Speakers will examine emerging competencies -from biodiversity literacy to digital capability and interdisciplinary collaboration -and how these are being embedded into standards, job roles and training pathways. Delegates will leave with a clearer understanding of how to future-proof their careers, upskill their teams and respond proactively to the changing demands of the market.

Closing remarks

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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