



## Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Whole Life Carbon & ESG:  
WLCA, GRESB, BREEAM,  
LEED, NABERS, CRREM & SBTi

5 April 2024

Andrew Knight

Global Lead, AI, Data & Tech

Thought Leadership & Analysis

# Who are RICS?

- Global Professional Body, Standard Setter & Regulator
- 110k members
- Setting technical and conduct standards
- Working across the built and natural environment
- Working across the complete land and property lifecycle
- Working across land, residential, commercial, alternative and infrastructure assets
- Valuing real estate, businesses, intangibles, plant and machinery, personal property, and arts and antiques

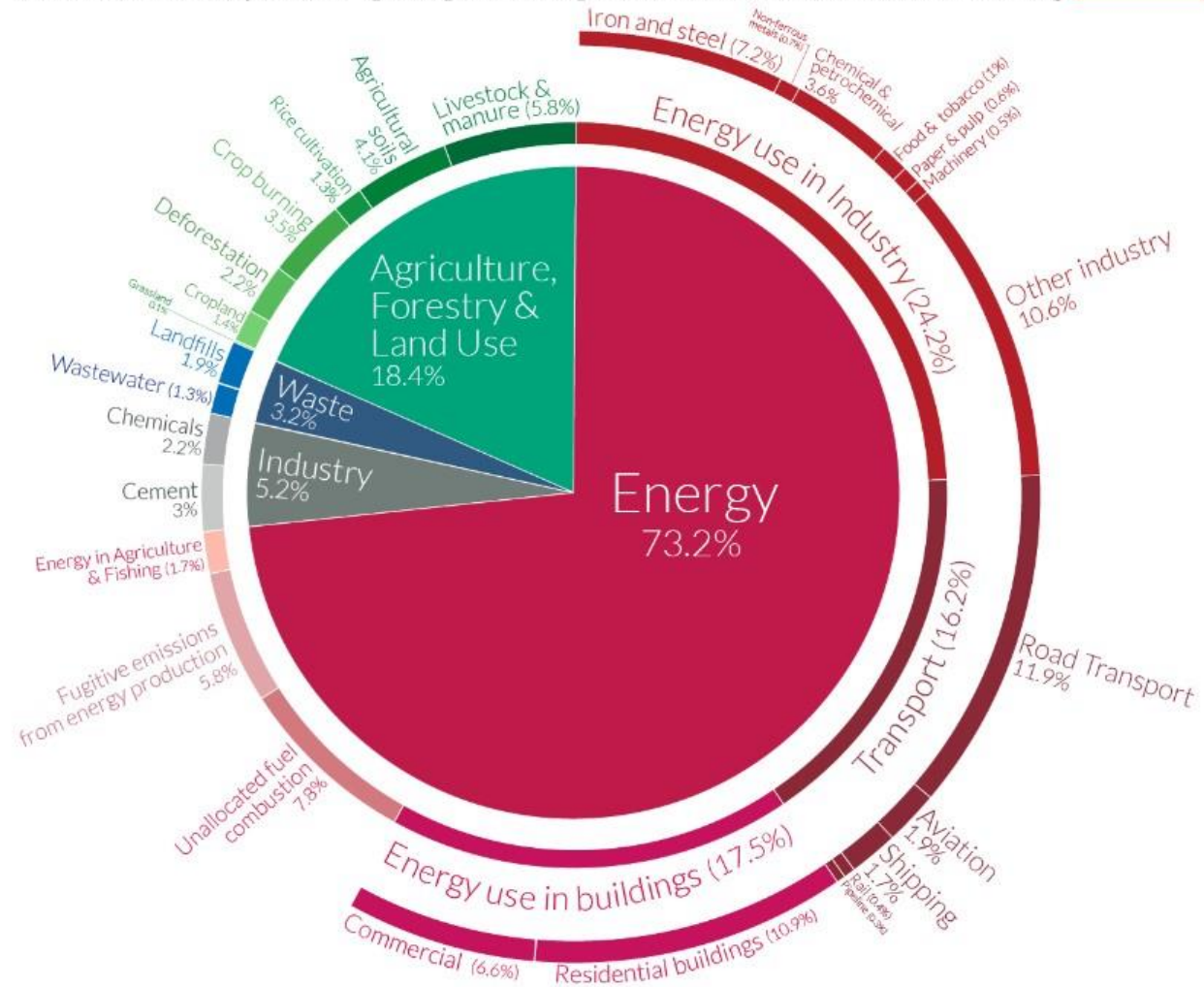


# Why Whole Life Carbon?

## Global greenhouse gas emissions by sector

Our World  
in Data

This is shown for the year 2016 – global greenhouse gas emissions were 49.4 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq.



# Market Drivers

- Occupier Demand
- Flight to Quality
- Maintaining rental and capital value
- Avoiding stranded assets
- It is the right thing to do!



# Regulatory Drivers

- 'Fit By 55':

- Under the European Climate Law, the EU committed to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030

- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

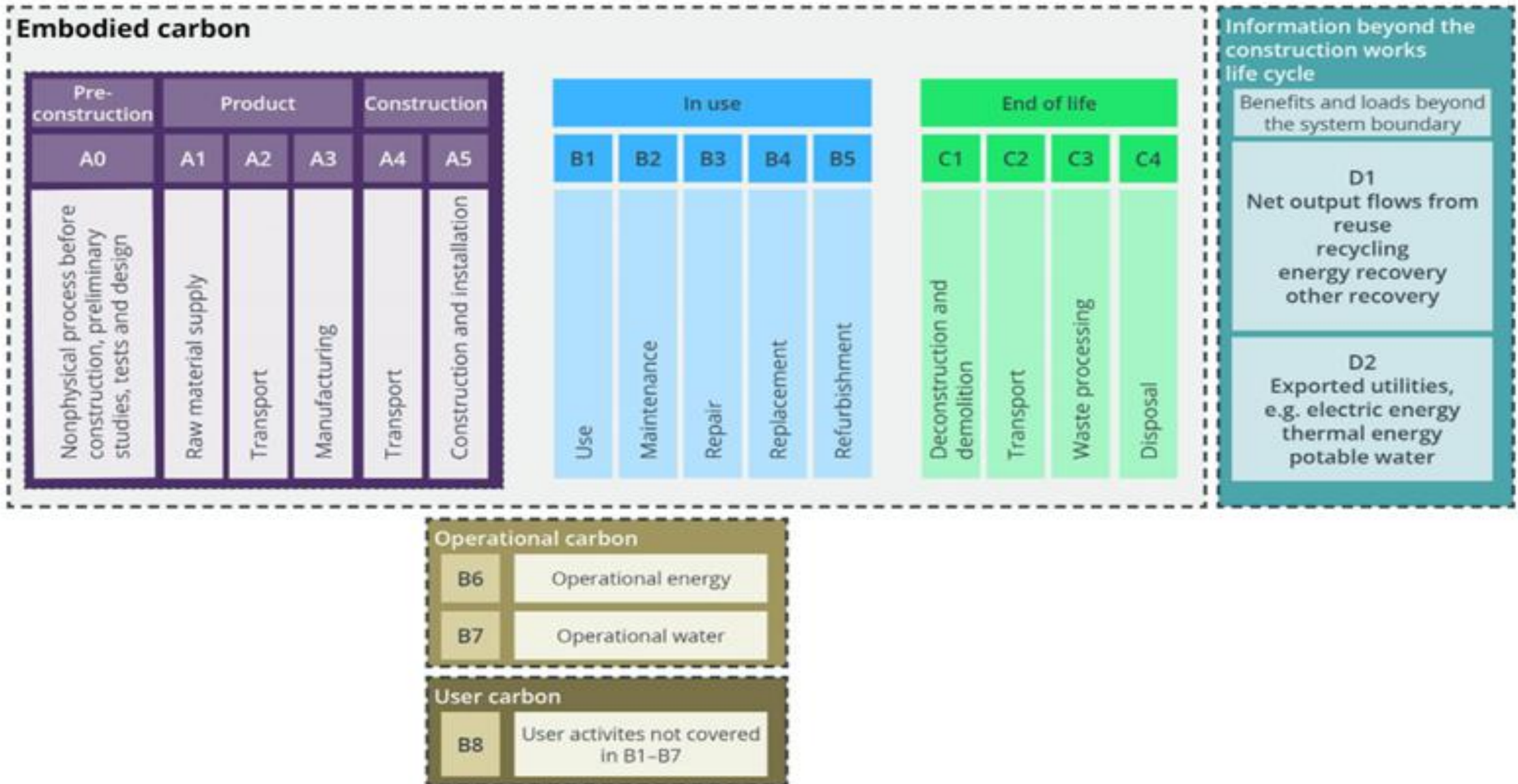
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption in the EU building sector, and make it climate neutral by 2050
- All new buildings should be zero-emission as of 2030
- New buildings occupied or owned by public authorities be zero-emission as of 2028
- A common European framework for renovation passports must be established
- Member states will have to renovate the 16% worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2030 and, by 2033, the worst-performing 26% through minimum energy performance requirements
- Emissions will consider the life-cycle global warming potential of a building, including the production and disposal of the construction products used to build it
- Measures for residential building to ensure a reduction in the average primary energy used of at least 16% by 2030 and at least 20 to 22% by 2035.

# Whole Life Carbon Assessment - Goals

- Compare design options and products or materials
- Make end-of-life decisions
- Identify the most significant emissions contributors
- Comply with regulations
- Document environmental performance
- Achieve green building rating certification
- Develop a retrofit plan for existing assets
- Calculate the carbon footprint for a portfolio of assets for organisation-level reporting



# Whole Life Carbon Assessment - Scope



# ESG: Benchmarking & Certifications

- GRESB:
  - Evaluates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors
  - Operates globally, assessing real estate portfolios and infrastructure assets worldwide
  - Primarily focuses on assessing the sustainability performance of real estate portfolios and infrastructure assets
- SBTi:
  - Provides a framework and guidelines for companies to set science-based targets (SBTs) that align with limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,
- BREEAM:
  - Assessments result in ratings ranging from Pass to Outstanding, providing a framework for designing and operating sustainable buildings.
  - Originated in the UK but is now used internationally, with assessments conducted in various countries
  - Assesses various aspects of sustainability, including energy, materials, water, ecology, pollution, and management processes



# ESG: Benchmarking & Certifications (cont'd)

- LEED:

- Provides a framework for designing, constructing, operating, and certifying green buildings based on factors such as energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, and sustainable site development
- Originally developed in the United States but has expanded globally, with certifications available for projects worldwide

- NABERS:

- Australian sustainability rating system that measures the environmental performance of buildings, tenancies, and homes.
- Assesses factors such as energy efficiency, water usage, waste management, and indoor environmental quality.
- Ratings range from zero to six stars, with six stars representing market-leading performance

- CRREM:

- Primarily assesses carbon intensity and associated climate-related risks of real estate assets
- Provides a benchmarking tool for assessing carbon risk in real estate portfolios but does not offer certification.

# ESG Data List for Real Estate Valuations

- A practical reference document on legislative, market-driven and future ESG requirements for valuers and financial clients in the EU

	ESG indicator	Data to be captured and analysed	Unit of measurement/indicative performance measure
01	Energy rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)</li> <li>• Other energy ratings in the market</li> <li>• Any improvements to the building made since the energy rating occurred?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy label (A–G)</li> <li>• kWh/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Expiry date of EPC</li> <li>• Yes/no; if yes, please specify</li> </ul>
02	Energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary and final energy consumption</li> <li>• Energy intensity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year</li> <li>• kWh/m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
03	Renewable energy production (onsite)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Method of energy generation</li> <li>• Quantity and specification of renewable energy systems (e.g. solar panels, heat pumps, biomass, wind turbines)</li> <li>• Heating source</li> <li>• Usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year</li> <li>• % of primary/final energy demand met by renewable energy produced onsite</li> <li>• % used on-site versus % delivered back to the grid</li> </ul>
04	Labels and certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green building certification schemes</li> <li>• National-level certificates</li> <li>• BREEAM, LEED, WELL, Fitwel, BOMA360, SHORE</li> </ul> <p>This is not an exhaustive list.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Label/certificate – yes or no; if yes, specify the level</li> <li>• Date of issue and expiry</li> </ul>
05	Greenhouse gas emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, both excluding and including refrigerant gases, based on real energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>/year</li> </ul>
06	Emissions pathway analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CRREM</a> pathway analysis</li> <li>• Other pathway analysis (examples include ParisProof in The Netherlands, <a href="#">DGNB SYSTEM for Buildings In Use</a> (or <a href="#">DGNB AWARD 'Climate Positive'</a>) in Germany and beyond, <a href="#">BREEAM In-use</a> and <a href="#">UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard</a>)</li> <li>• Benchmark curve</li> <li>• Stranding date</li> <li>• Transition risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether current property performance is on the pathway and in line with future targets</li> <li>• Decarbonisation capex and updated stranded date</li> </ul>

# ESG Data List for Real Estate Valuations (cont'd)

	ESG indicator	Data to be captured and analysed	Unit of measurement/indicative performance measure
07	Physical climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate risk (such as flood, heat, drought, sea level, precipitation) analysis issued by a recognised source (e.g. MSCI, Moodies, R4R)</li> <li>Mitigation measures already in place?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the client done a study indicating whether the property is subject to climate risk by 2050 (yes/no)?</li> <li>If no, or not entirely, are the mitigation measures taken into account in the capex budget?</li> </ul>
08	Location characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local infrastructure (including utilities for its occupants)</li> <li>Connectivity (e.g. highways, distance from public transport, mass transit services/routes, frequency)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amenities in and around the building</li> <li>Walkability score (how easy it is to reach certain essential places on foot)</li> <li>Types of buildings in the proximity</li> <li>Public transport proximity and frequency</li> </ul>
09	Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of EV charging points</li> <li>Bicycle parking spaces for residents/occupiers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charging points per FTE/total number of parking spaces</li> <li>Number of bicycle parking spaces per FTE</li> </ul>
10	Building access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access for people with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of compliance</li> </ul>
11	Landlord-tenant relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tenant activity</li> <li>Rental contract types</li> <li>Green leases in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of current tenants</li> <li>Contracts and/or green leases in place</li> </ul>
12	Material use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materials used for construction or renovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of material by total weight/volume/value</li> <li>% of material certified for their sustainable qualities</li> </ul>

# Q&A



[aknight@rics.org](mailto:aknight@rics.org)