

**George Adams** PPCIBSE Spie  
**Prof Roberto Amendolia** frmly Italian Emb'y  
**Will Arnold** IStructE  
**Clara Bagenal-George** Elementa  
**Dr Bill Bordass** Usable Buildings Trust  
**Francesca Berriman** CIAT Chief Exec  
**Edith Blennerhassett** Arup  
**Richard Boyd** Arup Assocs.  
**Jane Briginshaw** Design England  
**Lynne Ceeney** Lytton Consulting  
**Keith Clarke** ABC & Constructionarium  
**Katie Clemence** Max Fordham  
**Caroline Cole** Colander  
**Mike Cook**, Buro Happold  
**Paddy Conaghan** Hoare Lea  
**Dr Frank Duffy** PPRIBA Co-Founder DEGWA  
**Helen Evans** Studio Wick  
**Prof Max Fordham** PPCIBSE  
**Prof Andy Ford** PPCIBSE LSBU  
**Dr Tim Forman** U of Cambridge  
**Simon Foxell** The Architects Practice  
**Dr Julie Futcher** co-founder Urban Generation  
**Bill Gething** Sustainability + Architecture  
**Dr Julie Godefroy** Julie Godefroy Sustainability  
**Prof Peter Guthrie** University of Cambridge  
**Dave Hampton** The Carbon Coach  
**Hattie Hartman** The Architects Journal  
**Prof Colin Haylock** PPRTPPI Haylock P&D  
**Stephen Hill** C<sub>2</sub>0 futureplanners  
**Mike Hitchens** Pell Frischmann  
**Sue James** TDAG  
**Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen** Holistic Sustainability  
**Chris Jofeh** Arup  
**Prof Paul Jowitt**, PPICE Heriot-Watt U  
**David Lindsey** Max Fordham LLP  
**Richard Lorch** Editor 'Buildings and Cities'  
**Ciaran Malik** AA + U of Arts  
**Dr Kerry Mashford** interfacing  
**Anne Minors** Sound Space Vision  
**Hal Moggridge** Colvin and Moggridge  
**Dr Mike Murray** DMPiP  
**Robin Nicholson** Cullinan Studio  
**Prof Tadj Oreszczyn**, UCL Energy Institute  
**Adam Poole**  
**Dr Sunand Prasad** PPRIBA P + P LLP  
**Prof Flora Samuel** University of Reading  
**Andrew Scoones** ngenuity Ltd  
**Prof Richard Simmons** Bartlett, UCL  
**Morwenna Slade** Historic England  
**Maria Smith** Buro Happold  
**Oliver Smith** 5th Studio  
**Simon Sturgis** Targeting Zero llp  
**Lynne Sullivan** LSA Studio  
**Judith Sykes** Expedition  
**Helen Taylor** Scott Brownrigg  
**Ian Taylor** FCB Studios  
**Eddie Tuttle** CIOB  
**Chris Twinn** TwinnSustainabilityInnovation  
**Michelle Wang** Hoare Lea  
**Dr Elanor Warwick** Clarion Housing Group  
**Jenny Watt**, Builidng Centre  
**Dr Wei Yang** Wei Yang & Partners  
**Jane Wernick** engineers HRW  
**Prof Mark Whitby** PPICE whitby wood  
**Ollie Wildman** Ramboll  
**Albert Williamson** Taylor AKT II

# EDGE Report 2021

the Edge is a multidisciplinary built and natural environment think tank and network with members drawn from across numerous different professions (and beyond). It held its first debate on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1996.

This report covers the period April 2020 to July 2021

## 2020-21- Summary

2020-21, despite everything else that been happening, has been a hugely busy period for the Edge. We have held an unprecedented number of debates, roundtables and other discussions and delivered on two other significant projects.

The first of these is the work following-up the multi-institutional agreement in June 2019 at the Climate Action Round Table. Following that meeting the Edge co-ordinated a series of meetings between the professional institutions and the Committee on Climate Change and at our last face-to-face meeting in February 2020 a framework for a cross-industry Climate Action Plan was confirmed. That framework has formed the basis for the plan, developed by the Edge and published by the Construction Industry Council in June 2021 – see page -- below.

The second project has been the 2040 City study developed by the Edge working with the law firm Taylor Wessing and University College of Estate Management (UCEM). The project involved 6 discussion events, 5 of which were open events and the 6<sup>th</sup> a specialist round table, leading to the City 2040 report on the future of urban planning in UK cities, now available on the Edge's and Taylor Wessing's websites.

## Covid times

2020 was an unusual and demanding year for everyone and not least the construction industry. Old lessons had to be unlearned and new routines and ways of working developed and adopted. Many temporary measures put in place early in 2020 are still with us a year and a half later, while, somehow, a high proportion of business also continued as normal. At times 2020 felt existential, at others just a rehearsal for new crises still to come and sometimes just a distraction. the Edge did its best over 2020-21 to see through and beyond the immediate predicament and to catch glimpses of the bigger picture masked by the evolving tragedy of the pandemic.

The advent of Zoom/Teams has meant that our meetings, debates and consultations have been freed of the usual geographical limitations, allowing a richer dialogue with participants joining them from across the world. 2020-21 has meant both an, at times, global discussion and an international

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

**The Building Centre, CBE, CIAT, CIBSE, CIC, CIOB, CPA, Futurebuild, ICE, IEMA, IStructE, LI, RIBA, RICS, SocEnv, UCL Energy Institute**

EDGE  
the

audience, which we hope we have made the most of as we look forward to the immediacy of holding in-person sessions once again. We have also benefited from the ability in lockdown conditions of holding events at short notice or in series, simply because they were urgent and relevant conversations to have, and they could be planned and executed in a matter of days rather than months. This has given the sessions extra relevance and bite, which we hope has contributed to the wider debates in the industry. We look forward to taking the lessons learnt from this and in particular recognise that the future is hybrid and that the Edge's ways of working will change as a result.

What haven't changed are the extraordinary challenges that we face as a society and an industry. Climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, homelessness and the gap in performance between what we claim and manage to achieve are combined with a professional system that knows it has to engage but finds it very difficult to do so. Despite our focus on a health and economic emergency these well-recognised challenges are all still with us and progress dealing with them is slow and halting. Since the beginning of 2020 we have all had a brush with an existential threat that has resulted in millions of avoidable deaths. This has been a time to learn and to change – we hope to discover that we as an industry have jointly committed to doing so.

The final events of the old normal were held at Futurebuild in March 2020 where the Edge co-organised a series of events under the overall programme of 'Responding to the Emergency – making the transition to a Zero Carbon World'. These were reported on in our last Annual Report and can be viewed on-demand on the colab professional development site at <https://colab-cpd.co.uk>. Even then the writing was on the wall, handshakes were replaced by elbow bumps and some speakers presciently started at home. Within a matter of weeks the country was in full lockdown and the Edge's discussions transferred to the ether.

the Edge's activities during the pandemic period fall into a number of areas:

- Futurebuild debates
- Ongoing Edge debates
- Roundtable expert discussions
- The City 2040 project
- The Climate Action Plan
- Consultations and responses



The poster features a dark background with diagonal stripes and pink splatters. On the left, the text reads: 'futurebuild', 'LEARNING FROM DISRUPTION WEBINAR SERIES', and 'Climate + Ecological + Pandemic Emergency = Systems Change for a Green Recovery'. Below this is the 'EDGE' logo. On the right, the word 'ACTION' is written vertically in large, pink, block letters. To the right of each letter is a webinar title, date, and time: 'ask from construction' (29 September 2020 12.00-13.15), 'Concerning infrastructure' (6 October 2020 12.00-13.15), 'Towards a city life' (13 October 2020 12.00-13.15), 'Inspiration for work and life' (20 October 2020 12.00-13.15), 'In which we depend' (27 October 2020 12.00-13.15), and 'How put it all together' (19 January 2021 12.00-13.15).

**futurebuild**

**LEARNING FROM DISRUPTION  
WEBINAR SERIES**

Climate + Ecological + Pandemic Emergency =  
Systems Change for a Green Recovery

Webinar series curated by **EDGE**

**A** ask from construction  
29 September 2020 12.00-13.15  
Systems change in the construction industry now!

**C** Concerning infrastructure  
6 October 2020 12.00-13.15  
Infrastructure action plan – in place now!

**T** Towards a city life  
13 October 2020 12.00-13.15  
Cities must serve citizens fully and vice versa?

**O** Inspiration for work and life  
20 October 2020 12.00-13.15  
What is the future of work: WfH or WfO?

**I** In which we depend  
27 October 2020 12.00-13.15  
Reality check – energy, water, air and soil

**N** How put it all together  
19 January 2021 12.00-13.15  
Have we got a blueprint for systems change for the built environment? Are we ready for COP 26?

## **Professional Institutions and other partners**

Engagement with our partner organisations has been very different in 2020-21. We haven't been able to sit down with Chief Executives and other senior members of the bodies we normally work with to discuss matters of current concern and areas to engage in. There has been a great deal of meeting online, but the experience hasn't been so effective and we look forward to re-engaging properly in the year ahead. Nonetheless the degree of collaboration we have observed between the institutions and disciplines during 2020-21, especially over issues such as industry recovery and achieving net-zero carbon, has been unprecedented and bodes well for the future.

We are also very pleased to welcome the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport (CIHT) as the latest Edge partner organisation.

the Edge has issued its second **Institutional Reporting Review** (see <https://edgedebate.com/edge-reports>) covering the transparency of information made available in institutions' 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports (and occasionally other material). The information has been assessed against the Institutional Best Practice Reporting Standard published in 2019. The result has been a mixed bag with many institutions improving on their previous reporting but with a handful falling back or not reporting at all.

## **Futurebuild Debates**

All Edge business had moved on-line by the end of March 2020 including planning for a rapid pair of webinar style debates held together with Futurebuild, ACO and colab on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of April on the subject of Collaboration:

- **Edge Debate 98**/Futurebuild Now, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

### **Collaboration**

**Chair:** Robin Nicholson, Convenor of the Edge and Partner, Cullinan Studio

**Speakers:** Simon Foxell, the Architects Practice and the Edge  
Lynne Ceeney, Chair, Design Quality Indicator, CIC  
Clare Murray, Head of Sustainability, Levitt Bernstein and design editor of the LETI *Climate Emergency Design Guide*  
Julie Godefroy, Julie Godefroy Sustainability and the Edge

**Attendees:** 954

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/aco-technologies/construction-collaboration-challenge>

- **Edge Debate 99**/Futurebuild Now, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### **Collaboration to achieve 100% Net Zero Carbon**

**Chair:** Robin Nicholson, Convenor of the Edge & Partner, Cullinan Studio

**Speakers:** Simon Foxell, the Architects Practice and the Edge  
Ann Bentley, Global Board Director Rider Levett Bucknall and member the Construction Leadership Council  
Keith Clarke, Chairman, Forum for the Future, Constructionarium and Active Building Centre Swansea  
Sarah Ratcliffe, Chief Executive, Better Buildings Partnership

**Attendees:** 578

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/aco-technologies/collaboration-for-net-zero-carbon>

These sessions were followed in the Autumn by a further series of Edge webinars organised in collaboration with Futurebuild – entitled Learning from Disruption:

- **Edge Debate 101** - Edge x Futurebuild:

Learning from Disruption #1, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Systems change in the construction industry now!**

**Chair:** Robin Nicholson, Convenor of the Edge & Partner, Cullinan Studio

**Speakers:** Dorte Riche Jørgensen, Director Holistic Sustainability  
Chris Blackwell, CEO Purpose Led Performance  
Deborah Henderson, Managing Director, Centre for Inspired Leadership  
Jennifer Whyte, Professor of Systems Integration, Co-Director of the Centre for Systems Engineering and Innovation, Imperial College London

**Attendees:** 397

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/systems-change-in-the-construction-industry-now>

- **Edge Debate 102** - Edge x Futurebuild:

Learning from Disruption #2, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Infrastructure Action Plan – in place now!**

**Chair:** Clotilde Robin – Associate, Expedition Engineering

**Speakers:** Dimitri Zenghelis Senior Visiting Fellow, Grantham Institute of Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics  
Heleni Pantelidou Associate Director Infrastructure, Arup  
Kathryn Brown Head of Adaptation, Committee on Climate Change  
Dr Wei Yang Vice-President, Royal Town Planning Institute

**Attendees:** 266

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/infrastructure-action-plan-in-place-now>

- **Edge Debate 103** - Edge x Futurebuild:

Learning from Disruption #3, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Cities must serve their citizens fully and vice versa**

**Chair:** Erin Walsh – Director of Built Environment, Connected Places Catapult

**Speakers:** Sophie Thomas, Thomas Matthews and The Great Recovery Project  
Jenny Pickerill, Professor of Environmental Geography, University of Sheffield  
Dr Kerry Mashford Director, Interfacing Ltd  
Dan Epstein, Useful Simple Trust

**Attendees:** 442

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/cities-must-serve-their-citizens-fully-and-vice-versa>



- **Edge Debate 104** - Edge x Futurebuild:

Learning from Disruption #4, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**What is the future of Work: WfH or WfO?**

**Chair:** Jason Longhurst, Chair - UK Business Council for Sustainable Development

**Speakers:** Ed Houghton, Head of Research & Service Design, DG Cities  
Doug Jones, Senior Director - CBRE  
Julia Park, Head of Housing Research – Levitt Bernstein Architects  
Nicola Gillen, Head of Total Workplace, Cushman Wakefield

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/what-is-the-future-of-work-wfh-or-wfo>

**Attendees:** 387

- **Edge Debate 105** - Edge x Futurebuild #5, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Reality check – the energy, water, air and soil on which we depend**

**Chair:** Peter Head, CEO, Ecological Sequestration Trust

**Speakers:** Ellen Fay, Executive Director, Sustainable Soils Alliance  
Tadj Oreszczyn, Professor of Energy and Environment, UCL Energy Institute  
William Bloss, Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Birmingham  
Allan Simpson Strategic Growth Manager, Anglian Water

**Attendees:** 336

A final set of events took place in March 2021 in place of the cancelled Futurebuild – appropriately entitled The Lost Sessions:

- **Edge Debate 115** – Futurebuild – The Lost Sessions, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

**#1 Learning for the Future – Biodiversity and net zero as standard**

**Chair:** Sarah Mukherjee, Chief Executive, IEMA

**Speakers:** Robson Augusta, Co-ordinator, Teach the Future  
Tim Ibell, Professor of Structural Engineering, University of Bath  
Sarah Ratcliffe, Chief Executive, Better Buildings Partnership

**Attendees:** 621

**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/futurebuild-lost-sessions-learning-for-the-future-biodiversity-and-net-zero-as-standard?type=detailed>



**LOST  
SESSIONS**

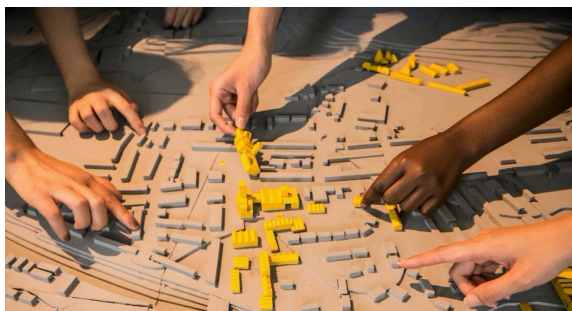


- **Edge Debate 116** – Futurebuild – The Lost Sessions, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021  
**#2 Putting nature at the heart of decision making**  
**Chair:** Belinda Gordon, Strategy Director, Green Alliance  
**Speakers:** Sandy Sheard, Head of Independent Dasgupta Review Team  
Hatti Owens, Lawyer – UK Environment, Client Earth  
Sue Pritchard, CEO, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission  
Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment, Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
  
**Attendees:** 418  
**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/putting-nature-at-the-heart-of-decision-making?>
- **Edge Debate 117** – Futurebuild – The Lost Sessions, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**#3 Construction led action for net zero**  
**Chair:** Keith Clarke, Chair of Constructionarium and the Active Building Centre  
**Speakers:** Mark Reynolds, Group Chief Executive, MACE and Member of the Construction Leadership Council  
Bridget Rosewell, Commissioner, National Infrastructure Commission  
Stephen Hodder, Chair, Construction Industry Council  
Nitesh Magdani, Founder of Net Positive Solutions  
  
**Attendees:** 627  
**View:** <https://app.livestorm.co/easyfairs/futurebuild-lost-sessions-construction-led-action-for-net-zero?>

## Edge Debates

A pair of Edge Debates were organised in 2020 and 2021 in collaboration with the journal *Buildings and Cities* and as an experiment an Edge Conversation, trialling a different format:

- **Edge Debate 107** - 29th October 2020  
**Climate Justice: The Role of the Built Environment**  
Held in collaboration with Buildings & Cities journal  
**Convenor:** Richard Lorch, the Edge and Editor, *Buildings & Cities*  
**Speakers:** Anna Mavrogianni, University College London  
Sonja Klinsky, Arizona State University  
Isabella Krabbe, Royal Town Planning Institute  
Faye Wade, University of Edinburgh  
**View:** <https://www.buildingsandcities.org/insights/news/climate-justice-event.html>



**SPECIAL ISSUE**



**SPECIAL ISSUE**

- **Edge Debate 112** – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**Zero carbon: Can UK built environment education deliver?**

Held in collaboration with Buildings & Cities journal

**Convenor:** Richard Lorch, the Edge and Editor, *Buildings & Cities*

**Chair:** Bill Gething, University of West England

**Speakers:** Fionn Stevenson, University of Sheffield

Alison Kwok, University of Oregon

Gavin Killip, University of Oxford

Katy Janda, University College London

Malini Srivastava, University of Minnesota

**Respondents:** David Gloster, Director of Education, RIBA

Lynne Jack, Heriot Watt University & PPCIBSE

**View:** <https://www.buildingsandcities.org/insights/news/zero-carbon-videos.html>

- **Edge Conversations 114** - 16th March 2021

**The climate and ecological emergency; beyond declarations what is the plan?**

**Introduction:** Robin Nicholson, CBE, the Edge

**Speakers:** Sir Dieter Helm, CBE, Professor of Economic Policy, University of Oxford and Chair of the Natural Capital Committee 2012-20

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Chair of the National Audit Office

Shaun Spiers, Executive Director, Green Alliance

**See:** <https://vimeo.com/524412312>

### Roundtable discussions

the Edge has run many roundtable sessions in the past, getting informed people together to provide expert briefings, hammering out issues etc., but the enforced distancing of 2020-21 and familiarity with online protocols has given them a new *raison d'être*. the Edge has the ability to act as an impartial broker in these discussions, bringing expert participants together to share their knowledge. They have been illuminating and we hope useful in developing future policy and action.

- **Edge Roundtable 100**, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Planning for the Future**

Held in collaboration with the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel (CQP)

**Chair:** Robin Nicholson, Convenor of the Edge, Chair of the CQP & Partner, Cullinan Studio

**Hosts:** Joanna Averley, Government Chief Planner, MHCLG

Andy Von Bradsky, Head of Architecture, MHCLG

**Speakers:** Lynne Sullivan, LSA Studio, Green Construction Board, CQP and the Edge

Chris Twinn, Principal Twinn Sustainability Innovation and the Edge

Colin Haylock, Partner Spence and Dower Architects, PPRTPI and the Edge

Richard Simmons, UCL and University of Greenwich, Chair of CPRE Policy Committee and the Edge

Sue James, Trees and Design Action Group, Coordinator of

Futurebuild Knowledge programme and the Edge

Oliver Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Studio, the Edge and CQP

Amy Burbidge, Homes England and CQP

Matthew Carmona, UCL and Chair of Place Alliance

**Speakers:** Teresa Borsuk, formerly PTE Architects  
Simon Foxell, The Architects Practice and the Edge

**Response:** Julie Godefroy, Julie Godefroy Sustainability, CIBSE and the Edge  
Peter Studdert, Peter Studdert Planning, Chair of Historic England's  
Historic Places Panel and LLDC and Haringey Design Review Panels  
Phil Jones, Chair Phil Jones Associates, member of Design Midlands and  
CQP  
Meredith Bowles, Principal Mole Architects and CQP  
David Birkbeck, CE Design for Homes, Housing Design Awards, Building  
for a Healthy Life and CQP

**Observers:** Jenny Preece, MHCLG  
Henry Primarolo, MHCLG  
Dr Jennifer Thomas, MHCLG  
Athur Young, MHCLG  
Fiona Siequien, MHCLG  
David Rudlin, URBED  
Victoria Payne, URBED

- **Edge Roundtable 119**, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Insurance**

Held in collaboration with Howden

**Chair:** Fergus Harradence, Deputy Director, Infrastructure and Construction,  
BEIS

**Speakers:** Tom Barney, Professional Indemnity, Howden  
Mark Sommariva, Brunel Professions  
Kevin Thomas, MD, Integrated Project Initiatives (IPI)  
Rob Lane, Group Commercial Director, Clarion Housing Group  
Robert Knight, Operations Director, Igloo Regeneration  
Graham de Roy, Partner, Planit Ventures  
Nigel Ostime, Partner, Hawkins Brown Architects and Chair, RIBA Client  
Liaison Group  
Judith Sykes, Senior Director, Expedition Engineering, Useful Projects  
and the Edge  
Samantha Peat, MD, Wren Managers and Chair, CLC PI Insurance  
Group

**Participants:** Adrian Dobson, Executive Director Professional Services, RIBA  
Simon Foxell, Principal, he Architects Practice & Edge  
Oliver Smith, Director, 5th Studio & Edge  
Lynne Sullivan, Chair, Good Homes Alliance, Member, CLC Green  
Construction Board & Edge  
Helen Taylor, Practice Director, Scott Brownrigg & Edge  
Ian Taylor, Managing Partner, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios  
Chris Twinn Principal, Twinn Sustainability Innovation & Edge  
Peter Inglis, Practice leader, Cullinan Studio  
Matthew Goulcher, Managing Director, Levitt Bernstein



## City 2040

City 2040 is a project developed by the Edge together with law firm Taylor Wessing and UCEM to look at the drivers that will shape the future city, to formulate a vision for urbanism in 2040 and to make recommendations for a follow-up programme of work. The project was co-ordinated for the Edge by member Helen Evans. The report, *City 2040: The pressures on UK cities – An opportunity for change* (2021), authored by Helen Evans, Simon Foxell, Sue James, Andrew Scoones, Oliver Smith and Chris Twinn of the Edge, is available at <https://edgedebate.com/city-2040>



The project explored four themes relating to the future city of 2040 through a series of public thought leadership discussions in the form of Edge debates, followed by a plenary session bringing together the findings from each of the discussions:

- **Edge Debate 108**, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**#1. Equity & Exchange: How will sharing and commerce evolve in the post-industrial and post-high street city?**  
**Chair:** Professor Peter Bishop, Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL  
**Speakers:** Dr Jim Coleman, Head of Economics, WSP  
Leo Boscherini, CEO, We Built This City  
Tina Paillet, Chair, RICS Europe  
Max Dewhurst, Activist and cycle courier  
Emma Cariaga, Joint Head of Canada Water, British Land
- **Edge Debate 109**, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**#2. Public and Private Land: As privatisation of public land increases, how can civic urban spaces evolve to ensure their survival?**  
**Chair:** Stephen Edwards, Director of Policy & Communications, Living Streets  
**Speakers:** Peter Neal, Director, Peter Neal Consulting  
Helen Griffiths, Chief Executive, Fields in Trust  
Claudia Carter, Associate Professor and Reader in Environmental Governance, Birmingham City University  
Thomas Perroud, Professor of Public Law, Université Paris II, Panthéon-Assas  
Finn Williams, CEO, Public Practice
- **Edge Debate 110**, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
**#3. Clustering and Proximity: Is the ideal of the dense, social, mixed-use and walkable city still fit for the future?**  
**Chair:** Patricia Brown, Director, Central  
**Speakers:** Charles Landry, Comedia, Author - The Creative City  
Jamie Ratcliff, Executive Director, Network Homes  
Selina Mason, Director of Masterplanning, Lendlease  
Ronald Nyakairu, Senior Manager, Local Data Company

- **Edge Debate 111**, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**#4 The Impact of Clean Air: It has changed our cities in the past – can it do so again?**  
**Chair:** Erin Walsh, Director of Built Environment, Connected Places Catapult  
**Speakers:** Nick Grayson, Green City Manager, Birmingham City Council  
 Dr. Emma Ferranti, Environmental Change Research Fellow, University of Birmingham  
 Sophie Sheil, Deputy Coordinator, GrowGreen, Manchester City Council  
 Helen Grimshaw, Senior Consultant – Sustainability, URBED  
 David Sim, Partner and Creative Director, Gehl
- **Edge Debate 113**, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
**Can a review of the key emerging ideas and current urban planning trends, identify a path ahead for city makers?**  
**Chair:** Joanna Averley, Chief Planner, MHCLG  
**Speakers:** Prof Peter Bishop, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL  
 Prof Thomas Perroud, Université Paris II, Panthéon- Assas  
 Esther Kurland, Director, Urban Design London  
 Simon Birkett, Director, Clean Air in London

Following initial drafting of a set of essays relating to each of the four themes they were interrogated by an expert group at a roundtable session focusing on the practical economics of the propositions presented.

- **Edge Roundtable 118**,  
**The Economics of the 2040 City** - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**Chair:** Erin Walsh, Director of Built Environment, Connected Places Catapult  
**Panellists:** Helen Gordon, CEO, Grainger  
 Mark Allan, CEO, Landsec  
 Ann Zhang, Chair, National Infrastructure Commission Young Professionals Panel (NIC YPP) and Economist at PA Consulting  
 Professor Yolande Barnes, Chair, Bartlett Real Estate Institute, UCL Professor  
 Danny Dorling – Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography, University of Oxford  
 Ian Marcus, Senior Advisor, Eastdil Secured and President, Cambridge University Land Society (CULS)  
 Simon Foxell, Principal, The Architects Practice and the Edge  
**Participants:** Professor Jim Coleman, Head of Economics, WSP  
 Nicky Gavron, Former Deputy Mayor of London, The London Assembly, Sustainable Development Commissioner  
 Robin Nicholson, Fellow, Cullinan Studio  
 David Sim, Partner and Creative Director, Gehl  
 Selina Mason, Director of Masterplanning, Lendlease  
 Keith Clarke, Chair, Constructionarium and Chair, Active Building Centre  
 Eleanor Fawcett, Head of Design, Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

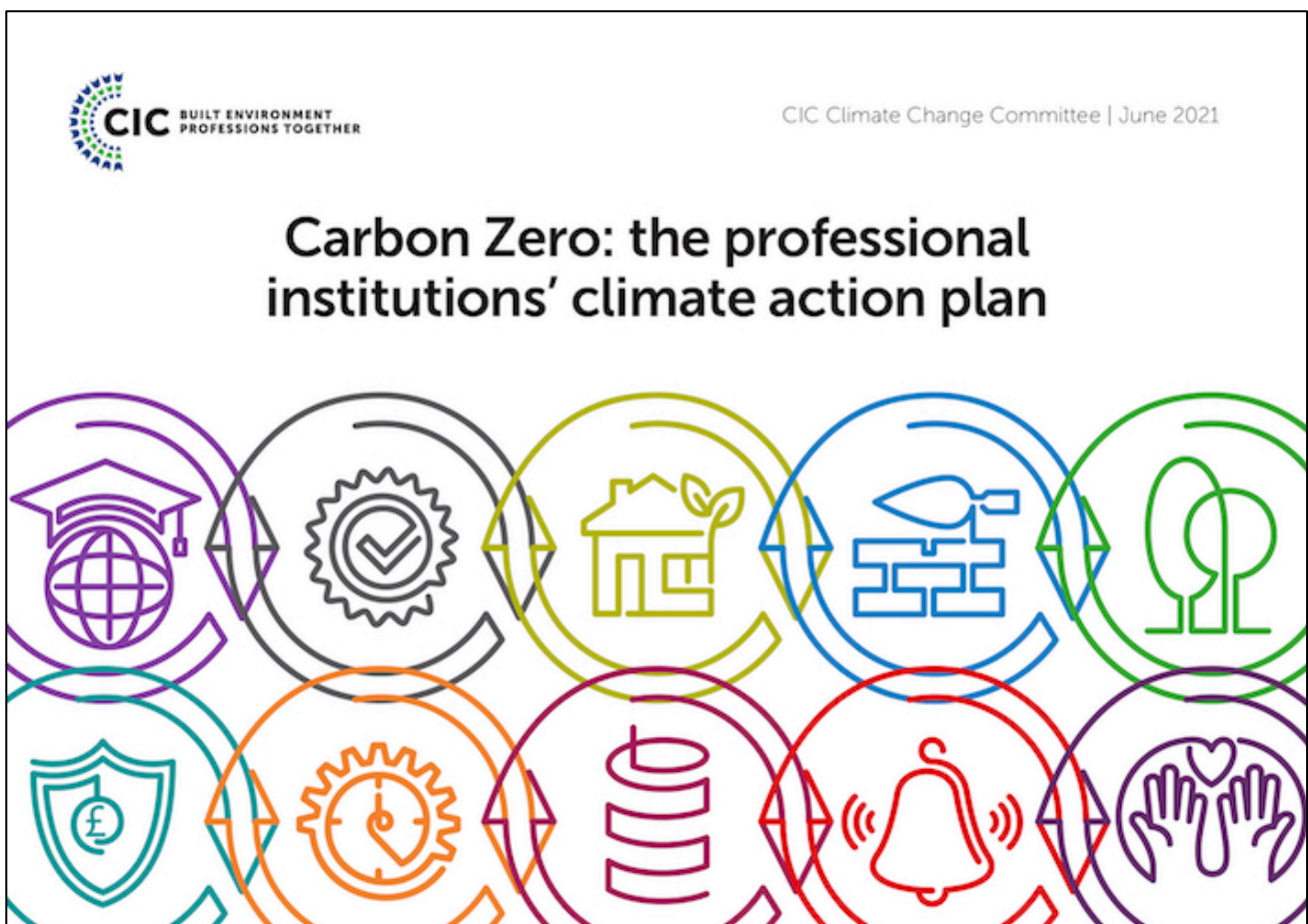


## **Climate Action Plan**

The Edge has been following up on its Climate Action Roundtable held in June 2019 and the subsequent multi-party agreement in a number of ways:

- Through working with the CIC's Climate Change Committee and individual institutional members on the development of the Climate Action Plan. The plan was agreed by 30 professional organisations and published in June 2021 as *Carbon Zero: the professional institutions' climate action plan* (available from <https://edgedebate.com/edge-reports>).
- Liaison with the Construction Leadership Council on its Construction Playbook and CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero proposals ensuring that they interlock with the climate action plan
- Liaison with the Group of 7 leading industry consultancies over their climate action proposals
- Liaison with and briefing of government, organisations and individuals including HM Treasury, BEIS, UK Business Council for Sustainable Development, Build Back Better Council, Nigel Topping, Environment Agency, Transforming Construction, Royal Academy of Engineering, LETI, Cross-Industry Action Group, UKGBC, Teach the Future, Construction Declares, Greenpeace, Ashden etc..

The Edge will continue to work with all parties to ensure that the built and natural design professions and organisations are prepared and better able to deliver net zero carbon solutions.



## **Consultations and responses:**

The Edge has responded to a number of consultations in 2020-21:

- to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on The Future Homes Standard and changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings
- to the Environmental Audit Committee on: Technological Innovations and Climate Change: Hydrogen
- to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee on: Post-pandemic economic growth
- to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on: Planning for the Future White Paper
- to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on: Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure

These responses are available at <https://edgedebate.com/edge-responses>.

## **Future Activities**

The Edge is currently working with Futurebuild on a series of three online sessions in the Autumn of 2021 focusing on engagement in advance of COP26 in Glasgow in November.

### **Are we Ready for COP 26? The engagement sessions.**

Session 1 to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September:

Engaging better with politics and economics for rapid change

Session 2 to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September:

Engaging to protect and enhance the natural environment now

Session 3 to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> October:

Engaging with climate change – you are already the answer

A full Arena programme is in planning for the 2022 show (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March)

A series of Edge Debates are also planned for the Autumn and New Year including an in-person launch of the Edge/Taylor Wessing/UCEM **City 2040** report.



New Edge Roundtables will include cover a number of topics including net-zero concrete and further sessions on insurance issues.

The Edge will continue to work with the CIC and the wide range of signatory bodies on the implementation of Carbon Zero: the professional institutions' climate action plan, including the CIC's contribution to COP26.

the Edge proposes to run a Commission of Inquiry on the subject of Professional Education in 2022. Useful inputs to this are welcome.

### **Edge member committee**

The Edge committee started meeting online from June 2020 with a core group also meeting regularly to co-ordinate matters. The Edge has recently welcomed Morwenna Slade of Historic England, Clara Bagenal-George of Elementa and LETI, Helen Evans of Studio Wick, Dr Wei Yang of Wei Yang & Partners, Will Arnold of the Institution of Structural Engineers and Maria Smith of Buro Happold onto the committee.

Members other recent activities outside the Edge have included:

- Mike Cook was awarded IStructE 2020 Gold Medal and delivered the Gold Medal address – see <https://www.istructe.org/resources/blog/mike-cook%E2%80%99s-2020-gold-medal-address/>
- Several members of the Edge participated in the Decarbonising construction workshop organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering in June 2020 and co-chaired by Mike Cook – see <https://www.raeng.org.uk/policy/policy-projects-and-issues/net-zero-a-systems-perspective-on-the-climate-chal/decarbonising-construction>.
- In May 2021 Paul Jowitt chaired a Session on the Challenge of Climate Change, part of a series on Planning for Climate Change and Rapid Urbanisation. The Sessions were organised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Commonwealth Association of Planners, the Commonwealth Engineers Council and the Commonwealth Heritage Forum. See <https://commonwealthsustainablecities.org/cpd/season-2/session-3/>
- Edith Blennerhassett was one of the contributing authors to the Royal Academy of Engineering Report: 'Infection Resilient Environments: Buildings that keep us healthy and safe'. See <https://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/reports/infection-resilient-environments>
- The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) convened by Edge member Sue James has published Section One of *Trees, Planning and Development: A Guide for Delivery* in June 2021. Sections Two and Three will be published by the end of the year.

TDAG has promoted the need for a national tree strategy and in May 2021 published the *England Trees Action Plan* (ETAP). It is now working with the Defra and Tree Council team on developing guidance for local tree strategies.

TDAG is also working with the NHBC on foundation design for climate resilience, lower carbon and the integration of trees closer to low-rise buildings and working on the review of Manual for Streets.

TDAG has been part of a small test and trial team for a possible urban E.L.M.S (Environmental Land Management System).

See [www.tdag.org.uk](http://www.tdag.org.uk)



- Chris Twinn was the workstream chair for LETI's Hydrogen review that investigated the technical and financial potential for zero-carbon hydrogen and then lead author of *Hydrogen: A decarbonisation route for heat in buildings?* This. The work concluded that hydrogen is unlikely to be available for heat for the vast majority of UK buildings – See <https://www.leti.london/hydrogen>, published February 2021
- Robin Nicholson was part of the team that developed the LETI Client Guide for net zero carbon buildings in August 2021 – see <https://www.leti.london/publications>
- Maria Smith has been co-ordinating the Building Environment summit to be held on 28-29 October 2021 in advance of COP26 with the RIBA, Architects Declare and other partners.
- Simon Foxell published the 3rd edition of the Starting a Practice: A Plan of Work, RIBA Publishing 2021 – see [https://www.ribabooks.com/Starting-a-Practice-A-Plan-of-Work\\_9781859469880](https://www.ribabooks.com/Starting-a-Practice-A-Plan-of-Work_9781859469880)
- Lynne Sullivan, as buildings lead on the Green Construction Board, has been a core contributor to the National Retrofit Strategy developed by the Construction Leadership Council, *Greening our Existing Homes* – see [Construction-Leadership-Council-National-Retrofit-Strategy-Version-2.pdf](#). This work has been used as input to the UKGBC's *Whole Life Carbon Net Zero Roadmap* consultation report published in July 2021 – see <https://ukgbc.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/05143331/Roadmap-Consultation-Report-July-2021-Final.pdf>

Lynne is also buildings lead and member of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate whose interim report, *Global Challenge, Local Action*, was published in March 2021 - see [https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT\\_Final.pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT_Final.pdf)). The Commission's final recommendations will be published prior to COP26.

## **Linkages**

The Edge works at the intersection of the construction industry professions, research bodies and policy-making groups inside and out of government. Its members maintain regular contact with professional and academic bodies, technical and campaigning organisations and central and local government departments. Members of the Edge also teach and lecture widely, both in the UK and abroad as well as being active professionally in the design and delivery of significant projects across the world

Members of the Edge committee continue their active involvement with sponsoring construction and built environment institutions as well as other groups including; the Academy of Urbanism, Active Building Centre, All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group (APPCCG), All-Party Parliamentary Design & Innovation Group, British Property Federation, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Civic Trust, Conservative Environment Network, Constructionarium, Design Commission for Wales, Design Council CABE, Good Homes Alliance, Green Construction Board, Greenpeace, National House-Building Council (NHBC), National Trust, Place Alliance, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Town Planning Institute, the RSA, Sustainable Development Foundation, Trees and Design Action Group and the UK Green Building Council.

the Edge has close links with a range of UK research bodies including the Bartlett Schools of Environment, Energy and Resources and Planning, Cambridge University Engineering Department Centre for Sustainable Development, Imperial College London, School of Construction Management and Engineering University of Reading, Heriot Watt University and, in particular, London South Bank University and the UCL Energy Institute.

The Edge supports The Place Alliance and Teach the Future.

## Edge Support & Funding

The Edge runs without external funding and is dependent on the goodwill and contributions of its members, their employers and the Edge's partner organisations (the RIBA, ICE, CABE, CIAT, CIBSE, RICS, IStructE, CIOB, LI, SocEnv, CIC, The Building Centre and UCL Energy Institute). In the recent past the Edge has been funded by The Ove Arup Foundation and The Carbon Trust. The City 2040 work completed in 2021 has been generously supported by Taylor Wessing and supported by UCEM.

The Edge benefits greatly from the time provided by a range of senior members of the construction professions including architects, engineers, surveyors, planners, social scientists and others, including current and former presidents and vice presidents from the professional institutions who are active on the Edge committee.

The Edge is currently actively seeking support for 2022 and beyond in order to continue and develop its activities, in particular the Edge debates and the work of the research Edge. Please contact Simon Foxell of the Edge at [contact@edgedebate.com](mailto:contact@edgedebate.com) if you are interested in discussing this further.

## Reporting

As discussed above, in 2019 the Edge published its Good Practice Reporting Standard for consistent reporting of basic institutional data.

Data on the Edge's membership at the end of 2019 is at follows:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>M%</b>	<b>F%</b>
Committee members	29	24	53	55%	45%
Emeritus/Corresponding members	27	2	29	93%	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Membership Gains/losses</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>M%</b>	<b>F%</b>
Committee members	-1	2	2	-	-
Emeritus/Corresponding members	2	-2	0	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Geography (office address)</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Rest Engl</b>	<b>Scot/Wales</b>	<b>Internl</b>	
Committee members	41	11	1	0	53
Emeritus/Corresponding members	16	9	2	2	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity (ONS categories)</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Asian/AB</b>	<b>B/A/C/BB</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Committee members	50	3	0	0	53
Emeritus/Corresponding members	25	3	1	0	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>