CIBSE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Draft, Revision 2, July 2019

Recent events and reports make it clear that we collectively need to do more to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. In the UK, this means at the very least responding to the Committee on Climate Change recommendations that the UK should achieve net zero status by 2050.

CIBSE’s activities are driven by its charitable mission. CIBSE have long been active on the topic of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and linking it to building performance. To increase our efforts, we have mapped our current and planned activities in the areas where we have a duty and the ability to act as professional institution.

This climate action plan has been informed by discussion with members and outside organisations. We are very keen to involve our members, other professional institutions and the wider industry. Please send us your thoughts on our proposals, how we could help you, and where you could support our activities, at technical@cibse.org

AS A PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION

- Code of Professional Conduct: https://www.cibse.org/about-cibse/governance/the-code-of-professional-conduct. This includes: “Members shall promote the principles of sustainability and seek to prevent avoidable adverse impacts on the environment and Society”
- Collaboration on industry-wide guidance e.g. RIBA Plan of Work and Green Overlay
- Signatory to cross-industry pledge coordinated by the Edge, committing us to urgent and concerted action on climate change: http://www.edgedebate.com/?p=3577
- Increase awareness of the Code of Conduct
- Adopt a common reporting standard across professional institutions e.g. The Edge standard http://www.edgedebate.com/?page_id=3562
- Engage with international organisations on sustainability e.g. Built Environment Advisory Group

KEY

- What we currently do
- Further activity, already planned
- Possible further activity, to be explored
- Collaboration with others

PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH - OUR BALHAM OFFICE

- Disclosure: Display Energy Certificate
- Energy efficiency measures and energy monitoring
- Fuel cell since 2015: http://www.cibseblog.co.uk/2016/07/small-is-beautiful.html
- Sustainability policy covering our activities, events, premises, staff, procurement, and transport: https://www.cibse.org/about-cibse/cibse-sustainability-policy
- Planned improvements to our existing buildings, for better summer comfort, health and wellbeing of staff
- Better utilise the opportunities of Balham to test and demonstrate improvements in the performance of existing buildings

EDUCATION

- CIBSE accreditation of engineering courses, including criteria covering low-carbon design
- CIBSE support to the RAEng Centres of Excellence in sustainable building design – see https://www.cibse.org/RAEng-Centres-of-Excellence-in-Sustainable-Building
- Re-invigorate the RAEng Centres for Excellence
- Increase prominence of low-carbon buildings and climate adaptation in CIBSE course accreditation
EVENTS, DISSEMINATION AND AWARDS
- Regular reporting on low-carbon buildings in CIBSE Journal, blog, newsletter and on website
- Regular CIBSE events on low-carbon buildings
- Since 2012, requirement for in-use performance data for the CIBSE awards
- Initial steps with RIBA to better align the sustainability criteria in our awards
  - Increase our coverage of retrofit design & skills
  - Seek opportunities to further encourage and reward the monitoring, disclosure and sharing of building performance data e.g. through our awards or energy benchmarks platform
  - Seek more alignment with other institutions on sustainability awards e.g. with RIBA on operational performance, with IStructE and ICE on embodied impacts

POLICY FRAMEWORK
- Regular engagement with policy consultations including Building Regulations, retrofit, energy efficiency, low-carbon heat, climate adaptation
- Position statements e.g. Building Regulations Part L, overheating
- Members of Part L, Part F and overheating working groups for the 2019 Building Regulations review
- Collaboration with other institutions to align our policy recommendations where possible e.g. Green Building Council, LETI
- Update our policy statements on zero carbon buildings, climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Seek more opportunities to collaborate with others to send consistent policy messages e.g. with RTPI on planning & climate change, RAEng on data sharing and disclosure, RICS on valuing sustainability and encouraging more focus on operational outcomes in asset valuation

COMPETENCE AND TRAINING
- Regular training and CPDs covering climate change, low-carbon buildings, and building performance
- Low-carbon consultant and Low Carbon Energy Assessor certification schemes
- Joint training with Green Register on collaborative design and overheating risk
  - Review training programme in line with new technical guidance
  - Explore further opportunities for multi-disciplinary training with other organisations e.g. retrofit, professional ethics
  - Introduce mandatory CPDs on climate change and zero-carbon buildings

RESEARCH
https://www.cibse.org/knowledge/research
- Research on low-carbon buildings, climate change adaptation, and future weather files
- Updated energy benchmarks and benchmarking tool to encourage continuous improvement
- Continuous review of research areas to align with needs for future guidance, in collaboration with other research organisations e.g. retrofit, circular economy, fuel cells, hydrogen boilers, energy benchmarks for low carbon buildings
- BSERT Special Issues e.g. zero carbon, retrofit

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE
- Extensive guidance on low-energy and low-carbon buildings; upcoming publications include the revised Code of Practice for heat networks (CP1) and revised Guide L- Sustainability, 2019
- Coverage of climate change adaptation in existing guidance and weather files
- Collaboration with RIBA: input to upcoming RIBA sustainability outcomes
- Collaboration with others on guidance e.g. BSI on standards for retrofit and building performance evaluation
- Work with others to harmonise our recommended building performance outcomes
- Extend our guidance in low-carbon buildings, with priority themes including:
  - Defining and achieving low embodied and whole life carbon, in collaboration with others including UK-GBC, RICS, IStructE
  - Building simulation
  - Hot water temperatures for low-carbon heat
  - Heat pumps
  - Heat networks: low-temperature, ambient loops, and low-carbon network retrofits
  - Demand management
  - Reducing plant requirements for demand management and lower embodied carbon
- Retrofit – in collaboration with others
- Collaborate with others for guidance on trees and green infrastructure, and how they can contribute to climate mitigation, adaptation and wider sustainability outcomes e.g. with TDAG, Landscape Institute
- Produce a Code of Practice for zero carbon buildings