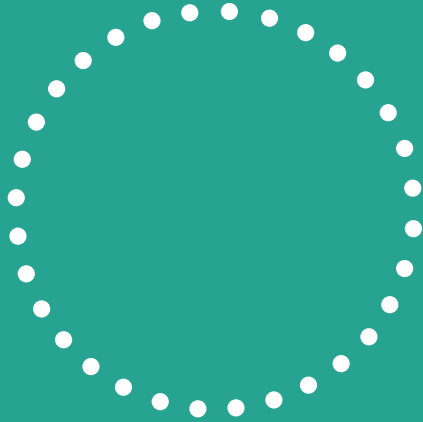
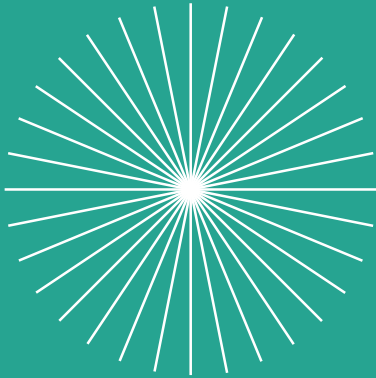




A CIRCULAR REVOLUTION



UK Architects Declare
Climate & Biodiversity
Emergency

A call to action to
galvanise momentum for a
circular built environment

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STRUCTURE TONE

CALL TO ACTION!

Welcome to Architects Declare's **Circular Revolution**. This event represents the beginning of our campaign to unite industry leaders and demonstrate to government and policy-makers that the built environment sector is ready to lead the transition to a circular economy.



Looking back over the last 25-years, a lot has been achieved since the London Eye was completed, examples include:

- **UK Climate Change Act** (2008)- the first national law in the world to set legally binding emissions reduction targets.
- A **1000% increase in landfill tax** standard rate since 2000.
- The Paris Agreement 2015, COP21.
- The **2021 London Plan**- one of the first planning frameworks to require Circular Economy Statements for major developments.
- **Coal phased-out** as part of the clean energy transition (2024).



The Circular Economy Taskforce will soon publish its 10-year strategy for England, developing a Built Environment Roadmap. This is **a critical moment to act**.

- **What policies could the government enact to facilitate a faster transition to circularity?**
- **What can we do, from our positions of influence, to move towards a circular economy?**



The UK has achieved its net zero goal. Material flows are closed loops, no building is wasted, and cities and towns are regenerative rather than deplete the planet.

The construction sector is responsible for **50% of all raw material extraction** globally, and **62% of material waste** in the UK. Without urgent action, this linear “take-make-waste” model will continue to drive ecological damage and resource insecurity and put us on track to exceed our legally binding carbon emission reduction targets.

The waste generated by the UK construction sector in a single year could fill the River Thames from Imperial Wharf to the Thames Barrier.



Whilst some of this is recovered, much of it leaves the construction sector, devalued, downcycled and flowing into other sectors, often sent overseas. This leaves the UK construction sector bringing in more and more virgin materials, contributing to increasing carbon emissions and ecological degradation.



Why a circular revolution?



Construction generates over **62 percent** of the UK's material waste.



Embodied carbon remains **unregulated** despite its huge impact.



Material extraction drives **ecological degradation** worldwide.



Thousands of **buildings stand empty** while towns decline through neglect.

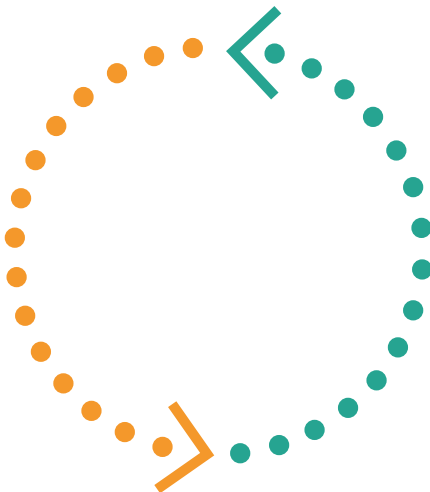
To shift course, we need both **top-down policy interventions** and **bottom-up industry innovation**:

Top down

The national government must set the direction with clear regulation, incentives, and investment.

Bottom up

The built environment sector and institutions must consolidate best practice, share knowledge, innovate, and demonstrate what “good circular buildings” look like in practice.



The benefits of a circular built environment

A fully circular construction sector is not only possible - it offers **transformational opportunities** that align with government missions:



Boost economic growth through resource efficiency and innovation.



Create **green jobs** nationwide, supporting skills development and local economies.



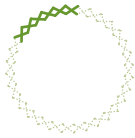
Strengthen **resource security** against volatile global supply chains.



Revive and **retrofit empty buildings** making them fit for a decarbonised future.



Accelerate **progress to net zero** while eliminating construction waste.



Help meet housing needs including the ambition to **deliver 1.5 million homes**.

Top-down

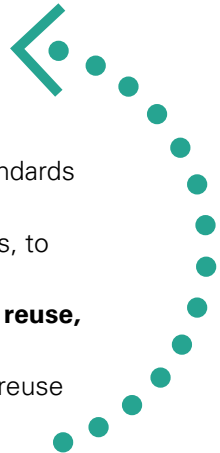
Government action can rapidly shift market conditions.

What would be your top 'ask'?



- Providing **financial incentives and tax reforms** to support reuse and circular practices and innovation.
- Embedding circular economy principles into **planning and regulation** including adopting the Circular Economy hierarchy in the NPPF and implementing embodied carbon regulations (Part Z).
- Leveraging **public procurement** to prioritise circular construction and catalyse innovation.

- Investment to **upskill the sector** to design, construct, and disassemble within a circular hierarchy.
- Develop **consistent targets, metrics**, benchmarks, and standards (circular economy statements, material passports).
- **Pioneer** the use of reclaimed, regenerative, natural materials, to decarbonise construction.
- Establish insurance models and life-cycle costing that **value reuse, refurbishment, and regenerative material choices**.
- Build common **marketplaces and material banks** to scale reuse and resource-efficient material flows across projects.



Bottom-up

Industry leadership is essential to turn policy ambition into practical delivery.

What 'pledge' will your organisation make?

Our big vision

UK Architects Declare is a charity and **network of over 1,400 UK signatory practices** committed to tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. It is part of the global umbrella **Built Environment Declares**, spanning 8,000+ practices across 28 countries.

We call for **systemic change in the built environment** to operate within planetary limits and enable future generations to flourish.

Thirty years of sustainable design hasn't delivered the systemic change we need. This is why we advocate for a **fundamental shift toward circular and regenerative models**, underpinned by scale, ambition, and collective will.

Through advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and policy frameworks, we aim to shift the sector toward a regenerative and thriving future for all.

To find out more about Architects Declare and our campaigns visit:

Architects Declare: uk.architectsdeclare.com

Building Blocks Manifesto: buildingblocks-manifesto.co.uk

This is only the start - stay in touch

The circular transition is no longer optional - it is the key to securing our future prosperity, resilience, and climate goals. By acting together- government, industry, and institutions- we can kick-start a Circular Revolution and ensure the built environment becomes a driver of renewal, not depletion.

We invite you to work with us in piloting and scaling solutions to make our pledges a reality.

Contact circularrevolution@architectsdeclare.com to continue the conversation. Together we can accelerate the shift to a circular built environment.

Thank you

A proportion of the funds raised at our event on October 14 2025 will be reinvested into industry initiatives that accelerate this transformation, and we'd like to thank our sponsors and supporters for their generous donations:

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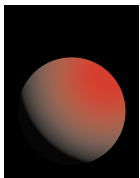


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