

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP and Rt Hon Liz Truss MP  
Houses of Parliament,  
Westminster,  
SW1A 0A



Dear Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak,

**Re: Building industry calls on the next PM to urgently scale up climate action**

In a matter of days, one of you will have the honour and challenge of becoming one of the last Prime Ministers in a position to act to prevent runaway climate and nature breakdown, and in doing so, stimulate a nationwide green economic resurgence. I am writing as the leader of a major building industry body bringing together some of the country's largest property owners, developers and managers, alongside banks, energy suppliers and engineering firms.

We welcome your pledges to implement your Party's manifesto commitments to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and restore nature within a generation. These big wins will rely on strong political leadership and close partnership between industry and government. In a major pan-industry collaboration, the UK Green Building Council has mapped out the [technical and policy roadmap](#) needed to decarbonise the built environment, and we look forward to helping you deliver this.

But at present, we're deeply concerned that our built environment, which is the second biggest source of UK carbon emissions, received so little attention in the Conservative leadership contest. The [Climate Change Committee recently warned](#) that there has been no significant progress towards decarbonising the country's buildings in a decade and that there are 'shocking' policy gaps in this area.

This leaves millions of households, businesses and public buildings exposed to unaffordable fuel bills as heat is wasted out of every uninsulated window, wall, roof and door. Slow progress in rolling out rooftop solar, heat pumps and other renewable energy solutions is prolonging our gas dependency. The recent 40-degree heat wave, flash flooding and droughts are a stark reminder that we also need to adapt our existing buildings to protect us all from the inevitable changes to our climate. Likewise, new developments need to be zero-carbon, resilient to climate shocks, support nature recovery and be affordable to run if they are to be attractive places for people to live, work, play and learn in.

As well as protecting against an era of high energy prices and energy security concerns, getting a grip on this agenda will help to raise levels of private sector investment and boost economic prosperity particularly in areas most needed for the levelling-up agenda.

You have championed deregulation in your leadership bids, but for the large section of the building industry that is committed to achieving this agenda, clear and progressive regulation, building standards and planning reforms that are fit for the future will be essential. We need government to establish a level playing field and to send ambitious long-term policy signals if we are to deliver major private sector investment and drive the skilling up and scaling up of our sector.

We stand ready to support the next Prime Minister and cabinet team to deliver this transformation. I hope we can arrange a meeting in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Hirigoyen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Hirigoyen  
Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council

**UK Green Building Council**  
Together for a better built environment

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