

Aligning initiatives

Comparing the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment and GRESB

Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment (the Commitment)

The Commitment from the World Green Building Council challenges businesses, organisations, cities, states and regions to reach net zero operating emissions in their global portfolios by 2030, and to advocate for all buildings to operate at net zero by 2050.

[Find out more](#)

Key Stats

- Over 80 signatories from businesses, organisations, cities, states and regions including California, Scotland, New York, London, Paris and Tokyo
- Business signatories have committed to reducing 1,500,000 tonnes of carbon across 4,500 assets; meaning more than 250,000 employees will work in net zero carbon buildings by 2030

GRESB, the ESG Benchmark for Real Assets

Mission-driven and investor-led, GRESB is the environmental, social and governance (ESG) benchmark for real assets. GRESB validates, scores and benchmarks ESG performance data, providing business intelligence and engagement tools to investors and managers.

[Find out more](#)

Key Stats

- GRESB represents over USD 4 trillion in real asset value
- 10th Real Estate Assessment in 2019 had over 1,000 participants, reporting on more than 100,000 assets
- Since 2011, GRESB participants' like for like energy consumption reduction is equivalent to 650,000 homes being net zero

Why join?

- **Local, regional, global** - run by WorldGBC and their member network of national GBCs, the Commitment is about local solutions in a local context for a global crisis
- **Action oriented** - focus on both energy efficiency and renewable energy (on-site and/or off-site) to achieve a net zero emissions balance annually
- **Power of advocacy** - advocate for wider emissions reductions through core business activities
- **Global reach** - act locally but communicate globally
- **Supports the ambition loop¹** - businesses and governments share a common goal and language that enables the Commitment to be a framework for collaboration and best practice approaches to achieve emission reductions at scale

Why join?

- **Stand out from the crowd** - GRESB benchmarks your performance against performance of similar peers
- **Create investor certainty** - provides verified data and reporting for investors
- **4 trillion in asset value** - join some of the world's leading companies in determining and disclosing ESG performance
- **Provides a framework** - assessment evaluates important sustainability concepts which can help you to transition to a sustainable portfolio

Applicable to

Common entities who do both are:
Real Estate Investment Trusts,
Property and Superannuation Funds



Developer



Tenant



Owner



City



State/Region

Focus on



Setting ambitious
targets and goals



Action and
Implementation
towards net zero



Performance
measurement



Transparency and
Accountability



Catalysing supply
chain action

¹The Ambition Loop Paper: How business and government can fast track zero-carbon economic growth

How do they align

Due to the complementary nature of the scope and approach of each of these initiatives, there is significant alignment and therefore benefits of doing both in order to adequately demonstrate an organisation's efforts towards climate action. The Commitment and GRESB are industry leading initiatives which both provide global recognition of the environmental performance of assets and portfolio through verified data and transparent reporting. Together, they provide a framework and process that can be used to futureproof your assets as attractive sustainable investments.

Commit

The Commitment requires all new and existing buildings within direct control to operate at net zero carbon by 2030.

Disclose

Provide transparent data for energy consumption, scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions at asset and portfolio level through GRESB. Additionally, GRESB requires reporting of scope 3 data.

Act

The Commitment requires the entity to develop and implement a decarbonisation roadmap outlining key actions and milestones.

Verify

GRESB can be used as a market mechanism for reporting. It can provide portfolio level assurance and detail your method of verification at asset level.

Advocate

Report on a wide range of ESG activities through GRESB Assessment including management, water and tenant emissions. These could be used to demonstrate advocacy within the Commitment by expanding the scope of your impact.



The value of doing both

As a signatory of the Commitment and participant of GRESB, you would be able to:

- **Streamline reporting** - let us reduce your workload. GRESB and WorldGBC will exchange relevant data and performance metrics where possible meaning you spend less time writing and more time doing.
- **Signal yourself as an industry leader** - by joining the Commitment, you are part of an ambitious community setting radical targets and goals for net zero. As a participant in GRESB, you have the opportunity to benchmark this leadership against your peers and achieve the recognition that you deserve.
- **Give confidence to your investors** - investors are asking how assets and portfolios comply with the goals of the Paris Agreement. As part of the Commitment, you future proof your assets against this Agreement and go beyond a 1.5°C trajectory. Utilising the power of GRESB, you can turn this ambition into a signal to create investor certainty.
- **Create new opportunities** - as part of the Commitment, join other businesses and organisations, plus governments in setting a common goal to reach net zero carbon buildings. Demonstrating your leadership on net zero carbon through GRESB, open up new opportunities to collaborate and do business.