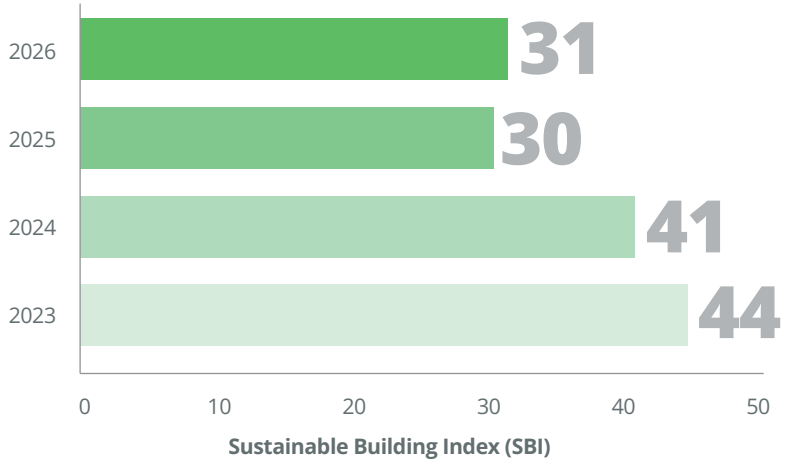
Sustainability report 2026

Demand for green real estate stays steady, but skills gap risks hindering progress.

The RICS Sustainability Report 2026 brings together insights from professionals worldwide on sustainability trends and outlook across the built and natural environment.

Demand for sustainable buildings stays steady



Government policy is seen as the most important driver of investment, through:

Energy efficiency standards and building codes

Government incentives and subsidies

A critical skills gap remains

Fewer than **1 in 5** professionals believe the industry has the skills needed to significantly reduce embodied carbon.

Climate resilience must be a priority

74% consider adaptability and resilience to climate change at least moderately important when evaluating real estate.

What needs to happen next?

Develop sustainability skills

Invest in ongoing CPD and professional training, such as the Sustainability Advisory MRICS pathway.

Adopt global standards

Encourage wider use of internationally recognised frameworks, like the WLCA standard and ICMS 3.

Align carbon measurement

Improve consistency in carbon assessment and reporting, through initiatives like CLEAR.

Strengthen government policy

Establish clearer, more consistent requirements for whole life performance, building regulations and carbon assessments.

Sustainability Advisory (MRICS) pilot pathway
rics.org/join-rics/sector-pathways/exploring-new-professional-pathways-rics-membership/sustainability-advisory-mrics-pilot-pathway

Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment
rics.org/profession-standards/rics-standards-and-guidance/sector-standards/construction-standards/whole-life-carbon-assessment

International Cost Management System (ICMS) 3
rics.org/profession-standards/rics-standards-and-guidance/sector-standards/construction-standards/icms3

Coalition for life cycle emissions alignment and reporting (CLEAR)
rics.org/news-insights/current-topics-campaigns/sustainability/clear

*RICS Sustainable Building Index (SBI) shows net balance which is calculated by the proportion of respondents reporting a rise in demand minus those reporting a fall.

Want to find out more?

Read the full report