

Climate Emergency Task Group: End-of-year report

The Institution's **Climate Emergency Task Group** looks back at a historic year in which climate action has been front and centre for the profession.

The Climate Emergency Task Group (CETG) has published an end-of-year report reviewing the group's activities through the year as it endeavoured to help the profession tackle the climate emergency.

This article summarises the key points from the report, which also acts as a guidance wayfinding tool, containing links to the written and recorded content that was produced by CETG contributors through the year (Figure 1). Please do read and discuss the report, as well as sharing it with clients and collaborators, to highlight our role in getting to net zero, and to share the progress that our profession is making.

Progress in 2020

The CETG started 2020 by formalising its mandate for change across four workstreams:

- | **Collaborate and influence:** across the industry in the UK and abroad.
- | **Support the profession:** by bringing firms together to share knowledge and progress.
- | **Raise standards:** through guidance, training, webinars and conferences.
- | **Set standards:** from education and chartership through CPD and awards.

We refreshed the Institution's *Climate emergency* webpage (www.istructe.org/climate-emergency), putting all relevant guidance in one accessible location for members. This grew to include the 26 articles that we published through the year, as it will continue to grow through 2021.

In July, the Institution published *How to calculate embodied carbon*, providing a common set of calculation principles for the industry to follow when quantifying the impact of our work. This was accompanied by several other

carbon articles, including an introduction to the SCORS rating system.

The calculation of embodied carbon continues to be a key part of the design process – informing material choices, design decisions, and circular economy and reuse strategies – and the CETG will continue to develop this important area in 2021, with the Institution due to release an Excel-based Structural Carbon Tool early in the year.

Finally, we worked to implement changes across the different stages of a structural engineer's career. The Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) guidelines were updated, bringing accredited university education in the UK in line with climate emergency response principles, and two new Structural Awards categories were introduced – for Zero Carbon and Minimal Structural Intervention.

Feedback

Throughout the year, feedback was sought from the membership to ascertain the needs of practising engineers with respect to guidance being published. As well as asking the question, 'What can we do more

of?', at committee meetings, regional events, and the Climate Emergency Conference, we also ran two parallel online member surveys. The end-of-year report outlines the resulting priorities for 2021, including material-specific guidance and reuse articles.


Year ahead

Looking forward to the coming year, the report highlights some of the task group's key goals for 2021:

- | **Collaborate and influence:** including continuing to strengthen links around the world; and advising and advocating for climate emergency response throughout governments and other institutions that we work with.
- | **Support the profession:** hosting Institution conferences, helping firms to keep sharing with one another, and supporting the development of a multidisciplinary open-source sharing website.
- | **Raise standards:** including the release of a free Excel-based Structural Carbon Tool, continued publication of guidance, and the creation of a Net-Zero Structural Design certificate.
- | **Set standards:** completing our work reviewing the Professional Review Interview and Membership Exams, and assisting universities in implementing the updated JBM guidelines.

Summary

We would like to thank all of the CETG contributors who found time in 2020 to create guidance articles, presentations and webinars for the rest of the membership. We are proud of what we collectively achieved in 2020, and are excited at the potential to achieve even more this year. We hope that you'll join us in making 2021 a year to remember!



DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

You can download the CETG's end-of-year report at www.istructe.org/resources/report/climate-emergency-task-group-end-of-year-report/.




FIGURE 1: The report acts as a wayfinding tool to guidance produced by the CETG

