

CIOB Sustainability Ambassador

Role Profile

Introduction

Society is at a crossroads. The twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, intrinsically linked and both driven by human activities, threaten the stability of Earth's natural life support systems. In fact, by 2023, six of the nine planetary boundaries that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system had already been breached¹.

The CIOB's objectives, defined by its Royal Charter, include the promotion for the public benefit of the science and practice of building and construction as well as the advancement of public education in that science and practice. No current definition of public benefit can neglect our role in tackling the environmental crisis, and the CIOB must provide visible leadership for sustainability, promoting environmental sustainability in construction practice, and advancing the development of relevant knowledge and skills to enable members and wider industry to make a positive contribution to a sustainable future.

The [CIOB Corporate Plan 2023-28](#) identified Environmental Sustainability as a focused strategic theme.

Aim of the role

The CIOB recognises the valuable experience and knowledge of sustainability in the built environment that members can bring to our discussions on this important and broad topic.

The role of the CIOB Sustainability Ambassador is available to CIOB members with both a keen interest and knowledge in this area to work with local Hubs and Regional Committees to make a positive contribution to the CIOB's approach to this focused Corporate Plan theme.

The Ambassadors will share their passion for environmental sustainability with others, help disseminate best practice across the CIOB networks, support our aim to build the case for change in the industry, and identify opportunities for action to promote sustainability in the built environment.

CIOB Sustainability Ambassadors will help disseminate best practice across the CIOB networks and identify areas for action to promote sustainable practices in construction.

They will be committed to developing their own knowledge of this important topic as well as encouraging others to do the same.

¹ <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

Any members who sit on local Hubs and Regional committees can volunteer to be a Sustainability Ambassador, subject to agreement with their local Hub or Regional Committee. If there is no existing committee member to take up the role, then the Committee should look to the wider membership and can co-opt a member to the committee.

CIOB Sustainability Ambassadors will keep themselves updated on, and act in accordance with, the relevant legislation and other requirements, regulatory environment, and best practice in the country and/or region within which they reside.

CIOB Sustainability Ambassadors will be supported by the Head of Environmental Sustainability with the objective of embedding the CIOB's commitment to sustainability across the institution.

The CIOB's Head of Sustainability will report on the activities of the Sustainability Ambassadors to the Sustainability Advisory Panel and Environmental Sustainability Delivery Group, as appropriate. Sustainability Ambassadors are therefore expected to keep the Head of Environmental Sustainability informed of activities and plans.

Requirements of the role:

- Enthusiasm for promoting sustainability in construction
- An understanding of the sustainability agenda in the context of the built environment sector
- Willingness to raise sustainability issues at Hub/Regional Committee meetings
- Willingness to develop their sustainability knowledge to keep pace with developments in this area

What the role entails:

- Acting as champions for sustainability in the built environment
- Sharing and promoting best practice within the CIOB
- Ensuring the Hub/Regional Committee are considering sustainability in their plans and activities
- Acting as a conduit for the flow of information, feeding back into their Hub
- Contributing to the development of regional strategies

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Benefits to volunteers:

- Developing subject matter expertise in environmental sustainability and adding a new skill and experience to their CV
- Helping the CIOB develop its approach to environmental sustainability
- Provision of a digital badge to acknowledge their contribution

The role is not:

- Being responsible for all sustainability initiatives within your Hub/Regional Committee
- Representing the CIOB externally on this topic without prior agreement from the Head of Environmental Sustainability

CIOB Sustainability Ambassadors will be supportive of the work of the members' Sustainability Advisory Panel and the aims of the CIOB Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. They will have due regard for the policy position of the CIOB in relation to Sustainability and Climate Change.

Members will be appointed to the role of Sustainability Ambassador for a period of 12 months and any extension will be subject to review by the Head of Environmental Sustainability.

The CIOB will withdraw the Sustainability Ambassador role if an individual ceases to be a member of CIOB, or if there is evidence of inappropriate conduct.

How to volunteer as a CIOB Sustainability Ambassador

1. Make yourself familiar with the CIOB's approach to Sustainability by watching this 45-minute webinar: [Take Action – CIOB and Sustainability](#)
2. Read the [Climate Change and Sustainability Policy Position Statement](#) and the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan which you can download on the same page.
3. Express your interest with your local Hub or Regional Committee and agree that you will act as its sole Sustainability Ambassador.
4. Inform the Head of Environmental Sustainability by emailing awilliams@ciob.org.uk and confirm you have followed the previous three steps.

¹ <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

5. Ensure the local Member Services and Events Coordinator is made aware and kept in the loop regarding your volunteer status as a Sustainability Ambassador.

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