

# Climate Breakfast COP26

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Press Clipping



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News

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## At COP26, Norman Foster speaks about the primacy of cities in the fight against climate change



By [Josh Niland](#)

Nov 4, '21 1:58 PM EST



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[Norman Foster](#)'s commentary on urbanism is in the news cycle once again after the architect made an appearance in Glasgow as part of this week's United Nations [COP26 climate summit](#).

The comments roiled many in the [social media universe](#), who pointed to Foster's [continued insistence on airport design](#) and penchant for [high-profile projects in oil economies](#) that for many betray whatever claims the architect might make in regards to his own personal environmentalism.

Foster was participating in a question-and-answer breakfast with U.S. climate envoy John Kerry for an audience of worldwide mayors moderated by Glasgow's own city council leader [Susan Aitken](#).

Speaking with the former Secretary of State, Foster, who made waves recently after a [terse appearance](#) on Bloomberg Television in September in which the architect doubled down on his decision to [withdraw from Architects Declare](#) a scant 18 months after its founding, said that Covid has accelerated several already-ascendant trends such as biophilic design and pedestrianization.



Related on Archinect: [Foster + Partners withdraws from Architects Declare over aviation dispute](#)

Foster spoke to the diplomacy of cities, saying that “cities learn from each other. I think there’s a very interesting overlap between the pandemic and the climate crisis. It’s forced us to reassess the balance between the global and the local. It’s made us aware of the benefits of globalization, and the importance of pooling resources.”

“Historically,” he continued, “cities have always [benefitted from crises](#). They’ve always built back better. I think that it’s magnified trends that are all already there. I think we’re rediscovering the benefits of a traditional city.”

Foster then added that architects and urban planners “have the power to use foresight to design the cities of tomorrow, today. Global warming is a design issue: we have the ability, we have the brains, we have the technology. In that sense you are the architect of change.”

This stance presents a demarcation from [previous comments](#) made to *The Guardian* in 2015 in which he said he felt he “had no power” as an architect.



Related on Archinect: [Business as Usual or Build Back Better? Architectural Leaders Share Their Thoughts on This Weekend's COP26 Opening](#)

The role architects play in climate change has once again come under the microscope as a result of this year’s [particularly momentous](#) COP summit. Foster’s past commentary has been focused on outlining the facts around the matter, pointing to key proportionate statistics like the difference between Atlanta and London in terms of their carbon footprint. Readers will remember the manifesto Foster + Partners produced at the last COP summit, in which the firm reiterated its commitment to make projects that are “holistic and respectful of the needs of people and planet.”

Foster later answered Oslo’s governing mayor Raymond Johansen’s question by calling on the need for working classes to be integrated more into city planning efforts as the century progresses. Other prominent urban leaders were also in attendance. The complete two-hour discussion can be viewed below.





COP26 Climate Breakfast with...

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# CLIMATE BREAKFAST WITH MAYORS

## A dialogue with Norman Foster & John Kerry

Opening: Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations (TBC)  
Moderator: Susan Aiken, Leader of Glasgow City Council (Mayor)  
Guests of honor: Norman Foster, Architect / John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
Closing remarks: Olga Algoyeva, Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary, UNECE  
Claudio López, Mayor of Bogotá, C40 Vice-Chair for Latin America



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**A LIVELY CONVERSATION BETWEEN LORD FOSTER AND SECRETARY KERRY WITH MAYORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ON THE POST-COVID CITY**

Mayors from all over the world are invited to join this conversation, ask questions and bring forward their experiences and challenges, while sharing a real or virtual cup of coffee or tea.  
The link to the live stream of the event will be available on the websites of the partners listed below.  
In person participation is by invitation only: City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow.  
If you are a mayor and you are interested in participating, please write to [melanie.steinkemper@un.org](mailto:melanie.steinkemper@un.org).

Ver en  YouTube



COP26 Climate Breakfast with Mayors, streamed live on November 3rd, features the dialogue with Norman Foster and John Kerry. Video courtesy of UNECE on YouTube.

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## Norman Foster calls for "higher standards" on embodied carbon at COP26



Jennifer Hahn | 4 November 2021 | [8 comments](#)

[Norman Foster](#) has joined a growing number of architects calling for green building certifications that take [embodied emissions](#) from materials into account in order to meet [net-zero carbon](#) goals.

Speaking in a talk with US climate envoy John Kerry during the [COP26 climate conference](#), Foster pointed out that sustainability standards such as LEED and BREEAM focus on user wellbeing and operational omissions but neglect embodied carbon.

"Many of the standards that can rate a building environmentally, like LEED and BREEAM, are to be encouraged," he said.

"What we're realising now is that none of these ratings assess the embedded carbon in the materials that make the building."



*Foster (top and above) made the comments during the COP26 climate conference*

To create sustainable cities, Foster argued we need to pursue “higher standards” for buildings that take into account their whole-life emissions.

“The building itself is part of a wider sequence, which involves transport, movement, operating and eventually decommissioning,” he added. “So in that sense, we have to take a much broader, wider look.

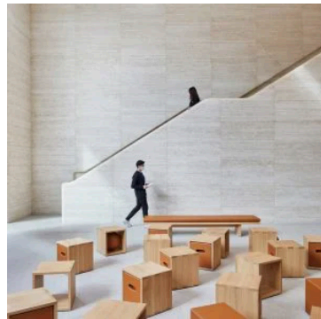
### **Whole-life emissions underregulated**

Embodied carbon emissions account for half of an average building’s carbon footprint.

But currently, no standardised certifications or regulations exist to measure and reduce these emissions.

The UK government’s net-zero strategy, which was [released last month ahead of COP26](#), similarly prioritises decarbonising buildings’ heating and electricity while neglecting to set targets for reducing emissions from the construction supply chain.

Other architects [including Andrew Waugh](#) have been lobbying for embodied carbon standards, alongside industry groups such as the [Royal Institute of British Architects](#), the [Architects Climate Action Network](#) (ACAN) and environmental advocacy group [Part Z](#).



**Read:**  
**Foster + Partners flanks  
Istanbul Apple Store with  
travertine stone walls**

Foster + Partners has itself been criticised for ignoring embodied carbon in favour of operational carbon in the sustainability assessment of its projects.

The firm's Bloomberg Building in London, which was awarded the Stirling Prize in 2018, was dubbed "the world's most sustainable office building" and certified with the highest possible BREEAM rating.

But according to Open City director Phineas Harper, the firm's internal sustainability analysis failed to consider the embodied emissions of the building's sandstone cladding, bronze facade fins and deep concrete foundations, which generally make up an outsized part of the footprint.

**Architecture represented at COP for first time**

The built environment is set to be discussed by world leaders during a dedicated half-day at COP26 this month, in a bid to tackle the 40 per cent of global emissions that can be attributed to the sector.

Waugh, who is attending the conference, told Dezeen he hoped the event would encourage governments to set "confident embodied carbon regulations" and requirements to disclose a project's carbon footprint.

"How about published carbon emissions on the front of every project, planetary health warnings like on a cigarette packet," he said.

*The photography is by Nigel Young courtesy of the Norman Foster Foundation.*

*COP26 and its surrounding activities are taking place in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. See Dezeen Events Guide for all the latest information you need to know to attend the event, as well as a list of other architecture and design events taking place around the world.*

Read more: [News](#) | [Norman Foster](#) | [Sustainable architecture](#) | [Net-zero](#) | [COP26](#) | [Embodied carbon](#) | [Architecture](#)



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Sustainability

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## Architect Norman Foster Tells COP26: Change 'Traditional' City Design to Combat Climate Change



Norman Foster and John Kerry discussed climate change and adaptation during a COP26 event moderated by Susan Aitken, leader of the Glasgow city council.

*Photo courtesy of Norman Foster Foundation*

November 5, 2021

James Leggate

KEYWORDS [COP26](#) / [Green Building](#) / [John Kerry](#) / [Norman Foster](#)

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Regaining control over the climate crisis will require a change in the way cities are designed and built, noted British architect Sir Norman Foster told global attendees at the [COP26 summit](#) in Glasgow, Scotland, in a presentation with John Kerry, President Joe Biden's special climate envoy.

The design leader of major projects such as the Beijing airport, New York City's Hearst Tower and Apple's California headquarters, made the comments on Nov. 3, emphasizing that green building standards must adapt to account for a wider range of factors.

"Many of the standards that can rate a building environmentally, like LEED and BREEAM, are to be encouraged," he says. "They're about, in many ways, the wellness of the building, environmentally, in terms of its impact on the planet. You've got a new range of ratings about wellness, so they're about the health of those who use the building. What we're realizing now is that none of these ratings assess the embedded carbon in the materials that make the building. At the same time, they are not factoring in the operational carbon."

Foster adds that he believes cities should be rezoned to promote more traditional mixed neighborhoods, replacing purpose-built, auto-focused areas where people who work in city centers can't afford to live in them and must instead commute from far away.

He compared Detroit with Copenhagen, Denmark. The cities have similar populations and climates. Copenhagen is older and much more compact, but Detroit, built for cars, uses far more energy. Now amid climate change, Foster says people are rediscovering the benefits of traditional cities, and the importance of their infrastructure.

"If you think about the infrastructure, it's the urban glue that binds all the individual buildings together," Foster says. "It's the boulevards, the green spaces, the public spaces, the plazas, the bridges, the connections. That's what determines the quality of urban life, and that's where the investment should go."

Foster said the global design sector is core to developing needed solutions: "Global warming is a design issue," he said. "We have the ability, we have the brains, we have the technology."

Foster said the global design sector is core to developing needed solutions: "Global warming is a design issue," he said. "We have the ability, we have the brains, we have the technology."

Kerry says he is optimistic about the prospects of private money getting involved in to help finance that development, thanks in part to a commitment from a group of major U.S. banks to contribute \$4.61 trillion over 10 years to the effort.

"The private sector is at the table at this COP in a way we've never had," Kerry says.

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# Norman Foster at COP26: 'Cities will bounce back better and greener from Covid crisis'

3 NOVEMBER 2021 . BY RICHARD WAITE



Norman Foster has said that the world's cities will bounce back better - and in more environmentally friendly way - as they recover and rebuild from the Covid crisis

The architect was speaking at COP26 Glasgow in a question-and-answer session with US climate envoy John Kerry and city mayors from around the globe.

The head of AJ100-topping practice Foster + Partners said an 'overlap between the pandemic and the climate crisis' had forced the world to 'reassess the balance between the global and the local'.

He added: 'The city has bounced back better from crises. That is the lesson of history. So Covid, like any crisis or pandemic, magnifies and accelerates trends that were already there.'

'Really importantly, it has brought people together and I think we've realised the prospect of making the city of the future greener, quieter, safer, more equitable.'

Foster pointed to how people had enjoyed 'strolling and outdoor dining' on car-free streets during the lockdowns and 'embraced positive change in the hearts of cities'.

He compared this with his seven-year battle to close one side of Trafalgar Square, which involved consultation with 180 institutions and 15,000 questionnaires.

He said: 'That [same] effect happened in weeks and days in the heart of the pandemic. Suddenly, everybody was excited about the potential of greening the city, of making it more walkable, more friendly. So, I think attitude of mind has changed.'

The architect also called for a new balancing out of cities, where the working classes weren't shoved further outwards.

He said the pandemic had 'made us really aware and appreciative of those people who make the city work' and a given us a 'new appreciation of the poorly paid' who have to leave early in the morning to commute 'because the centre of the city is unaffordable'.

He said: 'When I was a student, some of the best housing in London was a civic initiative. It was created by the civic authorities and it created high-quality housing, affordable housing. So first of all, we have to level out the city.'

'It's using the power of zoning to be able to convert obsolescent buildings into new uses, recycling them. So you can recycle the old, obsolete office buildings into residential.'

'We have to make the centre of the city more equitable for everybody. [And not making it so] you have to commute which is unsustainable because it's guzzling gas.'

'You have to go back to the more traditional city of the past, which was a richer mix of different classes. You didn't have this kind of ghetto of the poor. So you use the power of legislation and incentives.'

Foster also spoke about how the main, current environmental rating standards for buildings were not going far enough in terms of gauging their full impact on the planet.

Though ratings such as LEED and BREEAM and new standards for the wellbeing of occupants 'should be encouraged', he said, 'what we're realising now is that none of these ratings assesses the embedded carbon in the materials that make the building at the same time; they are not factoring in the operational carbon.'

'In other words, the building itself is part of a wider sequence which involves transport movement, operating and eventually decommissioning. So in that sense, we have to take a much broader look.'



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## Glasgow COP26 has 'greater energy' than previous summits, US climate envoy John Kerry says

The climate envoy attended a COP26 breakfast with council leader Susan Aitken and famous architect Lord Norman Foster, who designed the Armadillo and the Hydro, at the city chambers.



**Glasgow City Council leader Susan Aitken meets with US climate envoy John Kerry in Glasgow City Chambers.** (Image: Twitter: Cllr David McDonald)

United States climate envoy John Kerry said there is “greater energy” in Glasgow than at any other COP as he talked with council leader Susan Aitken in the “extraordinary” city chambers.

Mr Kerry — a former Secretary of State and the US’ first [climate envoy](#) — said he has a “sense of confidence and optimism” about the crucial climate talks in [Glasgow](#).

He was speaking alongside Lord Norman Foster, the architect behind the Armadillo and the Hydro, and Glasgow City Council leader Susan Aitken.

They addressed mayors from across the world in the banquet hall at the city chambers this morning (Wednesday).

The climate envoy said former president, Donald Trump, had “chewed up three years” and there are now nine years to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

“But here in Glasgow, I really do feel there is something different. I’ve been to COPs from the very beginning, I was in Rio [Earth Summit, 1992], I was in Kyoto [in 1997, where a commitment on reducing greenhouse gas emissions was made].

“There was this indifference to the real choices of reasonable governance. A lot of people lied, and some still are.”

On COP26, Mr Kerry said: “This one has greater energy, more focus, an intensity that I have not felt at any of the other COPs.

"It has one other thing that is critical. The private sector is at the table at this COP in a way that we've never had."

He added the "real issue" would be following-up on the work in Glasgow.

"What we're going to do is translate our team that has been concentrating on raising ambition as we come to Glasgow, to now taking that announced committed ambition and making sure it implements.

"I really believe that we can get there, I'm not just saying that to you. I have a sense of confidence and optimism about the road we are getting on in Glasgow."

He said to implement plans to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees "every single country" needs to be at the table, and he is "still holding out hope" on negotiations with China.

Mr Kerry said it was "a pleasure" to be in "this extraordinary building, with my friend Lord Norman Foster". "On Martha's Vineyard, where we are neighbours, he is just Norman."

The climate envoy said he had been at the Rio de Janeiro Earth summit in 1992, a previous United Nations conference on climate change.

"A group of us in the UN senate with Al Gore, who I was with last night at an event, and some other senators came together, and we were all in Rio because we were working with George HW Bush.

"It was a voluntary agreement. As we all know, when there is a threat over the horizon and people can't and don't feel the daily impact or see the reality, it is so easy in public life to shun it aside and not to really take seriously the science and the realities."

On the role of cities in tackling climate change, Mr Kerry said the "city can decide what you want to do".

"That's the brilliance of being a mayor, you've got this enormous local power and you can galvanise on a very personal basis, corner for corner, street for street."

However, he said funding is "critical" and it "really helps if you have a national government that is prepared to make the city a big deal".

"Each city should probably have its own vision of what are the characteristics they want to emphasise in that city, or what are the best aspects of the culture of the city.

"The key is to have the mayor there who has that vision, who wants to do those things and is ready to be as inclusive as you can conceivably be."

Council leader Susan Aitken said Mr Kerry had been "absolutely instrumental in setting the tone for this particular COP".

"I think the first person I heard on an international stage talking about Glasgow and the importance of what is happening in this city right now was former Secretary of State Kerry, when he talked about Glasgow being the last best chance for the world.

"He has been instrumental in helping the world to understand just how important the discussions taking place at the Blue Zone right now are for the future of our shared planet."

And Ms Aitken said Lord Foster, who designed the building known as the 'Gherkin' in London, was "one of most distinguished architects in the world".

She said the Armadillo, originally the Clyde Auditorium, was "one of those buildings that was a real signifier in Glasgow's renaissance".

"The way that we have used culture and the arts in Glasgow to drive our recovery from the post-industrial era, it is enormously loved by Glaswegians."

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## Norman Foster y John Kerry en la COP26: ¿Cómo diseñar ciudades más sustentables?

*“Se deben fomentar nuevos estándares que permitan clasificar un edificio de manera ambiental”.*



POR ALEJANDRA CAÑEDO

PUBLICADO: 05 NOVIEMBRE 2021



Norman Foster, reconocido como uno de los arquitectos más influyentes en la actualidad, habló en la COP26 de Glasgow en una sesión de preguntas y respuestas junto a John Kerry, enviado presidencial especial de los Estados Unidos para el Clima.

Durante este ‘Climate Breakfast’, ambos panelistas discutieron sobre las necesidades de las ciudades desde el punto de vista medioambiental, así como de éstas después de la pandemia.

Sobre los estándares de sostenibilidad LEED y BREEAM, el Norman Foster opinó que éstos, al centrarse únicamente en el bienestar del usuario —pero no en el carbono incrustado en los diferentes materiales que conforman el edificio—, si bien deberían alentarse, tendrían que crearse nuevos en los que se tome en cuenta el carbono operativo.

Actualmente, las emisiones de carbono incorporadas representan la mitad de la huella de carbono de un edificio promedio; sin embargo, la realidad es que no existen certificaciones o regulaciones especializadas para medir y/o reducir este tipo de emisiones.



El mes pasado, el gobierno del Reino Unido lanzó la estrategia cero neto en la que se prioriza la descarbonización de la calefacción y la electricidad de los edificios, pero, sin dejar de establecer objetivos para reducir las emisiones de la cadena de suministro de la construcción.

Cabe destacar que, tras estos comentarios, Foster + Partners fue altamente criticada por el edificio de Bloomberg, en Londres, calificado en 2018 como “el edificio más sostenible del mundo” y obtuvo la calificación BREEAM más alta posible. La razón: Phineas Harper, director de Open City, explicó que en el análisis de sostenibilidad interno de la empresa, no fueron consideradas las emisiones incorporadas del revestimiento de piedra del edificio, las aletas de bronce de la fachada y los cimientos profundos de hormigón.



### **“Las ciudades podrían recuperarse mejor y más verdes tras la pandemia”**

El también jefe del despacho líder de arquitectura Foster + Partners aprovechó para mencionar que “la superposición entre la pandemia y la crisis climática obligó al mundo a reevaluar el equilibrio entre lo global y lo local.

“El Covid-19, como cualquier crisis, magnifica y acelera las tendencias que ya estaban ahí”.

Según el arquitecto, la pandemia del nuevo Coronavirus abrió un nuevo panorama a las personas, quienes, tras atravesar los periodos más complicados de la crisis, “se dieron cuenta de la perspectiva de hacer que la ciudad del futuro sea más verde, más tranquila, más segura y equitativa”.

Finalmente, de acuerdo con la visión de Norman Foster, los arquitectos y urbanistas “tienen el poder de usar la previsión para diseñar las ciudades del mañana, hoy. El calentamiento global es una cuestión de diseño: tenemos la capacidad, tenemos el cerebro y la tecnología. En ese sentido, eres el arquitecto del cambio”.

El diálogo entre el arquitecto Norman Foster y el secretario John Kerry fue resultado de una colaboración entre el Departamento de Estado de Estados Unidos, la ciudad de Glasgow, la Norman Foster Foundation, la red de ciudades C40 y la Comisión Económica para Europa de las Naciones Unidas (UNECE).

# The Architect's Newspaper

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Glasgow Calling

## COP26 kicks off in Glasgow with talks, exhibitions, and a CambridgeSeven-designed Resilience Hub

By Matt Hickman • November 1, 2021 • Editor's Picks, Environment, International, Round Up, Sustainability



The Resilience Hub at COP26 in Glasgow. (Courtesy CambridgeSeven and the Atlantic Council)

Following a rousing kick-off speech by Sir David Attenborough, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, is now officially underway in Glasgow. For those on the ground in Scotland's most populous city, there's no shortage of planned exhibitions, talks, and other activities during the run of the 12-day conference that squarely focuses on the critical role of the built environment in creating a healthier, safer, and more equitable future for the global population while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and working with renewed urgency to ameliorate the dire climate projections.

Underscoring the importance of this role, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has sent a delegation of architects to COP26, marking the first time that the AIA has formally participated in the conference as a non-governmental organization and official COP observer. The delegation includes AIA President Peter Exley, FAIA, along with architects Julie Hiromoto (FAIA, COTE 2020 Advisory Group Chair); Mike Davis (FAIA, AIA Government Advocacy Committee Chair), and Dr. Mark Breeze (AIA, AIA UK Sustainability Chair).

“The design community is committed to addressing climate change, but we know that we can’t do it alone,” said Exley in a statement. “AIA is participating in this global convening because it is going to take the concerted efforts of both industry and government to make meaningful action on climate change.”

This all said, there’s *a lot* of interest going at COP26, both in-person and virtually, outside of key climate negotiations between the roughly 120 world leaders attending the summit. Below are just a few highlights, and AN will continue to add more as the conference, which concludes on November 12, gets underway.

It also should be noted that COP26 is spread throughout two zones: the U.N.-hosted Blue Zone is centered around the sprawling Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in which UNFCCC accreditation is required of attendees. The Green Zone, located across the River Clyde at the Glasgow Science Centre, is managed by the U.K. government and will be home to over 100 exhibitors and 200 special events. It is described as “a platform for the general public, youth groups, civil society, academia, artists, business and others to have their voices heard through events, exhibitions, workshops and talks that promote dialogue, awareness, education and commitments.” Thursday, November 11, a day dedicated entirely to Cities, Regions & Built Environment, will be a particularly busy one at the Green Zone as it plays host to a substantial number of intriguing and important events pertinent to the AEC industry.





Rendering of the Resilience Pavilion (Courtesy CambridgeSeven)

### **The Resilience Hub (Blue Zone, Glasgow Caledonian University)**

Located within COP26's Blue Zone, the Resilience Hub is a multifaceted pavilion playing host to a range of programming, both physical and virtual, throughout the conference. The bi-level, 2,195-square-foot indoor space is home base to the Race to Resilience, a U.N.-backed initiative described as "a global campaign to build climate resilience and move towards 'global net-zero.'" Commissioned by a global alliance of the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center and the Atlantic Council, the Resilience Hub was designed in Massachusetts by CambridgeSeven, contracted in France by GL EVENTS, and fabricated in Poland before being shipped to Glasgow for build-out.



As detailed in a press release, key features of the pavilion include a multi-use upper-level theater; lower-level meeting and events areas that combine “cutting-edge media activations, digital art, and augmented reality graphics; living walls that “metabolize carbon dioxide and provide moisture and oxygen to the pavilion as it filters the slowly circulating ambient air;” a virtual art exhibit accessed by QR code; dynamic lighting featuring “floating, illuminated ceiling graphics” that engage visitors with key issues of the conference, and a slew of sustainable design features such as bamboo flooring and environmentally-themed graphics printed with plant-based inks.

### ***Global Cities Climate Action (Green Zone, Glasgow Science Center)***

Presented by Arup and C40, the *Global Cities Climate Action* exhibition will bring together 11 C40 cities (Auckland, Beijing, Bogotá, Istanbul, Jakarta, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Mumbai, Nairobi, and Washington, D.C.) to share different city-led urban climate solutions that have already been implemented or are on the horizon. As noted in a press release, these solutions jointly impact over 109 million inhabitants and “are measuring tangible positive climate impacts through reduced emissions, improved resource efficiency, and strengthened climate adaptation and mitigation, while enhancing citizens’ quality of life and social equity.” A range of mayors and global city leaders are expected to attend the exhibition include the Mayor of London and Chair-elect of C40 Cities, Sadiq Khan, along with Bogotá Mayor Claudia López Hernández, and the Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu.

Physically comprised of a series of 11 different “virtual rooms” where each respective city will showcase “case studies and initiatives that have demonstrated proven positive climate impacts,” the full exhibition will also be available virtually via an interactive digital platform.



The virtual *Build Better Now* exhibition (AECOM)

### ***Build Better Now* exhibition (Virtual)**

Housed within an immersive virtual pavilion designed by AECOM in collaboration with [Install Archive](#), the wholly digital *Build Better Now* exhibition showcases 17 exemplary works of sustainable design from around the globe ranging from [timber high-rises](#) to [experimental 3D-printed clay domiciles](#), and much more. The exhibition also features the *Fountain of Circular Recovery*, a 3D installation (and accompanying film) by [Make Architects](#) that “highlights opportunities for recovery, reuse and recycling in the built environment to establish a truly circular economy.” The virtual *Build Better Now* pavilion will also host a range of [free public events](#) throughout COP26 programmed in collaboration with the World Green Building Council. No events, however, will be held on November 11 as not to draw eyes and ears away from official events held on Cities, Regions & Built Environment Day.

### **UNFCCC Climate Breakfast with Mayors: a Dialogue with Norman Foster and John Kerry (Off-site at Glasgow City Chambers, streamed live on November 3)**

An off-site highlight of COP26 is a [breakfast-time conversation](#) between architect Norman Forster and John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, on the topic of the post-COVID city. Leader of Glasgow City Council (Mayor) Susan Aitken will moderate, and mayors from across the world are invited to join and participate. Non-mayors can also tune in and watch live via the [UNECE YouTube channel](#) bright and early November 3 from 7.30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. GMT (5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. EDT). Foster + Partners has also organized a [small handful of other talks](#) during COP26 accessible via live stream.

### **Select Green Zone panel discussions (Check the events page for times and specific locations):**

*Commercial Buildings: A real asset in addressing climate change?*  
(November 4)

Presented by the Better Buildings Partnership, this panel discussion will “provide an insight into the critical role that the commercial real estate sector plays in addressing climate change, highlighting some of the toughest challenges and exploring how meaningful progress can be accelerated through Collective Commitment, Sustainable Finance, and Collaborative Action.”

***Polar Net Zero (November 5)***

Presented by the British Antarctic Survey, this interactive event “challenges young people around the globe to think about the part they can play in creating a low carbon future. By questioning world-leading experts who are developing sustainable solutions to reduce energy use at British Antarctic Survey research stations school children will learn how human ingenuity, creativity, and technology can help people live with and adapt to climate change. Its key message to students is ‘you can help ensure a greener, more resilient future for us all.’”

***Women leaders transforming street design (November 10)***

Presented by U.K.-based nonprofit Living Streets, this panel discussion is chaired by Susan Claris, vice president of Living Streets and associate director at Arup, and will include: Carly Gilbert-Patrick, team leader for Active Mobility, Digitalisation & Mode Integration with the U.N. Environment Programme (live from Kenya); Leslie Kern, urbanist and author of *Feminist City* (live from Canada); Councillor Anna Richardson, Glasgow’s City Convener for Sustainability & Carbon Reduction (in person), and Janet Sanz, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona (live from Spain).

“Too often women, children, older and disabled people are excluded from designing and planning our public spaces,” the official event description elaborated. “If we want urban worlds that are liveable, healthier and better, then we need to include more diverse groups in their development. The panelists will discuss their approach to putting a more equitable society at the heart of their work.”

***Construction: The Built Environment (November 11)***

“Come and learn how the Construction Leadership Council’s Construct Zero industry-change programme is targeting the most impactful actions to mitigate this, leading the industry’s charge to meeting the Prime Minister’s 2035 Net Zero target,” reads the official event description for this [Construction Leadership Council](#)-hosted event.

A full list of Green Zone exhibitors and events can be found [here](#) and [here](#); the *Architects’ Journal* has also published a [comprehensive guide](#) to COP26 events including official Green Zone happenings and fringe events taking place across Glasgow.



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## Global warming is a design issue we can solve, says Foster

By [Elizabeth Hopkirk](#) | 5 November 2021

**Architect made comments at COP26 summit**

The climate crisis is a design issue that we have the brains to solve, Norman Foster told an event at COP26 in Glasgow.

Speaking alongside former US secretary of state John Kerry, the architect revealed how he first became interested in environmental concerns in the 1960s.

