

Climate Strike Workshop 'One Year On' 24 September 2020

GLOBAL
**CLIMATE
STRIKE**



ONE YEAR ON

Thank you to everyone who attended our Climate Strike 'One Year On' event last week. It was a good opportunity to refocus on tackling and adapting to the climate crisis.

In September 2019 we facilitated a multi-disciplinary 'climate strike' workshop to debate the issues and work towards agreeing some priority actions we can take to tackle the climate crisis as professionals within the construction industry. Participants on the day included council members and officers, landscape and sustainability consultants, local climate activists, project managers and contractors. It felt like an exciting time, after years of austerity had put sustainability low on our client's list of priorities, tackling the climate emergency was back on the agenda.

However one year on the world's attention has been diverted to dealing with the impact of Covid-19. The ArchitecturePLB team have been working hard to maintain our focus on sustainable design. We believe in a collaborative approach and we wanted to bring together some of last year's participants to share and learn from each other's progress over the last year. We had 5 interesting speakers:

- Paul Phasey, Director and Passivhaus Designer at ArchitecturePLB
- Kay Lung-Kendall – Technical Director at fabrik landscape
- Simon Gill – Associate Director at Arup
- Paul Ciniglio – BM3e, Boulter Mossman
- Adrian Fox – Strategic Planning Manager – Winchester City Council



2019 Climate Strike Workshop

**Paul Phasey, Director
ArchitecturePLB**

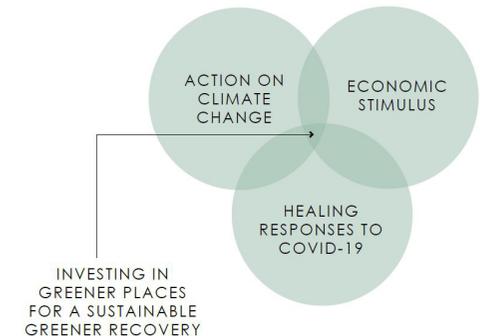
Paul reported on the work ArchitecturePLB have been doing in the year since the 2019 event. We have continued to upskill all of our team through focused CPD on all aspects of sustainable design from the early design stages through to design specification and completion on site, considering embodied and operational carbon. Our Sustainability Group members have been actively involved in Architects Climate Action Network and LETI (the London Energy Transformation Initiative) contributing to working groups and publications. We have also reached out to a wide range of potential and existing clients to offer them seminars on Passivhaus and Zero Carbon. We understand that we must bring our clients along on this journey with us so we are happy to come and share our knowledge to help our clients understand how they can best tackle the climate emergency when procuring construction projects.

Paul also reported on an exciting pilot project that we are currently designing to Passivhaus Plus standards. The residential project will provide affordable homes for Winchester City Council and will be a case study Pioneer Project for the London Energy Transformation Initiative. Paul illustrated some of the challenges successfully resolved by the project team including balancing energy with placemaking, reducing embodied carbon and managing overheating.



**Kay Lung-Kendall
Technical Director, fabrik landscape**

Kay from fabrik Landscape highlighted that we have all come to appreciate the importance of green spaces during the climate crisis which may lead to more opportunity for investment in the future. Kay covered the important role that landscaping can play in both urban and green field developments for our mental wellbeing but also for biodiversity, water attenuation, clean air and energy reduction. She also emphasised the importance of choosing local materials and local plant species.



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Paul Ciniglio
BM3e

Paul Ciniglio from BM3e reminded us that 85% of our housing stock will still be in use by 2050, and new build housing accounts for just 0.01% of stock each year. It is therefore critical that these are made energy efficient which poses a significant challenge. As built environment professionals we are trained to design new buildings, but to meet this challenge we need to get excited about the opportunities for retrofit. Ensuring existing homes are energy efficient is also important to ending fuel poverty. Paul took us through some of the existing legislation and targets for retrofit and where these might go in the future.

Simon Gill, Associate Director
Arup

Simon Gill from Arup focused on embodied carbon. There is a general consensus in the industry that we need to reduce our energy demand by 60% and increase our renewable supply by 2050 in order to achieve a supply and demand balance. Simon noted that operational carbon still accounts for most of the carbon used during the life of a building but as this demand is reduced embodied carbon is becoming more important. Simon set out Arup's approach to lowering embodied carbon with accompanying case studies.

1. Build nothing – focus on utilising existing buildings, including retention of the existing structures and facades.
2. Build less – building efficient structures which aren't over-engineered
3. Build clever – use of low carbon materials and minimising waste
4. Minimise waste – use of Modern Methods of Construction

Arup are using a number of tools to calculate embodied carbon. It's important to start calculating this at an early stage.

Adrian Fox – Strategic Planning Manager
Winchester City Council

ArchitecturePLB have a good working relationship with Winchester City Council and it was interesting to hear from Adrian Fox about the process of formulating the council's local plan.

The Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and is committed to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2024. The ambition for the wider district is that it should become carbon neutral by 2030. There has been significant progress so far including, tree planting, expansion of the park and ride schemes, creation of wildflower areas, and investment in local charging points.

WCC are in the process of creating a new local plan with carbon neutrality at its heart, however the process has been paused to take into account two new Government consultation documents and the way our lives have changed as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

