

A CIRCULAR REVOLUTION



Architects Declare launched **A Circular Revolution** on 14 October 2025, bringing together over 400 industry professionals across the 32 pods of the London Eye.

Representatives from more than **250 organisations** - including developers, contractors, architects, engineers, surveyors, demolition specialists, NGOs, activists and consultants - gathered to pledge action, share knowledge and shape the future of a circular built environment.

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.

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**.

Our Overarching Aim

To accelerate a circular construction economy that drastically reduces waste, minimises dependence on virgin materials, and enables a regenerative built environment.



UK Architects Declare
**Climate & Biodiversity
Emergency**

 **Get involved**

A call to action

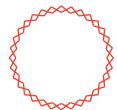
Architects Declare opened the event with our **call to action**, setting out the critical need for systemic change. Alongside our sponsors- **Marks Barfield**, **Mace**, **StructureTone** and **Lazari** - we heard keynote contributions from **Professor Paul Ekins**, Deputy Chair of the Government's Circular Economy Taskforce, and **Duncan Baker-Brown**, architect and circular economy pioneer.

The audience heard about some of the best practice currently happening in our industry, as well as emerging government policy to be published in the forthcoming Circular Economy Strategy. Priority areas include:



Embedding circularity in the public sector

- Leverage procurement frameworks to promote circular practice.
- Integrate circular principles into planning and development decisions.
- Stimulate innovation through funding, collaboration and clear national standards.



Driving circular resource use

- Introduce consistent standards to measure and reduce embodied and whole-life carbon.
- Standardise material and product data.
- Improve the evidence base for soil reuse.



Incentives and the wider policy landscape

- Reshape the tax system to reward circularity.
- Support material reuse and low-carbon supply chains through grants and incentives.

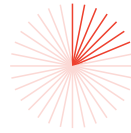


Get involved



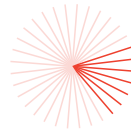
Asks of government from industry

Strong areas of consensus emerged across all pods including:



Financial & Tax Incentives

- Reduce VAT on refurbishment, reconditioning and reused materials.
- Add VAT to construction of new buildings to rebalance the market.
- Provide funding for circular innovation and low-carbon material scale-up



Legislation & Regulation

- Implement Part Z- the new proposed Building Regulations for embodied carbon- to regulate embodied carbon and thus incentivise reuse and circularity.
- Fast-track planning applications for reuse and retrofit schemes.
- Establish a presumption in favour of retention and require minimum % reuse.
- Strengthen landfill and waste legislation to prevent reusable materials being discarded.
- Articulate national messaging and leadership to drive consistency at all levels and all nations.



Data & Accountability

- Create coherent national and regional data systems.
- Enable transparent carbon accounting.
- Require post-occupancy evaluation on circular commitments.



Education & Skills

- Fund training across all levels of the industry.
- Build capacity for reuse, deconstruction and refurbishment.
- Support cultural change beyond compliance.



Market development & infrastructure

- Incentivise material banks and marketplaces.
- Share best practice and case studies.
- Clarify liability for reused materials.
- Address procurement and insurance barriers.

Pledges from industry

Participants made over a hundred pledges. The top five included:

Prioritise building reuse & treat materials as assets

Make reuse the default choice, treat every building and material as a valuable asset to be retained, recovered or repurposed.

Unlock creativity to embed circularity early

Integrate design for deconstruction, adaptability and early material assessments from the earliest workstages.

Share knowledge, data and case studies openly

Adopt radical transparency and reciprocity across the sector - sharing methods, data, successes and failures to accelerate learning.

Build the re-use markets and infrastructure

Support material banks, marketplaces, material passports and viable commercial models for reuse.

Upskill the sector & advocate with one voice

Invest in skills and training, and work collectively to push for strong policy, standards and cultural change.

AHMM Collaborate to educate and facilitate a circular economy through data sharing and knowledge building.

Biohm Raise consciousness about circular economy; community-based projects; address social and cultural dimensions beyond material flows.

Bioregional Procure, design, and record materials so they can be reused.

Buro Happold Work together to better value 'reuse' (covers buildings and products, getting better at 'selling' reuse, moving reuse of materials to a formalised system).

Futurebuild Create full supply chain of reclaimed and regenerative materials over 3 years; build infrastructure to reuse stone; collaborate across projects.

Gleeds Proactively engage professional bodies, membership groups, and activist/campaign groups to contribute to circular economy agenda; support guidance and draft policy for government adoption.

Great Portland Estates Share 'how-to' case studies openly, including successes and failures.

Grosvenor Capture data on % of retained structure and materials on projects.

Haworth Tompkins Build on our track record of working with existing buildings and material re-use, undertake retrofit feasibility studies and pre-deconstruction audits on every one of our projects.

Individuals (general industry) Unite as one voice; promote secondary raw materials and reuse; commit to design for deconstruction; avoid using virgin steel; bake reuse into processes; cost transparency; demonstrate value; participate in case studies and knowledge sharing.

IStructE Continue leadership on Part Z, and to promote the circular economy consultation to our members when it launches.

Kenotek Recycle 42 million tons of construction demolition waste to make 2 million bricks.

Lawmens Ensure that every strip-out and demolition project achieves the highest possible level of material reuse, backed by transparent and meaningful data for our clients.

Lazari We will ensure we donate materials on our projects for reuse.

Lichfields Raise circularity with clients and design teams early; ensure Circular Economy Statement is commissioned early; share intelligence between teams to promote material sharing.

Maccleanor Lavington Increase adoption of material passports; promote adaptable buildings; engage contractors early; embed circular economy principles; reform outdated standards; support safe timber use.

Mace Treat every material as an asset; collaborate; track data; explore alternative materials.

Marks Barfield Build time into programmes to allow full consideration of reuse options; cost transparency across supply chain; include principles of design for deconstruction in baseline briefs; update RIBA stages to include material reuse; company policy to not use virgin steel; demonstrate economic, social, and environmental value of reuse.

Material Index Wider reporting on % retained, reused and recycled (accurate pre-deconstruction audits). More enforcement of existing waste legislation, and accurate reporting on where waste ends up. A shocking amount is illegally dumped and seeing the mountains of waste the industry generates is a huge driver for change.

MPA UK Concrete / The Concrete Centre Set reuse target per project with minimum % implementation by cost.

Purcell Share lessons and promote skills from the heritage sector that can help scale the transition to a circular economy.

Ramboll Create transparent business cases considering sustainability from the outset.

Skanska Educate and influence real estate and letting agents to embrace retention of existing buildings.

StructureTone Open knowledge and education; understand the 'why' behind tasks; 50% reduction in raw materials by 2030; sensitive design and responsible sourcing; favour reuse and material banks.

Useful Simple Trust Minimise the use of materials through early-stage design choices around site allocation, setting of requirements and briefing, and work more closely with our clients to do so.

Next steps for Architects Declare

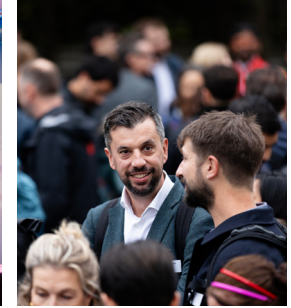
Our Overarching Aim: To accelerate a circular construction economy in the UK that drastically reduces waste, minimises dependence on virgin materials, and enables a regenerative built environment that supports both people and nature. To do this we will support further industry action around two objectives:

1. Create a united industry response to Government policy frameworks that will accelerate a circular construction economy

- Build on feedback from A Circular Revolution and industry engagement activities to prioritise the sector's top policy asks, uniting the industry with one clear voice.
- Engage proactively with leaders across the sector and with government to share insights and influence decision-making.

2. Grow the business ecosystem for circularity in construction

- Collate and share examples of best practice and case studies.
- Demonstrate the financial benefits and financial structures underpinning a circular economy.
- Engage private-sector clients, manufacturers and wider industry actors to promote take-back schemes, stimulate demand for reused materials, and drive investment in reuse infrastructure and circular supply chains.
- Engage the public sector to pilot ambitious local policies relating to reuse and circularity, embedding local infrastructure and procurement methods, and sharing knowledge.
- Participate in the Zero Waste stage at Futurebuild 2026 to champion circular construction, build industry momentum, and collaborate with partners to track and share progress on pledges.



● Get involved

- Provide case studies that demonstrate best practice, lessons learnt, financial structures and financial benefits.
- Announce, track and share your progress on your pledges.

● Submit your case studies

- Pledge progress for a chance to be showcased at **Futurebuild 2026**, highlighting ambitious, visible, and best-in-class examples of circular construction in action.
- Email hello@architectsdeclare.com

Thank you

Sponsors

Lazari

 mace

 marks barfield
architects

 STRUCTURE TONE

Supporters

AHMM
Biohm
Bioregional
Buro Happold
Future Build
Gleeds
Great Portland Estate
Grovesnor
Howarth Tompkins
Lawmens
Litchfields
Maccreehan Lavington
Material Index
MPA UK Concrete & The Concrete Centre
Purcell
Ramboll
Skanska
Sustainable Ventures
Useful Simple Trust

Collaborators

ACAN
Aldersgate Group
ASBP
Baker Brown Studio
Built By Nature
Built Environment Declares
Circular DoTank
Don't Waste Buildings
Engineers Reuse Collective
Etsaw Ventures
Peers for the Planet
SDF
The Edge
Wellbeing Economy Alliance

Photography

© Studio Egret West
© Richard Battye



UK Architects Declare
**Climate & Biodiversity
Emergency**

