

Wednesday 29th September 2021, 1-2pm BST | Online

## Lunchtime update: Timber and bio-based materials at UN Climate Change Conferences



UN CLIMATE  
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**ASBP** The Alliance  
for Sustainable  
Building Products

### Q&A

Question	Answer
<p><b>Debbie ASBP - Sussex UK 01:29 PM</b> Paul - When will the manifesto be available - before the launch? Will you be asking relevant organisations to endorse it?</p>	<p><b>Paul Brannen 01:40 PM</b> We do not yet have the final draft yet. I think we will have final text in about two weeks' time. The endorsements will then come after its release and be collected online.</p>
<p><b>Emma Twine 01:34 PM</b> Do we know the percentage breakdown of construction methods in Europe / the UK? Interesting that the US most 2-3 storey buildings are built from timber - I would imagine here it's mostly brick and block (and all the embodied carbon that comes with it...)</p>	<p><b>Paul Brannen 01:44 PM</b> Oddly we don't really know. Big variations eg Scotland 80% timber framed, England less than 20%. Scandinavia high but not in their big cities. Overall less than 20% of new build in Europe is timber framed.</p>
<p><b>Debbie ASBP - Sussex UK 01:39 PM</b> Frane - As COP is looking at the global scale, what timber 'solutions' do think the politicians would take most notice of - based on lessons learned from COP25.</p>	<p><b>Frane Zilic 01:49 PM</b> In my opinion politicians will be looking at the problem from different angles. Emissions reductions and storage are our biggest emergency but we need to back that capacity of timber with a proposal that also makes sense in economical and social terms. Probably an important part of the argument is related to the forest. Cutting a tree has an emotional impact that needs to be addressed with solid numbers.</p>
<p><b>natureplus 01:42 PM</b> Thanks Paul, I absolutely agree to your approach! How can we support as an European environmental NGO (based in Germany) the publication of the Manifesto?</p>	<p><b>Paul Brannen 01:47 PM</b> Endorse the manifesto when we publish it - you will be able to do this online. Meanwhile help us persuade the big green NGOs that more sustainable wood into the built</p>

<p>As a side note: there are brilliant bio-based insulation materials ready to be applied, we have a list here on our product-database:  <a href="https://www.baubook.at/natureplus/?SW=32&amp;Ing=2">https://www.baubook.at/natureplus/?SW=32&amp;Ing=2</a></p>	<p>environment is a good idea and that 'keeping the trees in the forest' is not the good idea that it may first appear!</p>
<p><b>Rita Mullen 01:53 PM</b>  Michael: what is the number of new houses needed in the UK every year based on? Does it take into account that population is decreasing, repairing/renovating houses, repurposing/revitalising other buildings?  Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Michael Ramage 01:56 PM</b>  The number I show comes from Parliament — here's one with other links:  <a href="https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7671">https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7671</a>. 340,000 is just England</p>
<p><b>Mark Brinkley 01:56 PM</b>  High rise timber buildings? With plant-based insulation? Will this really take off, in light of our current fire safety issues?</p>	<p><b>Michael Ramage 01:58 PM</b>  It should take off! Timber buildings can be fire-safe, and they have been built safely in the UK and are being built around the world. The fire safety issues are leading to a prescriptive regulatory regime, but the UK has led the world with performance-based codes in the past.  Mark Brinkley 02:00 PM  I really hope so.</p>
<p><b>Debbie ASBP - Sussex UK 01:31 PM</b>  Paul - How will the manifesto address the Embodied Carbon LCA accounting for sequestered carbon</p>	<p><b>Paul Brannen 01:41 PM</b>  Current manifesto wording reads as follows but could change:  "The lifecycle benefits of renewable, wood solutions should be quantified and incentivised by using the right tools. Environmental Performance Declarations (EPD) for construction products are preferred, but enhanced Product Environmental Footprints (PEF) could also be used. Declarations that reflect the full carbon benefit should be established as the harmonised reference tool for assessing the environmental footprint of construction products and buildings. The whole lifecycle of buildings needs to be considered, moving beyond only energy performance metrics. Legal requirements should be introduced to report and reduce the emissions of a building over the entire lifecycle, including manufacture, transport, construction, use and demolition phases. "</p>
<p><b>Lewis Anderson 01:43 PM</b></p>	<p>This question has been answered live  <b>Michael Ramage 01:52 PM</b></p>

<p>Michael - In your estimation, what is the maximum building scale at which factory-built timber buildings are likely to be feasible?</p>	<p>any scale is possible — up to 12 stories is already demonstrated. If it is volumetric, the lifting capacity of nearby cranes would be the limitation</p>
<p><b>Anonymous Attendee 01:59 PM</b> Talking about efficiency in the built environment and considering that there is a limited supply potential from forest, what's the role of reuse and recycling of wood to create a sustainable built environment?</p>	<p><b>Michael Ramage 02:03 PM</b> Great question — wood is easier to reuse than concrete or steel</p>
<p><b>Alison Vipond, Ecology Building Society 01:44 PM</b> Do we need to get cracking on planting the right kind of timber now, to meet the future demand? How do we avoid monocultures, and make it good for nature too?</p>	<p><b>Woodknowledge Wales 01:49 PM</b> Hi Alison - to comply with the UK forest standards I think you need to plant at least 25% hardwoods and at least 5 species of conifer. Also the species we will grow in the future will have to suit our changing climate. It's a complex issues but we need management practices that supports biodiversity development - regardless of species</p>
<p><b>Raffaello Marioni 01:46 PM</b> Additionally, how can we communicate the benefits of timber construction for forests, to those not in the industry - preventing them from immediately jumping to seeing it as deforestation?</p>	<p><b>Unanswered</b></p>
<p>Raffaello Marioni 01:43 PM How can the timber industry allay potential fears, particularly in the UK due to Grenfell, regarding the safety of timber buildings?</p>	<p><b>Unanswered</b></p>
<p>Bex Porter (UN HLCC) 01:46 PM Given the global population share &amp; need for new housing/buildings will predominantly be in South America, Asia and Africa by 2050 (not Europe) - what is the panels view on whether mass timber is a solution for low carbon, resilient housing in these areas given lack of current production and time required to develop sustainable supply chain to allow sequestration to be accounted for?</p>	<p><b>Unanswered</b></p>