ANNUAL REPORT 2021
WHO WE ARE

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) catalyses the uptake of sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.

Transforming the building and construction sector across three strategic areas — climate action, health & wellbeing, and resources & circularity — we are a global action network of over 70 Green Building Councils around the globe.

As members of the UN Global Compact, we work with businesses, organisations and governments to drive the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Through a systems change approach, our network is leading the industry towards a net zero carbon, healthy, equitable and resilient built environment.

Meet the team

GREEN BUILDING COUNCILS

Green Building Councils are independent, non-profit organisations accelerating the uptake of sustainable built environments.

As members of WorldGBC, they convene businesses and governments to collectively drive environmental, economic and social impact within the built environment on a national, regional and global scale.

www.worldgbc.org
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FOREWORD
BY OUR CEO
CRISTINA GAMBOA

Warnings from this year’s IPCC report were another stark reminder of what we already know. Climate change is not a problem of the future — it’s right here right now.

The building and construction sector still lacks the political and financial motivation to limit global heating to 1.5°C. The UN process to deliver enhanced, multilateral action for the sector needs support.

In November 2020, together with nine international organisations, we wrote a letter to COP26 President, Alok Sharma, and were granted a dedicated Built Environment Day at COP26, the United Nations’s annual climate summit. Since then we’ve formed the #BuildingToCOP26 Coalition. Alongside the UK government, the UN High Level Climate Champions, and a global Coalition of leading organisations, we successfully delivered the agenda for the Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day on the 11th November 2021 at COP26.

Green Building Councils bring together leaders across the built environment and are key to accelerating climate ambition. Through deep collaboration and a holistic approach to sustainability, we spotlighted the transformational potential Green Building Councils can play in supporting businesses and governments to achieve our shared climate goals.

But this is just the beginning, we must go further, faster to keep a 1.5°C future within reach. We need everyone onboard to create a lasting legacy of collaboration across the built environment and continue this momentum in COP27 and beyond.

FOREWORD
BY OUR CHAIR
TANYA COX

As the world continues to navigate the impacts of the pandemic, the drive for sustainability accelerates. The built environment, as a system, was more visible and coordinated than it has ever been at COP26, gaining further recognition as a critical climate solution.

And this is down to the “on the ground actions” of our Green Building Council (GBC) network, which is now the strongest it has ever been in terms of market representation and number of Established GBCs. But we know that our sector, like the rest of the world, has many challenges to overcome.

That is why this year we have continued to focus on WorldGBC’s projects and global advocacy to maintain momentum.

In September 2021, our network launched an update to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment to address embodied carbon; a game-changing development for our sector and its ambition to halve emissions by 2030.

By bridging the gap between buildings and infrastructure, we launched the Beyond Buildings report which called for a systemic approach to increasing sustainability in the built environment. In November at COP26, we launched the Beyond the Business Case report, demonstrating the broader value proposition and risk mitigation opportunities of a sustainable built environment.

Heading into 2022, the World Green Building Council is committed to continue to promote our movement as a critical part of the climate change solution and develop opportunities across the network to accelerate sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.
ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Our network’s holistic approach is driving action across three critical impact areas and accelerating decarbonisation and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.
UNITING LEADERS BEHIND ONE AMBITION

WorldGBC convenes built environment leaders to write a letter to COP26 President, Alok Sharma, requesting a Built Environment Day at COP26.

COP26 Presidency responds positively and confirms the development of a Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day at COP26.

Working with the UN High Level Climate Champions and the UK government, WorldGBC plays a leading role in uniting ten influential organisations to form the #BuildingToCOP26 Coalition.

BUILDINGS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST 40% OF GLOBAL ENERGY-RELATED CARBON EMISSIONS AND 50% OF ALL EXTRACTED MATERIALS.

By 2050, 1.6 billion urban dwellers will be regularly exposed to extremely high temperatures and over 800 million people will be vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding.

By 2060, global material use is expected to more than double and a third of this rise is attributable to materials used in the building and construction system.

By 2060, the world’s building stock will double and almost 70% of the global population is projected to live in urban areas.

By 2050, buildings are responsible for almost 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions and 50% of all extracted materials.

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WORLDGBC ANNUAL REPORT 2021
In developing economies, efficient buildings are an investment opportunity worth around $24.7 trillion by 2030.

Despite this, under $3 of every $100 spent on new construction goes to efficient buildings.

Out of the 186 countries that have submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), only 136 countries mention buildings, 53 countries mention building energy efficiency, and 38 specifically call out building energy codes.

Green Building Councils have influence over 81% of the world’s built up area.

WorldGBC expands the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment to address whole life carbon impacts.

For World Green Building Week 2021, the WorldGBC network demonstrates how a sustainable built environment is #BuildingResilience to climate change for people and economies.

WorldGBC plays a leading role in the development and execution of Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day at COP26.

WorldGBC to continue driving climate action through the built environment at COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.
COP26: ELEVATING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Two groundbreaking report launches: Beyond Buildings and Beyond the Business Case

44 businesses join Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment to tackle embodied and operational carbon

22 events and media engagements at COP26

67 press mentions

Over 7 million social media and press reach
The #BuildingToCOP26 Coalition is a group of ten core organisations catalysing climate action in cities, regions and the built environment. The core members of the Coalition are the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, the Resilience Shift, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, C40 Cities and the World Green Building Council.

The Coalition worked closely with the UN High Level Climate Champions and the COP26 Presidency to shape the agenda of the Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day at COP26. To halve the built environment’s emissions by 2030 and establish the built environment as a major solution provider to the climate crisis, the Coalition continues to collaborate towards COP27 and beyond.
4.5 million people reached on social media via the hashtags #WGBW21 and #BuildingResilience

Potential media reach of 3.9 million via 128 media mentions, including publications such as Lexology, Edie and Scottish Construction News

100+ official events across 37 countries

90% GBCs actively participated

61% of our corporate partners participated
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
Sustainable buildings and cities promote human health by encouraging healthy lifestyles, protecting people from harm across the building and construction lifecycle.

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
The construction of sustainable buildings and infrastructure can create jobs, retrain workers and enable a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Sustainable buildings are circular buildings that optimise resource use, result in zero waste to landfill, and support the regeneration of resources and natural systems.

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Sustainable buildings and cities provide equitable and high-quality urban and regional infrastructure that promotes economic development, improves human welfare and cleaner operation as part of a circular economy.

GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Sustainable buildings and cities are created through powerful partnerships that enhance knowledge sharing and ambition across the three pillars of sustainability – planet, people and economies.

GOAL 13: Climate Action
Considering the importance of the longevity of buildings, sustainable buildings support clean energy used efficiently, and sustainable cities work alongside individual buildings to decarbonise public resources and infrastructure, and incorporate future-proofing mechanisms to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change.

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Sustainable buildings can protect scarce water resources, drive water efficiency and improve water quality and sanitation.

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
Sustainable buildings provide access to affordable, reliable and clean-energy for promoting economic development and raising living standards.

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities
Sustainable buildings protect human health and promote a decent standard of living across the full employment and income spectrum, for construction workers and service workers, for women and for the elderly, for addressing energy poverty and ensuring affordable and sustainable living conditions.

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Sustainable cities provide access to high-quality housing and public infrastructure, including urbanisation, social, environmental and economic development.

GOAL 15: Life on Land
Sustainable buildings provide access to nature for everyone and enable nature-based solutions that enhance resilience and support biodiversity and ecosystem services.

To close the environmental, social and economic gaps and protect our planet, people and economies, World Green Building Week 2021 showcased the benefits and opportunities of embracing a holistic approach to sustainability.

Cristina Gamboa, CEO of WorldGBC, outlined how a sustainable built environment can unlock the Sustainable Development Goals and provide powerful solutions to climate change, improve human health and equity and drive a circular, regenerative economy.
This year, we launched a new interview series with leaders across the WorldGBC network called Building Perspective.

Hosted by Cristina Gamboa, CEO, WorldGBC, the conversations showcase global sustainability leadership in the built environment, as well as the human stories behind the success.
Buildings are responsible for 38% of carbon emissions and can increase vulnerability if standards for disaster and climate risk are ignored. By 2050, the world’s building stock will double. This is an opportunity to get things right by embracing a holistic approach to sustainable buildings. Buildings should promote resilience – of the environment, of the people and of the local economy.

The built environment is such an important part of addressing both the causes and impacts of climate change. The Beyond Buildings report highlights the opportunities between buildings and infrastructure to accelerate climate action at the scale and speed demanded by science.

To tackle the climate crisis we need to place climate resilience on par with mitigation. How we design, manage and occupy buildings can do both: building communities and economies which can thrive, not just survive the impact of climate change.

From zero carbon offices in London and climate-ready schools in Lagos, to well-ventilated homes in Vancouver and healthy hospitals in Victoria – the case for green, healthy buildings is clear across the world.

To embed the Health & Wellbeing Framework across the built environment, we are grounding it in the UN’s Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The new Implementation Guide explains how to apply the Framework across the building and construction sector.

Published by WorldGBC with the support of the Dar Group and its member firms, Integral Group, T.Y. Lin, Perkins&Will and Currie & Brown, Beyond Buildings is a new report focussing on the inter-relationship between buildings and infrastructure in our built environment. Urging the real estate sector and supply chain to consider both buildings and infrastructure together, the report advocates for an integrated approach to sustainability in order to achieve sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.
The Net Zero Readiness Framework is a useful first step to help distil the critical success factors and understand the contributory elements that will lead to a successful outcome. This timely framework will enable organisations to map out their own pathways to going zero, identify partners and prepare the necessary resources before embarking on the Net Zero goal.

The latest IPCC report was clear: we need to go faster, eliminate future emissions, and compensate for current and past emissions. The cost of inaction is monumental. WorldGBC’s Advancing Net Zero Commitment shows us how to get there by 2030.

YVONNE SOH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Our Framework has been developed by GBCs in the Asia Pacific region to support industry on their journey to net zero emissions by 2050. The Asia Pacific region makes up 60% of the world’s population, with more than 2 billion people living in urban areas. The next 10 years are critical. The Framework will break down the key elements needed and deliver guidance on how to achieve a decarbonised built environment. In addition, it will signpost where the different markets are leading in this field, or those which are at an earlier stage of their net zero transition.

JORGE CHAPA
HEAD OF MARKET TRANSFORMATION, GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

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ACCELERATING A 1.5°C FUTURE

CATALYSING LEADERSHIP ON WHOLE LIFE CARBON

44 SIGNATORIES ANNOUNCED FOR NET ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS COMMITMENT

TACKLING WHOLE LIFE CARBON

44 businesses signed up to the market-leading, whole life carbon requirements of the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, pledging to take increased action to decarbonise the built environment across their portfolios and business activities, representing an annual turnover of $85 billion.

The updated Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment expands the scope of the climate action required by its signatories, mandating a reduction first approach in tackling both operational and embodied carbon.

By introducing requirements on embodied carbon, the Commitment and its signatories represent a leadership position within the sector, advancing a whole life carbon approach to decarbonising our built environment.

ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICE FOR CARBON OFFSETTING

‘Advancing Net Zero Whole Life Carbon: Offsetting Residual Emissions from the Building and Construction Sector’ outlines WorldGBC’s recommendations for when, how, and why offsetting may be used to advance net zero carbon emissions in the built environment.

CITIES, REGIONS & BUILT ENVIRONMENT DAY AT COP26

With more than 130 events and a series of Presidency sessions with frontrunner Ministers, Mayors and CEOs, the global building and construction industry showcased the ambition, action and deep collaboration across the entire value chain at Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day at COP26. This demonstration of a common vision and collective action helps support the call for more enhanced country-level climate commitments, or Nationally Determined Contributions, and policy frameworks to address emissions from the built environment.

ADVANCING NET ZERO ACROSS THE WORLD

The Advancing Net Zero (ANZ) Status Report 2021 highlights leadership action from GBCs and the building and construction sector towards achieving total sector decarbonisation.

Featuring 27 GBCs participating in WorldGBC’s Global Advancing Net Zero programme, as well as signatories to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, the report outlines net zero trends, innovation on legislative and technological levels, and a myth buster section that addresses common misconceptions about net zero buildings.

ASIA PACIFIC NET ZERO READINESS FRAMEWORK

The Net Zero Readiness Framework is a useful first step to help distil the critical success factors and understand the contributory elements that will lead to a successful outcome. This timely framework will enable organisations to map out their own pathways to going zero, identify partners and prepare the necessary resources before embarking on the Net Zero goal.

YVONNE SOH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
#BuildingLife: Tackling embodied carbon in Europe

THREE EUROPEAN WHOLE LIFE CARBON POLICY ROAD MAPS

GBC Finland, Polish GBC and UKGBC have released national roadmaps. More national roadmaps and a EU level roadmap are set to be released in 2022.

#BUILDINGLIFE

#BuildingLife is a multi-year campaign led by the Europe Regional Network (ERN) that will help to ensure Europe's built environment sector delivers on the ambitions of the EU Green Deal. #BuildingLife is powered by the generous support of the IKEA Foundation and the Laudes Foundation.

Spearheaded by ten European Green Building Councils — Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the UK, the project catalyses a shift in Europe's building policy to tackle the total environmental impacts — both carbon and resource-related — across the entire lifecycle of a building.

Driving the Renovation Wave and tackling energy poverty

OVER 30 CITIES ACCELERATE RENOVATION ACROSS EUROPE

Through a Coalition of eight European Green Building Councils, 32 cities and regions are using or building capacity to implement the BUILD UPON2 Framework.

RENOVATION IMPACT FRAMEWORK

The Framework allows local authorities to track the impact of their renovation schemes and to scale up best practice from the municipal level upwards. It is a crucial tool to deliver the EU’s Renovation Wave, an ambitious plan to at least double the bloc’s renovation rate by 2030, on the local level. In this way, participant cities can help meet the EU Green Deal’s goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

Cities Climate Action Project: scaling better energy efficiency policy in Latin America

FOUR NEW BUILDING EFFICIENCY POLICIES IN COLOMBIA AND MEXICO

Through WorldGBC’s Cities Climate Action Project, four new building resource and energy efficiency policies were implemented in Colombia and Mexico. Bringing together 90 government officials to collaborate with over 100 partners across Latin America, more building efficiency policies are in development across countries such as Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.

CITIES CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

The Cities Climate Action Project is a collaboration of businesses, NGOs and policymakers from across Latin America to accelerate the transition towards decarbonisation. The project was funded by P4G and builds on the Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) platform coordinated by the World Resources Institute (WRI).
I am delighted to support the #BuildingLife campaign. A sustainable future in line with the #EUGreenDeal demands more EU action at EU level to tackle total carbon and resource impacts.

CIARAN CUFFE, MEP, GROUP OF THE GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE, IRELAND

Our buildings can contribute a lot to our common decarbonisation journey. To get the full picture and to do what’s needed, we have to embrace a whole life cycle approach. We support #BuildingLife because it can help change gears when it comes to EU buildings policies.

PIERRE-ANDRÉ DE CHALENDAR, CHAIRMAN & FORMER CEO, SAINT-GOBAIN

The WorldGBC Cities Climate Action Project is a true example of what partnerships can achieve. It demonstrates that when the governments and the private sector collaborate towards a common goal, in this case an energy efficient built environment which will sustain our way of life, revolutionary change can happen.

We are proud supporters of the Cities Climate Action Project and the BEA platform. The next step for this partnership is creating green finance products and institutionalising GBCs and codes into not only energy efficient buildings but also net zero homes. There is a huge opportunity to create the radical change we need to achieve sustainable cities.

IAN DE CRUZ, GLOBAL DIRECTOR, P4G (PARTNERING FOR GREEN GROWTH AND GLOBAL GOALS 2030)

Green and sustainable buildings could solve 50% of resource efficiency and 40% of climate challenge and ensure better living conditions. Let’s do it!

SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN, MEP, EUROPEAN PEOPLE’S PARTY GROUP, FINLAND

Accelerating industry, regulators and investors towards a net-zero carbon built environment is critical - and we must tackle emissions across the whole building life cycle if we’re serious about it. Laudes Foundation is proud to support the World Green Building Council’s pioneering work: developing clear roadmaps with industry, shifting policies to tackle embodied carbon, and accelerating investor action on this agenda.

JAMES DRINKWATER, HEAD OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT, LAUDES FOUNDATION

A key priority for the European Commission, the EU Taxonomy aims to develop a European financial system which can accelerate a transition towards a sustainable economy.

WorldGBC is one of 50 cross-sector experts appointed to the European Platform for Sustainable Finance to help implement the EU Taxonomy.

Experts from across the Europe Regional Network have drafted proposals for criteria on circular economy and biodiversity. When finalised, these targets will support the financial sector in contributing to environmental objectives through taxonomy-based activities. These targets will be critical in taking the sector forward in sustainability.

WorldGBC is committed to working with other members of the Sustainable Finance Platform to ensure that the Taxonomy supports the total decarbonisation of the built environment and unlocks the power of the financial sector to help make sustainable built environments available for everyone everywhere.

STEPHEN RICHARDSON, DIRECTOR, EUROPE REGIONAL NETWORK, WORLDGBC

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OUR INFLUENCE
2020-2021

Over 2,300 press mentions
Forbes
The Guardian
Bloomberg Green
FINANCIAL TIMES

Over 190 speaking events

Over 7 million social media and press reach

Over 8 million social media and press reach

CRISTINA GAMBOA AT DAVOS DIALOGUES 2021 "BUILDING NET ZERO CITIES"

# BUILDING TO COP26

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRESS REACH
OUR GREEN BUILDING COUNCILS

ESTABLISHED - OUR HIGHEST CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP

EMERGING

PROSPECTIVE

AFFILIATE PARTNERS
71 members and two affiliates

1000+ staff at GBCs

Approximately 36,000 members

48,176 people trained in 2020

175,896 people attended GBC events in 2020

477,448 newsletter subscribers

33 countries have had government policy or regulation changed in the past 12 months as a result of their GBCs involvement

4.2 billion m² of green building space certified cumulatively

All figures are based on responses from the 2021 Member Value and Impact survey completed by GBCs in September 2021 and cover the time span of a year unless noted otherwise.

Maria Fernanda Aguirre
Chile Green Building Council

Cary Chan
Hong Kong Green Building Council

Alicja Kuczera
Polish Green Building Council

Raji Hattar
Jordan Green Building Council

Elizabeth Wangeci Chege
Kenya Green Building Society

Pamela Castellan
Guatemala Green Building Council

Anand Muthukrishnan
Indian Green Building Council

Marco Caffi
Green Building Council Italia

Dr. Ali Aljassim
Emirates Green Building Council

Lisa Reynolds
Green Building Council South Africa

Our GBCs in Numbers

Regional Networks

Americas
Asia Pacific
Europe
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
Africa
Our Established GBC CEO Network convenes nearly 40 CEOs to share the leadership insight driving our network’s achievements and strategy.

Guillermo Simon-Prados, CEO
Argentina Green Building Council

Peter Engert, CEO
Austrian Green Building Council

Thomas Mueller, President
Canada Green Building Council

Maria Fernanda, CEO
Chile Green Building Council

Viviana Valdivieso, CEO
Colombia Green Building Council

Dean Smolar, CEO
Croatia Green Building Council

Annamarie van Doorn, CEO
Dutch Green Building Council

Dr. Waleed Yagoub, Operations Director
Emirates Green Building Council

Estelle Réveillard, CEO
France Green Building Council

Christine Lemaitre, CEO
German Sustainable Building Council

Davina Rooney, CEO
Green Building Council Australia

Felipe Faria, CEO
Green Building Council Brasil

Nicolas Ramirez, CEO
Green Building Council Costa Rica

Dolores Huerta, CEO
Green Building Council Espana

Mikko Nousiainen, CEO
Green Building Council Finland

Surendro, CEO
Green Building Council Indonesia

Marco Caffi, CEO
Green Building Council Italia

Lisa Reynolds, CEO
Green Building Council South Africa

Pamela Castellan, CEO
Guatemala Green Building Council

Cary Chan, Executive Director
Hong Kong Green Building Council

Henrietta Budai, Executive Director
Hungary Green Building Council

Anand Muthukrishnan, Deputy Director
General, Indian Green Building Council

Pat Barry, Executive Director
Irish Green Building Council

Hind Hadidi, Team Leader
Jordan Green Building Council

SoYeon Kang, General Director
Korea Green Building Council

Chee Khoay Tang, CEO
Malaysia Green Building Council

Andrew Eagles, CEO
New Zealand Green Building Council

Katharina Bramslev, CEO
Norwegian Green Building Council

Aqrab Ali Rana, CEO
Pakistan Green Building Council

Francesca Mayer, CEO
Peru Green Building Council

Christopher De La Cruz, CEO
Philippine Green Building Council

Alicja Kuczera, CEO
Polish Green Building Council

Yvonne Soh, Executive Director
Singapore Green Building Council

Lotta Werner Flyborg, CEO
Sweden Green Building Council

Chenyi Justin, Sec-Gen (CEO)
Taiwan Green Building Council

Engin Isiltan, Executive Director
Turkish Green Building Council

Julie Hirigoyen, CEO
UK Green Building Council

Taryn Holowka, SVP Marketing, Communications & Advocacy, US Green Building Council
OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

WorldGBC would like to say a huge thank you to all our partners from around the world for their ongoing commitment to our work, generous financial support and shared expertise.

With your support, you ensure that we accelerate sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.

GRANT PROVIDERS

IKEA Foundation  Laudes Foundation  WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION  European Climate Foundation

GLOBAL PROJECT & REGIONAL PARTNERS

AGC  ASSA ABLOY  BASF  Buro Happold Engineering  CBRE  Johnson Controls  HeidelbergCement  Kingspan  Knauf Insulation  Jardiance  Mott MacDonald  Saint-Gobain

ACTIVITY PARTNERS

DARGROUP  EVORA  Foster + Partners  Multiplex  Shaw Contract

CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD

AkzoNobel  Carrier  Citi  Dev_Report  Fodor  Google  Holcim  JLL  Multiplex  Saint-Gobain  Siemens  Signify  Swire Properties  Suj

WORLDGBC ANNUAL REPORT 2021
We believe in strong governance and accountability – to our mission, to the green building movement, and to our member Green Building Councils.

And this is the role of our Board of Directors, a group of highly experienced building industry professionals who are closely affiliated with our Established members or hold senior positions on their staff or Boards.

On June 1, 2021, five new Directors joined our Board - Habiba Al Marashi, Elizabeth Wangeci Chege, Michael Brooks, Rachel Skinner and Hastings Chikoko.
CRISTINA GAMBOA,  
CEO, WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

As proud members of the United Nations Global Compact, our strategy is deeply aligned with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ten principles of the Global Compact.

Through the work of our global and regional projects, implemented by our 71 national Green Building Councils and two Affiliates, we accelerate on-the-ground action to accelerate sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.

Our work is in full alignment with the four themes of the Global Compact Principles — Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption — and we express our continued commitment to the Global Compact on behalf of the WorldGBC network.

How WorldGBC’s ambition aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals

The WorldGBC network will be publicly reporting progress as a member of the UN Global Compact. Our tiered goals show the areas that our global network will focus on to enable a profound shift towards sustainable development.

Advanced Goals: Sustainability areas with key role for the built environment sector to act upon. Global projects run by WorldGBC, and Established national GBC action.

Progressive Goals: Sustainability areas substantially impacted by the built environment. Prioritised action in some GBC network areas. WorldGBC aims to progress.

Growth Targets: Sustainability areas with contributory role for the built environment. WorldGBC aims to progress work in partnership with key stakeholders.
HUMAN RIGHTS

Global Compact Principles 1 & 2
We advocate for the support and respect of the protection of human rights through the buildings and construction lifecycle through our members and the wider industry. Equity is a core theme in our strategy, and we call for advancing worker welfare and human rights as described within WorldGBC’s Health & Wellbeing Framework (see Principle 5). Within this work, we also present our commitment to principles 4-6, through specific calls for the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, child labour, and discrimination across the built environment industry.

In our Beyond the Business Case report, we present social value as an essential component of the value proposition for investors and stakeholders in the real estate sector.

LABOUR

Global Compact Principles 3, 4, 5 & 6
Across our network of Green Building Councils and partners, we uphold the freedom of association through a collaborative membership model, encouraging integration, communication and deep collaboration for all actors across the value chain.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Compact Principles 7, 8 & 9
Through the WorldGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, 44 businesses committed to reducing both operational and embodied carbon. This action is actively encouraging the development and dissemination of environmentally friendly technologies and accelerating decarbonisation across the built environment.

A precautionary approach, as advocated by Global Compact Principle 7, underpins all research and thought leadership released across the WorldGBC network. Our Beyond Buildings report calls for a widening of this approach to sustainability to consider infrastructure alongside our buildings.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Global Compact Principles 10
Through robust governance by WorldGBC’s Board, a comprehensive membership model and strict requirements for both members and partners, we actively work against corruption in all forms — in both our own activities, but also across the diverse sectors of the built environment, real estate and construction supply chains.
Financial Overview

Despite a challenging year for the global economy, WorldGBC experienced one of its best years in 2020, due to resilient financial management, programmatic innovation and successful grant fundraising. The increase in grant revenue enabled WorldGBC to support member GBCs through direct funding and provided much needed flexibility and space to focus on programmatic work and strategic objectives. WorldGBC was able to increase its investment in its programme services creating value for our network and supporting members through enhanced delivery for our community via global and regional projects, regional networks and campaigns.

Financial Activities

In 2020 WorldGBC’s revenue totalled US$4.85 million, a figure that represents a growth of 78.2% compared to 2019. Revenue from grants grew +200% to US$3.2 million and the organisation was able to maintain corporate sponsorship and membership fees revenue comparable to 2019.

In that same year, the organisation’s expenditure increased by 44% over 2019 to US$3.96 million. Our resources were mainly dedicated to support our members through programme services like global and regional projects, and through our diverse networks. 47.2% of total expenses (US$1.87 million) were funds on-granted to GBCs participating in the #BuildingLife project and the Cities Climate Action project and supporting regional network meetings.

Auditor’s Opinion and Further Information

KPMG, WorldGBC’s auditor, issued an unqualified opinion on WorldGBC’s 2020 audited financial statements on 16 June, 2021. Our members can obtain copies of the complete audited financial statements by contacting the WorldGBC team.

The financial information presented in this annual report has been derived, by WorldGBC management, from those audited financial statements.

Financial Position

WorldGBC ended 2020 with US$1,334,732 in unrestricted net assets, a figure that increased by US$31,344 compared to 2019 and represents 33.7% of total expenses. WorldGBC remained compliant with the Cash Management Policy which requires that the organisation should retain at least the equivalent of a minimum of 33% of its annual expenses in unrestricted net assets to cover for risks.

Distribution of Revenue 2020

Distribution of Revenue 2019

Distribution of Expenses 2020
JOIN US IN CATALYSING SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

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Belgique