

# What is a Sustainable Built Environment?

**We are living in a period of environmental breakdown: a climate emergency, mass biodiversity loss, pollution, extinction, the over-utilisation of natural resources and a global waste crisis.**

Worldwide, **buildings** are responsible for around **40%** of energy and **process-related CO2 emissions**, 50% of all extracted materials, 33% of water consumption and 35% of generated waste. Other environmental impacts include resource depletion; air, water and land pollution and biodiversity loss.

By 2050, the global population will increase 27% to 9.8 billion, and by 2060 global building floor area is expected to double, catapulting all of the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the built environment.

With such a significant impact, it is critical that the built environment plays its part in delivering the transformative change needed to decarbonise our global economy. Not only are sustainable built environments a critical solution to climate change, they also help create resilient, thriving communities, and drive economic growth.

Collectively, the World Green Building Council network is transforming the building and construction sector across three impact areas – climate action, health & wellbeing, and resources & circularity. Find out more about our strategy 'Sustainable Buildings for Everyone, Everywhere' and Our Mission.