

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – TASK GROUP AND PROJECT PARTNERS

A Framework Definition for a Nature-Positive Built Environment

The term nature-positive has gained a lot of traction recently and is used frequently in the built environment industry. However, in absence of clear definitions, it can easily be misused, and even give way to unintentional greenwashing. This project aims to provide framework definitions and high-level recommendations to create a common understanding of this terminology and its implications for the built environment.

Introduction to the project Framework Definition for a Nature-Positive Built Environment

CONTEXT

Nature positive as a concept has emerged from a global goal of halting and reversing global biodiversity loss by 2050. Yet in recent years, the term nature positive has progressed as a buzzword across various sectors, capturing the imagination of those committed to sustainability and ecological harmony.

Despite its growing popularity, a clear and actionable definition within the context of the built environment remains elusive. This concept considers moving beyond the ambition of “no harm”, and moving towards actively enhancing it, presenting a revolutionary approach to how we design, construct, and inhabit our spaces. As the urgency for environmental stewardship intensifies, the need to crystallize what being ‘nature positive’ truly means in urban development and architecture is more pressing than ever.

PROJECT AIMS

The project *Framework Definition for a Nature-Positive Built Environment* will gather leading UKGBC member organisations to answer the key questions that will enable appropriate action towards nature, some of which are:

- Can a built asset be Nature Positive?
- Can an organisation be Nature Positive?
- What are the actions for built environment stakeholders that would contribute to the global goal of being Nature Positive by 2050?

This will involve looking at downstream as well as upstream impacts, connecting this work with UKGBC’s previous work on [Embodied Ecological Impacts](#), as well as aligning all recommendations with other national and international initiatives that operate in this space.

The output for this workstream is expected to be a concise report with definitions, guidelines, key recommendations, and actions that will support and implement nature-positive in the built environment. It will clarify the use of this terminology, set out a scope for our industry, and provide some common definitions and guidelines the industry can agree upon.

TARGET AUDIENCE

We call on all stakeholders of the built environment to join us in crafting a comprehensive, industry-wide framework. This initiative aims to integrate the diverse perspectives and insights necessary for fostering transformation towards a Nature Positive future.

The project output will be of particular interest to developers, architects and engineers who are expected to integrate nature-positive ambitions into their work alongside the net zero carbon agenda. It is relevant for investors to assess their portfolios in line with sound guidelines in regards to this topic, and identify and avoid claims that cannot be substantiated.

The secondary audience encompasses professionals and individuals wanting to know more about the concept of nature positivity and its practical implications in the built environment. Manufacturers of construction products and materials, Local Authorities, and other actors of the built environments supply chain will also find this publication relevant.

Getting Involved

A. Joining as Project Partner- Enable and lead the work on Nature Positive for the Built Environment

The *Framework Definition for a Nature-Positive Built Environment* is a project under our Resilience and Nature programme. Alongside the Programme Partners, Project-specific partners help enable projects through providing funding and knowledge allowing us to continue responding to the evolving needs and demands of wide range of stakeholders. This allows the Resilience and Nature programme to develop more varied outputs and provides smaller organisations with the opportunity to influence individual outputs.

Benefits of project partnership

By becoming a Project Partner, your organisation will:

- Be credited with enabling the project and facilitating progress and positive impact in the built environment
- Secure a position on the project Task Group
- Take a steering role, helping to shape the project and associated outputs, as well as how those outputs are conveyed to industry to maximise impact and uptake
- Receive brand recognition via inclusion of your organisation's logo on all project-related outputs and collateral (e.g. reports, videos, presentation slides)
- Be prioritised for opportunities to present at project output launch and/or related events
- Be able to collaborate with other industry leaders and build your organisation's network

Cost of project partnership: £5,000 per Project Partner.

B. Joining the Task Group – Bring your unique expertise and knowledge and your subsector perspective to define the framework while you collaborate with peers

UKGBC will be convening an industry Task Group to lead the development of this publication, in line with the above aims. Key goals of the group are to ensure we build on existing industry knowledge, initiatives, and real-life project experiences, and that the guidance is relevant to industry.

An overview of the expected programme of works is as shown below. The Task Group will commence in June and will work towards a draft guidance for industry consultation in March 2025. It will consequently review the consultation results and support the development of final guidance through to publication in Summer 2025.

Task Group Applicant Criteria:

- Work for a UKGBC member organisation or bring skills and knowledge additional to those within the membership
- Have a minimum 5 years of relevant experience or very specific knowledge within a relevant topic area. These might include:
 - Ecology and environmental sciences
 - Sustainable and green finance
 - Nature conservation and biology
 - Ecological Economics
 - Practical experience implementing a planetary boundaries approach into project work
 - Assessment of nature-related risk
 - Experience with SBTN, TNFD and similar concepts
 - Resource efficiency and supply chain impacts
 - Holistic life cycle assessments including impact categories beyond Global Warming Potential

We encourage applicants from businesses and organisations across the built environment and beyond to ensure a diverse range of views and perspectives in the Task Group. These include stakeholders such as investors, developers, contractors, engineers, architects, planners, academic researchers, government bodies and NGOs.

Task Group applicants must be able to:

- Attend workshop meetings (as below dates)
- Contribute a minimum of **3-6 hours per month** between June and February to the Task Group, inclusive of workshop times, plus availability to review the consultation results draft guidance before launch in Summer 2025.
- Actively engage in between meetings on tasks, such as research, reviewing and drafting content.
- Represent your sector / area of expertise in workshops discussions, and leverage your knowledge network to link to existing or ongoing work that can contribute to the project and ensure outputs of lasting value to the industry.
- Help promote the launch of the final output.

2. Project programme: Key Dates

Table 1: Provisional dates for Task Group workshops

Workshop 1	Thursday 20 th June	10:00-12:00
Workshop 2	Wednesday 24 th July	10:00-12:00
Workshop 3	Wednesday 9 th October	10:00-12:00
Workshop 4	Wednesday 4 th December	10:00-12:00
Workshop 5	Wednesday 26 th February	10:00-12:00

Please note that provisional dates may be subject to change. Should this be the case, the Task Group will be informed as soon as possible. All workshops will be held via online video conferencing, unless otherwise agreed with the Task Group.

Note that in addition to the Task Group sessions, the output will be informed by the [Nature Positive Collaboration Cafes](#) event series. While Task Group attendance is aimed at a more expert level and involved active shaping of the final publication, the Collaboration Café event series is aimed at a more general audience.

- ❖ Applications to become a **Project Partner** will be open from **8th May 2024** and will close on **5th June 2024**.
- ❖ Applications to join the **Task Group** will be open from **8th May 2024** and will close on **12th June 2024**.

3. Application form:

To apply, please fill in the form below and email it directly to kai.liebetanz@ukgbc.org:

Full name	
Job Title and Department	
Organisation	
Please explain your relevant knowledge, experience, and skills for this project (<i>max 200 words</i>)	
Please share any involvement with relevant existing, or ongoing industry or academic research, work, or initiatives (<i>max 100 words</i>)	
Are there any currently any workshop dates that you are unable to attend? (<i>Refer to Table 1, page 3</i>)	
Please confirm that you have put in a calendar placeholder for the first workshop on Thursday 20th June 10:00-12:00	

Applicants will be chosen based on their experience, whilst ensuring a diversity of individuals within the Task Group. UKGBC is committed to actively considering a diverse representation in the composition of all task groups. We want to be inclusive to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, civil status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political beliefs. This includes targeting an even gender split on this task group.

This project is possible due to the generous support of our Resilience and Nature programme Partners:

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