

## UK LOW CARBON BUILT ENVIRONMENT MARKET SUMMARY

### Key Points:

1. Latest forecast is for UK construction output to fall by 7.0% in 2023 before recovering slowly in 2024 with growth of c1%. Output in 2023 is expected to be hit by double-digit falls in the two largest construction sectors: private housing new build and private housing repair, maintenance, and improvement.
2. In 2019, the UK set a target of transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. HOWEVER, despite this – and chairing Cop26 in 2021 - progress to date has been limited, with no clear strategic plan.
3. With an ageing estate, retrofitting to meet energy targets is a major challenge. For example, 8.5 million of England’s housing stock was built before 1945.
4. Potential solutions include:
  - Technology – e.g. encouraging heat pumps by banning gas boilers in new homes after 2025
  - Re-using buildings (e.g. offices as apartments)
  - Re-using materials (e.g. bricks, structural steel)
  - Using materials more efficiently
  - Reducing the embodied carbon of familiar materials (e.g. cement)
  - Regulation – e.g. proposed Part Z of building regulations would regulate embodied and whole-life carbon
5. Leading stakeholders for low carbon in the built environment include the UK Green Building Council, along with several leading developers, landowners, engineers and consultants.
6. Pockets of excellence include Scotland, London and Manchester, who have established more challenging targets with a plan to achieve them.

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