

RIBA Climate Literacy Knowledge Schedule

The built environment has an urgent role to play in responding to the climate emergency and the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge calls on members and industry to meet net zero whole life carbon (or less) in the buildings they design by 2030. The subject areas set out in this knowledge schedule for the RIBA mandatory competence in Climate Literacy, developed with support from a [Cross-Industry Action Group](#), will enable RIBA Chartered Architects to design buildings that deliver sustainable outcomes and meet the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge.

Global and built environment climate fundamentals

- Climate fundamentals
 - Financial risks and net zero economy
 - Environmental impacts of the built environment
 - Sustainable urbanism, architecture and engineering
 - Built environment policy, legislation, regulations, commitments, benchmarks and construction industry guidance
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RIBA Sustainable Outcomes and common threads

- RIBA Sustainable Outcomes Guide: outcomes based briefing and design, Plan for Use, Soft Landings and post occupancy evaluation
 - Retrofit, adaptation and reuse
 - Planning for climate extremes, disaster risk, resilience, redundancy and adaptation
 - Life cycle costing, investment and procurement
 - Research and innovation
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Human factors

- Health and wellbeing
 - Communities, interconnectivity and inclusion
 - Social value
 - Biophilic and sensory design
 - User experience design and occupancy behaviour
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Circular economy

- Resource efficiency and geographic implications
 - Designing for change (flexibility and adaptability) and regeneration
 - Environmental and health impacts of materials and waste
 - Waste as a resource
 - Responsible and ethical sourcing
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Energy and carbon

- Passive design
 - Active design
 - Whole life carbon (for retrofit and new build): modelling, carbon assessments and iterative design process
 - Offsetting
 - Operational energy and carbon, modelling and technology
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Ecology and biodiversity

- Biodiversity and net gain
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Land use and building density
 - Bio-regional urbanism and design
 - Urban farming and sustainable food production
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Water

- Water cycle, demand, supply and reduction
 - Water recycling and reuse
 - Rainwater harvesting, stormwater management and sustainable urban drainage
 - Water pollution in (natural) aquatic habitats
 - Climate change impacts (floods, droughts, water quality)
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Connectivity and transport

- Site location
 - Compact development and walkability
 - Regional and local infrastructure and planning
 - Low carbon transport and multimodal transportation networks
 - Planning for future of transportation
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