

# RICS Corporate Responsibility Report

Communication on progress  
August 2011–July 2012



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## Who we are

Land, property and construction sector issues affect everyone, everywhere. They have a profound impact at both macro- and micro-levels on individuals and communities, small enterprises, global corporations, governments and the natural environment.

Through their work, RICS members around the world are part of the whole lifecycle of property, from land management and measurement, through planning, environmental impact assessment, and investment appraisal, to managing the construction process and advising on the most resource efficient use of buildings. Through a programme of continuing professional development our members are required to keep up to date with current practice and must comply with rules of conduct and professional and ethical standards.

### Useful RICS sustainability related links:

RICS Corporate Responsibility  
[rics.org/corporatesocialresponsibility](http://rics.org/corporatesocialresponsibility)

RICS global sustainability  
[rics.org/sustainability](http://rics.org/sustainability)

RICS Sustainability LinkedIn Group  
[rics.org/sustainabilitylinkedin](http://rics.org/sustainabilitylinkedin)

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## A word from the CEO



### Responsible Action

Responsible action is at the heart of everything we do at RICS, and transparency is an essential ingredient. This annual report on progress is an important way not only to communicate achievements but to identify areas requiring further work.

Being a signatory of the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles has provided us with an ideal framework for understanding challenges and opportunities on our journey towards demonstrable leadership as a responsible business.

Our programme to achieve this includes widening our engagement in the fields of anti-corruption, 'green' supply chain management in the built environment, and integrating sustainable development principles into higher education.

One challenge lies in contextualising corporate responsibility for our employees and our membership. Achieving our goals will greatly depend on our ability to successfully engage with our employees on this agenda. During 2011/2012, we have witnessed an encouraging increase in the level of enthusiasm with which our employees embraced volunteering at local levels and organising fundraising activities, particularly to support our corporate charity WaterAid, thus giving something back to global communities.

Another objective has to be to optimise our organisational day-to-day practices to demonstrate to our members that we set the same standards internally as we would expect them to meet in their own organisations. To this end, over the course of the past year we established a reporting base-line through monitoring and quantitative evaluation of our work, along with engaging internal and external stakeholders to better understand existing work and to shape future plans.

One of last year's objectives was to further cut our carbon emissions for our three main sites, which are in the UK. I am very pleased to be able to report that resource efficiency in running the buildings at these sites has been further increased, in many areas even surpassing typical industry practice. Unfortunately, we have not achieved our overall carbon footprint reduction target due to strategic business expansion in several markets around the world: one significant contributor to our 2011/2012 carbon footprint was business travel. During 2012/2013 we will be concentrating on measures to minimise the impact of this, and generally improving our performance, for example through expanding our use of video and rolling out improved policies on issues such as procurement.

Finally, by investing in building professional capacity through global sustainable development standards and training, and bringing together academia and practice with dedicated research and scholarships, we are shaping the responsible professionalism of the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Tompkins".

**Sean Tompkins**  
Chief Executive Officer



[www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

## Work in the area of Human Rights (UN Global Compact Principles 1 & 2)

Responsible governance of land tenure is essential for people to realise their **fundamental human rights to adequate food, shelter and property** and is vital in securing economic growth, by giving investors confidence and promoting sustainable development, whilst preventing over-exploitation of natural resources.

### **Achievements in 2011/2012 included:**

#### **UN Global Compact initiative on Children's Rights and Business Principles**

RICS contribution to the joint UN Global Compact/ UNICEF/Save the Children consultation on Children's Rights and Business Principles launched in March 2012. RICS particularly stressed the importance of young workers' rights by promoting the Internships Code of Best Practice, to which RICS is a signatory.

#### **FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries**

RICS was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to prepare recommendations on how to mainstream leading academic institutions in the implementation of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, forests and fisheries in the context of food security. This included setting up a database of leading academic and research institutions responsible for educating surveyors, land, forestry and fisheries specialists, running a survey regarding existing courses and training materials as well as developing a strategy on how to embed tenure issues in undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes and continuing professional development.

#### **Continued joint work with UN Habitat**

Participation in the UN Habitat Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Partners Meeting at UN Habitat's Nairobi headquarters and contribution to the GLTN Learning Exchange which examined ongoing GLTN supported land administration projects in India, the Philippines, Tanzania, Peru and Brazil, the impact of the new constitution and land policy in Kenya, the use of participatory enumeration in Haiti and also presented pro-poor land rights and developing land tenure indicators for Uganda, Rwanda and Benin.



Equal opportunities at RICS

RICS recognises the importance of cultural differences across its organisation and perceives these differences as an asset to a global organisation. We therefore believe it essential to foster practice of respect and understanding of the respective cultural context and associated traditions of our employees. Amongst our 600+ employees we employ 28 different nationalities illustrating the multi-cultural nature of the organisation.

To ensure growth and influence RICS’ future is dependent on our ability to attract and retain entrants from all sections of the community. Through our Equal Opportunities Policy, we are fully committed to providing equal opportunities in employment and to avoiding unlawful discrimination in employment or to members or customers.

As figure 1 illustrates, RICS has a high proportion of women amongst its employees. Out of a total of 677 employees 59% are female and 41% male.

We recognise that retaining experienced and highly qualified employees is becoming ever more important against a background of skills shortages, the cost of training newly recruited employees and the potential loss of knowledge. Of the workforce of 677, we have five employees who have been in service with RICS for more than 30 years and 19 with over 20 years’ service highlighting the value we place on the experience our long-serving colleagues bring to the organisation.

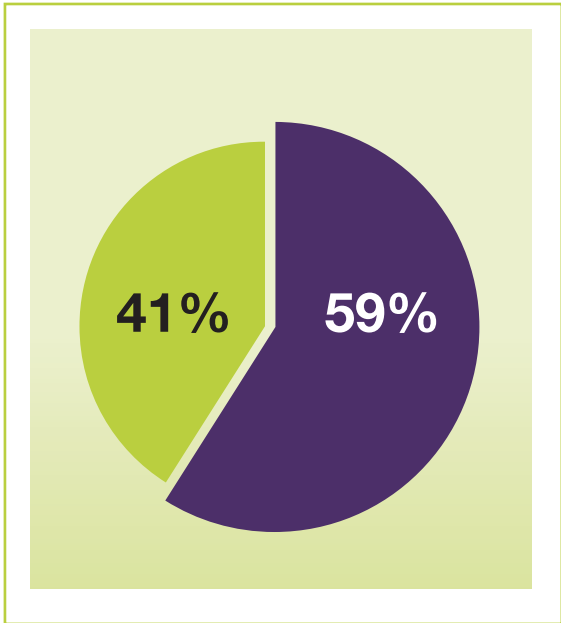


Figure 1: Employee gender split across whole organisation (2011/2012)

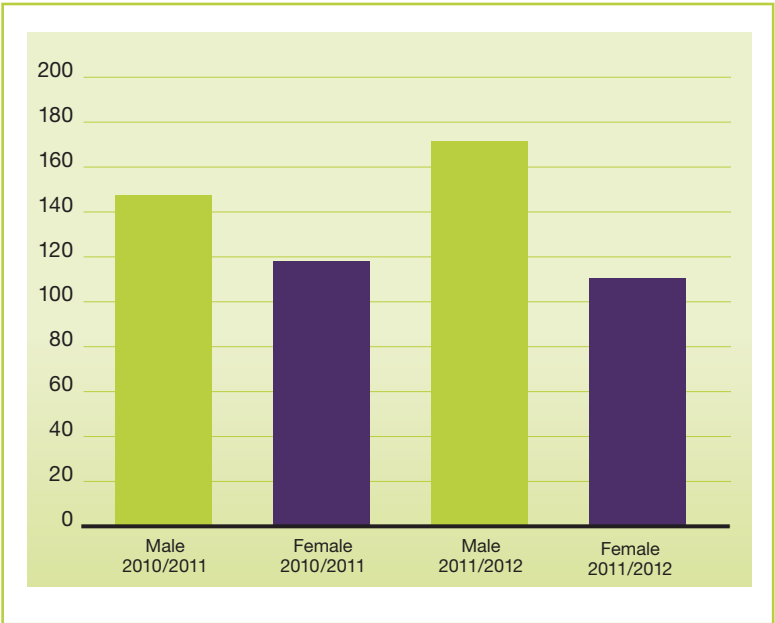


Table 1: Gender split at managerial levels 4–7 (2010/2011 versus 2011/2012)

### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

- **Work with the UK Equally Professional Network**  
Contribution to the UK Equally Professional Network Diversity Leadership in Professional Bodies guide due for publication in late 2012. RICS is a member of the Equally Professional Network
- **Publication of RICS Inclusion, Equality and the Built Environment – a Glossary of Terms**  
Publication of a glossary of terms designed to provide members with information relating to the language used in connection with disability, inclusion and equality within the built environment sector
- **Continued active promotion of social mobility**  
Involvement in the production of the UK Government endorsed Professions for Good Social Mobility Toolkit, launched in March 2012 which equips employers, professional bodies and regulators to measure and promote greater social mobility. RICS is a founder member of Professions for Good, a group of leading professions including law and accountancy.

### Mainstreaming responsible business into corporate functions

In recognition of the importance of integrating responsible business principles into day-to-day practice within the organisation, we have extended the role of Director of Human Resources within the Executive Team to include Corporate Responsibility. The Director of Human Resources & Corporate Responsibility is supported by the Corporate Responsibility Steering Group which involves a number of relevant employees from across the business.

Over the past year, through the Corporate Responsibility Steering Group we carried out an analysis on how to strengthen our 'responsible business, responsible employer' approach. We specifically addressed two areas that had been identified for potential improvement in our previous report:

1. How to encourage more of our employees to get personally involved in fully embedding our Responsible Business vision within the organisation?
2. How to ensure our employees' wellbeing and health against a background of increasing economic and business pressures?

### 1. Encouraging employee engagement

We recognise that supporting a corporate charity can help improve employee morale, wellbeing and work-life balance. Working with local communities is driving employee engagement. Despite the worldwide difficult economic situation, all RICS employees continue to be eligible for one paid day off per year so they can take part in volunteering activities that give something back to the local community. Employees can arrange to support a charity or community group of their choice, either individually or as a team effort. In addition to paid time off, we encourage employees to utilise the skills acquired at work in their community.

### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

- doubling of participation rates in volunteering in comparison with the previous year as result of focus on **Giving Something Back** (see table 2)
- partnership with WaterAid as global corporate charity
- designation of May 2012 as corporate volunteering month with teams from across the world participating in local events including fundraising activities for corporate charity WaterAid and other charities close to employees' hearts, leading to 70% of the fundraising target for the year. Volunteering activities included mentoring of children in Germany, organising a charity auction in aid of a Russian orphanage and acting as 'Games Makers' at the 2012 London Olympics.



## Work in the area of Labour (UN Global Compact Principles 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Year	Days taken	Percentage of total number of employees
2008/2009	80	15.6%
2009/2010	122	20.5%
2010/2011	42.5	7.1%
2011/2012	100	14.7%

Table 2: Overview of number of volunteering days taken (2008–2012)

### 2. Creating a healthy and fair workplace for our employees

Supporting our employees' wellbeing and health has been key to our approach this year. We successfully introduced our Wellbeing Month, where employees were invited to get involved in a number of activities designed to promote wellbeing.

Underpinning these activities are our Employee Assistance Programme which offers ongoing and proactive support to all employees for their personal wellbeing and an industry leading approach to flexible working, actively supporting the concept of home working as a way of creating a better work-life balance. Further support is also provided through our employee occupational health programme. All employees are entitled to participate in our bespoke private health care scheme.

Providing a safe and secure environment for our employees to work in are paramount for us. Against this background, mandatory online training sessions for managers on how to ensure health and safety standards are being met was organised during 2011/2012.

### Personal development opportunities

We believe that our people are essential to the achievement of our strategic goals. As part of our employee development strategy, we actively support employee secondments between our headquarters and world regional offices. In 2011/2012 these included two three month secondments from our HQ to the US and Brazil and to Singapore.

### Dealing with grievance

Everyone sometimes feels unhappy at work. Through our grievance policy we have processes in place to ensure that every employee has the chance to try to resolve complaints or concerns that they have in respect of their employment with RICS.



## Work in the area of Environment (UN Global Compact Principles 7, 8 & 9)

### RICS carbon footprint 2011/2012

We have been monitoring our carbon footprint since 2009.

#### Scope of carbon footprint:

The carbon footprint analysis in table 3 relates to the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012, including all direct scope 1 (gas usage) and scope 2 emissions (electricity) as well as most indirect scope 3 emissions (business travel, waste, etc.) for the following three UK RICS sites:

- Parliament Square, London (PS)
- Surveyor Court, Coventry (SC)
- Manor Place, Edinburgh (MP).

#### Scope 1 and 2 emissions:

In our 2010/2011 report we had set ourselves the target of further cutting our carbon emissions and use of natural resources. As table 3 shows, by implementing further efficiency drives, such as the installation of a new Building Management System (BMS) at our Head Office we have successfully managed to reduce carbon emissions resulting from our three UK sites (scope 1 and 2) by another 12% (scope 1) and 15% (scope 2) respectively which represents an above target reduction.

#### Scope 3 emissions:

Global business expansion (Brazil); a strategic focus on consolidating existing presence (India and China); holding our first ever non-UK Governing Council in Beijing marked the transition towards a truly global organisation. These activities involved increased air travel, leading to a 70% increase in carbon emissions resulting from scope 3 (representing a 66% increase in comparison to the 2009/2010 baseline) leading to an overall rise in carbon emissions of 17% for 2011/2012.

However, we have now taken active steps to introduce video conferencing facilities at our Parliament Square and Surveyor Court sites to reduce the necessity for travel to and from meetings. A pilot phase was rolled out in October 2012. If the trial is successful then we will look to extend it globally. In addition, to drive down our carbon costs we have adopted a virtual approach to assessing members via webex across vast regions such as North America, Canada and Africa and are currently looking at also adopting this for some assessor training sessions.

In addition, we revised our travel policy in February 2012 stressing that thought should be given to the most sustainable mode of transport, with short internal flights being avoided where possible. Consideration should first be given to using rail and bus and to the possibility of virtual attendance.

### RICS UK historic carbon footprints

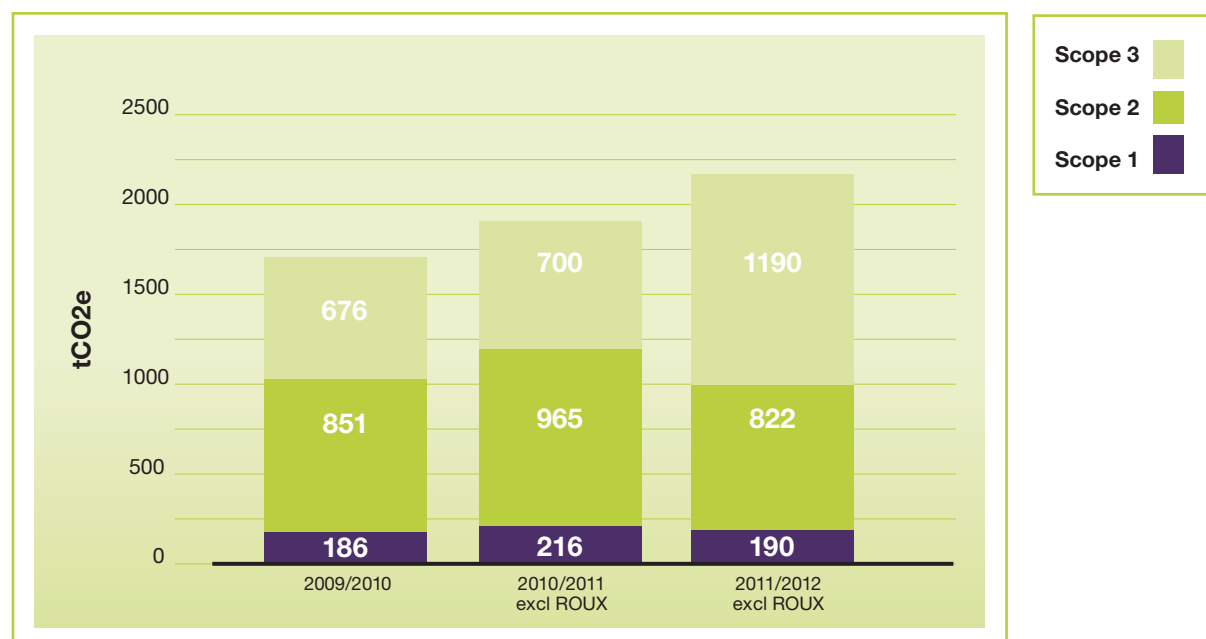


Table 3: RICS UK historic carbon footprints covering the last three business years (the latter two excluding emissions resulting from the onsite restaurant at PS)

## Work in the area of Environment (UN Global Compact Principles 7, 8 & 9)

Location	DECC (1)/EPC (2) Rating	Typical
PS*	E (1)	D*
SC	G (1)	D
MP*	E (2)	C*

Table 4: DECC/EPC ratings of UK sites benchmarked against typical practice

\*Typical rating does not account for specific challenges of Grade II listed status

DECC and EPC ratings have remained unchanged during the past business year (see table 4).

### Waste reduction

By continually increasing recycling rates and awareness about responsible resource use, we have further reduced the amount of waste going to landfill leading to well-above typical results.

### 2011/12 Amount of waste recycled – typical practice

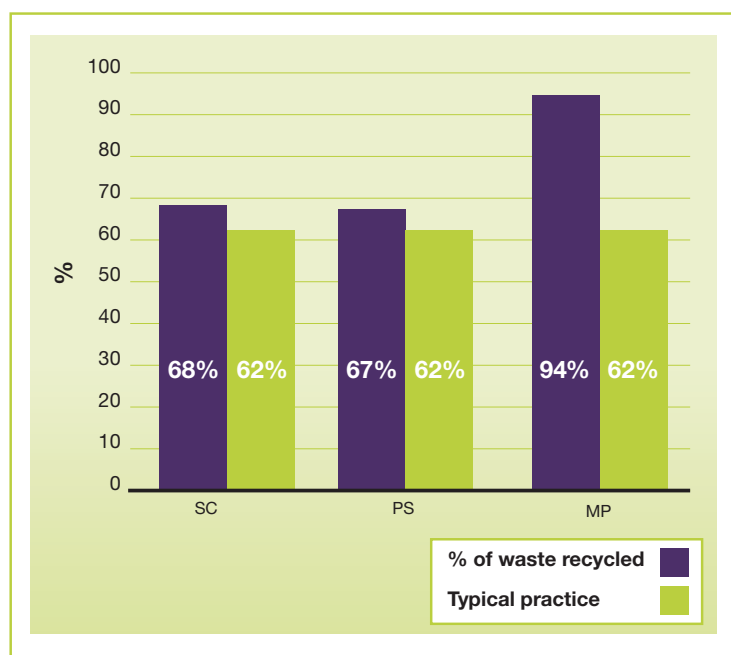


Table 5: Amount of waste recycled at three UK sites

### Responsible procurement

We are currently in the process of developing an integrated purchasing framework for the whole organisation to ensure that adequate consideration is being given to potential environmental impact as well as human and labour rights violations. A dedicated Head of Purchasing has been recruited to oversee this area and implement the associated policies.

### Use of stationery from recycled materials

Table 6 shows a further increase in purchasing stationery products from recycled materials when compared with figures for the previous business year. All purchased paper for printing and photocopying is recycled. Furthermore, we are increasingly shifting towards exclusively publishing our member guidance and research papers online and we actively encourage employees to reduce the amount of printing in their day-to-day activities.

### Stationery items purchased 2010/2011

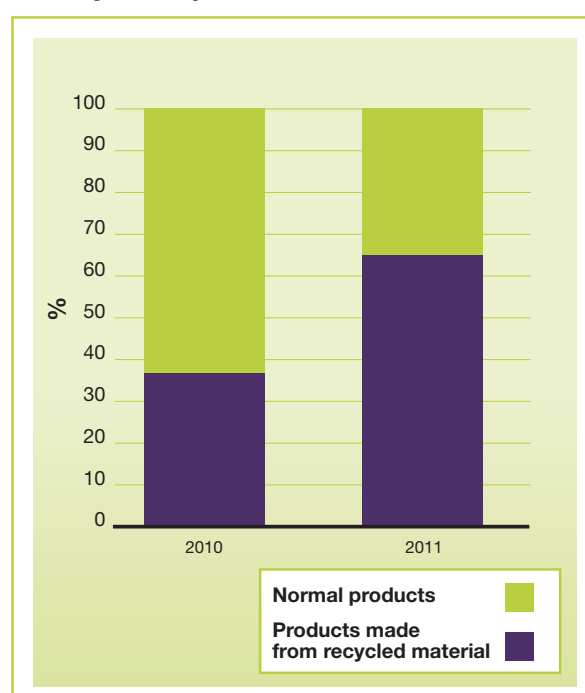


Table 6: Stationery items purchased in 2011 benchmarked against 2010 figures

### ISO 14001 certification

In our 2012–2015 Business Plan we committed ourselves to ISO 14001 certification of all our global operations. This is going to be rolled out as follows:

- Year 1:** Achieve certification for our three largest UK offices and prepare regional hub locations for certification
- Year 2:** Start certification process for UK regional and main world regional hubs
- Year 3:** Achieve certification for all sites and operations.

### Employee engagement on resource efficiency

The RICS Green Groups network now has a dedicated diary blog which has been expanded to include world regional hubs such as the RICS Americas office in New York.

## Work in the area of community engagement

### RICS charities 2011/2012 update:

Overall, RICS charities witnessed slightly more challenging times in 2011/2012.

**Charity Property Help (CPH)** provides free support and guidance on property-related issues such as disputes with builders, rent reviews, landlord and tenant disputes, etc, to UK charities and voluntary organisations. In partnership with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Charity Finance Group (CFG) the service provides a one hour consultation session with an RICS regulated member firm free of charge and had 18 new firms signing up over the course of 2011/2012. As a result of a data cleansing exercise earlier in the year we saw a decrease of 37 companies who declined to take part in the service further which has led to a reduction of the companies involved in the service, bringing the current total to 283.

During 2011/2012 CPH received a total of 57 requests for assistance from charities across the UK. The total number of charities who have benefited from the service since its inception is 304.

**Chartered Surveyors Voluntary Service (CSVS)** has continued to provide property advice to UK members of the public who would otherwise be unable to afford professional help. Volunteer chartered surveyors provide advisory services on a range of issues through a home visit, which is followed up with a report to the advice agency, i.e. a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). However, due to the severely challenging times that the sector is facing specifically around securing funding, there were only 57 referrals to CSVS during 2011/2012. This was mirrored by a decrease in contact from members of the public in relation to obtaining 30 minutes of free advice through **RICS consumer helplines**.

### Disaster Management Commission (DMC) update

The RICS funded DMC and its operational programme BuildAction was created in the aftermath of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Reducing and mitigating disaster risk and bringing the skills and technical knowledge of RICS members and other relevant professionals to aid threatened communities remains at the heart of the work of the DMC, particularly in ever-increasing occurrences of natural and man-made disasters. The DMC includes over 250 registered built environment volunteers and is supported by over 20 major firms.

### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

- **Collaboration with UN ISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) and 'Making Cities Resilient' Campaign**  
Incorporation of DMC input for UN ISDR *Making Cities More Resilient Handbook* highlighting the crucial role of surveyors and other built environment professionals in risk reduction as well as successful submission of abstracts for their 2013 Global Platform meeting.
- **Malawi Safer Reconstruction Guidelines**  
Approval of DMC's project proposal to review and to revise newly drafted 'Guidelines for Safer House Construction' by the Malawi government, with potential follow-up to help development of national building codes with the support of RICS' Building Control Professional Group.
- **'Global Mapping of Building Codes' with UNESCO/ UN ISDR Global Task Force Building Codes (GTFBC)**  
Signature of formal collaboration agreement between DMC and UNESCO to produce a 'layered' map of countries facing seismic risk, with layers showing countries that have enacted building codes, analysis of their appropriateness and implementation. Objective of map is to generate greater investment in building codes by international donors and improve targeting of aid to most vulnerable countries.
- **Transitional Shelter Guidelines**  
Provision of input by members of RICS DCM for the UK Department of International Development DFID/UN funded *Transitional Shelter Guidelines*.

## Work in the area of community engagement

### International development projects

#### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

- **Joint initiative with the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment**

Collaboration with the Prince's Foundation on promotion of international good practice of participatory planning with local communities.

Launch of the International Practice in Participatory Planning initiative through an online LinkedIn discussion forum in the framework of an RICS hosted conference presenting case studies by leading practitioners in the field.

Preparation of a joint publication using 12 case studies demonstrating successful projects through community engagement, ranging from traditional field methods to using online technology.

- **Budalang'i, Western Kenya – follow up activities**

Purpose of the original project in the river delta area of Western Kenya, where frequent flooding affects communities' livelihoods, had been to focus on two villages developing resilient solutions for coping with flood emergencies and mitigating flood impact by adopting practical locally-appropriate technologies for upgrading shelter and creating new flood-resilient sanitation facilities – all through a participatory planning approach.

Since the original work in 2010 donations have been made to the communities, which have been used for creating small saving and credit revolving funds managed by village women's groups who have provided micro loans to individual families. Typical activities funded include pig farming, sheep and poultry rearing, cereals, fishing, dykes management, brick making, tomato and vegetable farming, sand harvesting and conducting HIV/Aids awareness campaigns. We continue to monitor these activities through a local NGO, and also by making site visits and receiving progress reports from the communities by mobile phone text, using a phone donated to them.



Figure 2: Group of villagers signing a microfinance loan

- **Valuation of Unregistered Land – roundtable in Mombasa, Kenya**

Facilitation of a roundtable workshop attended by private and government sector participants marking the final phase in an RICS Education Trust funded study. The goal of the study had been to develop an appropriate methodology for valuing unregistered non-market land and property. RICS in conjunction with Mombasa Polytechnic University College carried out household surveys in three areas of Kenya.

## Work in the area of Anti-corruption (UN Global Compact Principle 10)

### Global professional and ethical standards

In March 2012, we introduced new global professional and **ethical standards** for all our members. To support the new standards, a tool kit of guidance, information and advice for members and regulated firms was developed consisting of definitions about what the standards mean, examples of the type of behaviours that will go to demonstrate meeting the standards, guidance on specific issues, such as, conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality and promoting and protecting ethical standards. Focus of the work on ethics is to provide a conceptual framework to assist members and regulated firms in making informed decisions when faced with ethical issues.



### Anti-corruption

Bribery is a corrupt practice that weakens local economies, engenders fear and hinders ethical and professional business growth. The UK Bribery Act applies to any entity incorporated in the UK and any UK partnership wherever in the world it operates. It also applies to foreign companies with UK operations. This means that organisations such as RICS need to comply as do sole practitioners and large international practices. The law also applies to British citizens as well as to people ordinarily resident in the UK, and to anyone who commits an offence in the UK.

RICS is a member of the UK Anti-corruption Forum, an alliance of UK business associations, professional institutions, civil society organisations such as Transparency International and companies with an interest in the domestic and international infrastructure, construction and engineering sectors with the objective of helping to create a business environment that is free from corruption.

### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

- RICS contribution to a UN Global Compact call for submission of best practice case studies in anti-corruption by submitting a summary of our comprehensive anti-corruption programme for employees, RICS members and construction sector stakeholders
- co-operation with lawyers Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP to produce **Bribery Act guidance** that outlines, for both individuals and companies, the steps to take to ensure processes and/or behaviours do not infringe the terms of the Act
- organisation of a series of road shows to provide members with an overview of the legislation and highlight our guidance.



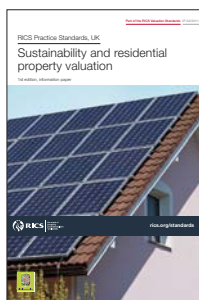
## Work in the area of capacity building

### Sustainable development member working group update:

Our global network of sustainability member groups has further expanded in 2011/2012 and now includes local groups in Poland, Switzerland and The Netherlands. A member from Asia now represents this region on the Oceania group.

However, all RICS members have to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sustainability-related issues plus the ability to apply this knowledge and understanding in their day-to-day practice.

In 2011/2012, we published 47 new pieces of guidance. The following publications had direct sustainable development relevance:



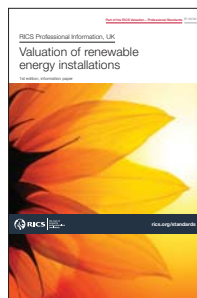
### Sustainability in residential property valuation

Examines how sustainability is playing an increasingly important role in UK legislation and patterns of economic behaviours and helps valuers to consider sustainability issues and their implications when undertaking valuations of residential property in the UK.



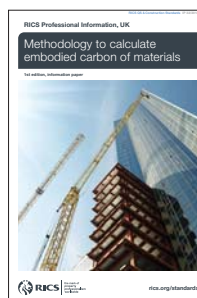
### Rare earth metals information paper

Describes the importance and increasing scarcity of rare earth metals which are highly significant to renewable energy, lighting, transportation and urban development.



### Valuation of renewable energy installations

Addresses the capital and rental valuation of freehold and leasehold landed interests for sites where a significant part of the value arises, or might arise, from the potential to generate renewable energy – principally electricity.



### Methodology to calculate embodied carbon

Developed by the RICS embodied carbon working group, marking the first step in a journey towards measuring all the carbon emitted through the construction, occupation and end of the life of a building.



### Flood risk

First in the new Global Sustainability in Practice series reviewing and synthesizing guidance and research material already available thus promoting good practice in surveying spanning both developed and developing world perspectives.

### **Sustainability-related RICS accredited courses 2011/2012**

There were 47 RICS accredited courses directly related to sustainable development in 2011/2012. Aside from courses in the UK we have sustainability-focused accredited university courses in Australia, Hong Kong, China and Europe.

#### **Key areas of study:**

- sustainable urban development and planning
- sustainable construction
- environmental resource management.

In September 2011, the University of Salford (UK) and RICS jointly carried out a survey of 172 surveying students of different surveying disciplines and different levels of entry. The objective of the survey was to identify which topics were deemed relevant to sustainability by the students and whether these topics were perceived as core competencies. The results showed that landscaping and building design, energy and pollution were seen as the most relevant topics to sustainability.

### **RICS sponsorship of a Shared Professorship in Property Valuation and Sustainability at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany**

To meet the growing needs of the industry to develop skills in sustainable practice and investment, RICS and KIT decided to create a shared professorship which aims to encourage sustainable development thinking amongst valuation professionals at the earliest opportunity by developing globally applicable and adaptable teaching and training modules for future and practising valuation professionals as well as investment decision makers. The shared professorship will run for a period of four years and at least 50% of the staff expenses and the budget are borne by the industry partner.



### **TRAINREBUILD update**

A number of training workshops have been organised within this two-year European Commission funded project which has the objective of advising residential property owners across Europe on how to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. RICS has been instrumental in developing training materials in consultation with a wide range of public and private stakeholders.



### **RICS Awards**

The Sustainability Award category recognises projects that clearly demonstrate an efficient use of sustainable resources in design and operation. In the 2011 Awards, we saw yet another increase in the percentage of projects submitted in the Sustainability category – 69 out of 373 overall submissions – a clear indication of the growing awareness about the importance of integrating sustainable development principles into the project design and planning process amongst built environment professionals.

The 2011 Sustainability category winner was the GRAHAM Headquarters in Hillsborough, Northern Ireland (see figure 3). The development of the construction company's new headquarters reused existing sheds of the fertiliser plant that was previously situated on the brownfield site. Much of the building's energy-saving features were achieved through intelligent passive design with little or no additional cost.



Figure 3: GRAHAM Headquarters, winner of the 2011 RICS Sustainability Award

## Work in the area of capacity building

### Sustainable development scholarships and academic sponsorships

#### Achievements in 2011/2012 included:

##### **RICS Research Fellowship 2012**

Award of the RICS Education Trust Research Fellowship 2012 to two sustainability research proposals. In total, the RICS Education Trust, an independent RICS charity, funded nine sustainable development projects in 2011/2012.

##### **RICS Fulbright Scholarship**

Funding of a Fulbright Scholarship giving a UK academic the opportunity to carry out research in the US.

##### **Launch of Vision for Cities Global Essay Competition**

RICS launched its student Global Essay Competition to examine key thinking on the delivery of the sustainable cities of 2030 and beyond.

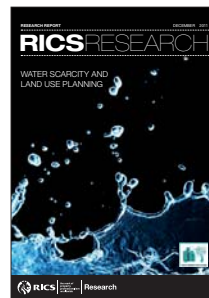
##### **Annual sponsorship of New York University's annual conference on Sustainable Real Estate**

### Key sustainability research in publications in 2011/2012



#### **Waste and the built environment: UK case study**

Looks at how cities' and buildings' function affects the amount of waste we produce, the impact rubbish could have on society, the environment and the public purse and highlights the pressures to achieve more sustainable waste management.



#### **Water scarcity and land use planning**

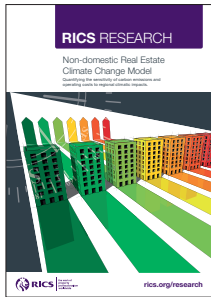
Examines the problems water scarcity causes in terms of land use, planning and the development of cities and presents measures that can be taken to address these issues.



#### **Hotting up? An analysis of the low carbon transition plans of UK cities**

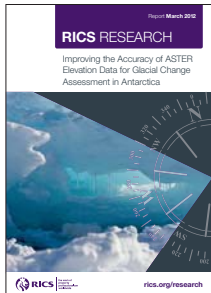
Takes a look at 60 UK cities to find out how successfully they are reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

## Work in the area of capacity building



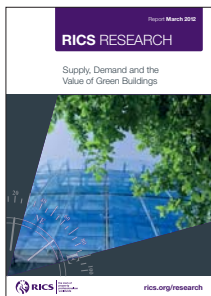
### **Commercial real estate climate change model**

Examines Display Energy Certificate (DEC) data from over 60 000 buildings to build a picture of how climate change affects operating costs and investment decisions in the UK commercial property sector.



### **ASTER Elevation data for glacial change assessment in Antarctica**

Enhanced assessment of historical and present-day glacial change in sensitive polar regions such as the Antarctic Peninsula to refine understanding of climate trends.



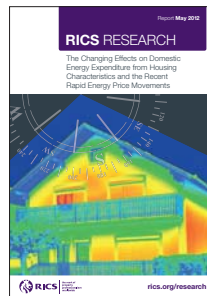
### **Supply, demand and the value of green buildings**

Looks at the expanding supply of 'green' buildings within a given London neighbourhood that has a positive impact on rent prices in general but reduced rents and prices for environmentally-certified real estate.



### **Do responsible real estate companies outperform their peers?**

An analysis of the impact of corporate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) on corporate financial performance (CFP), making use of the US real estate companies database which incorporates seven ESG dimensions over the period 2003–2010.



### **Domestic energy expenditure**

Reveals that private tenants across England and Wales are more likely to incur higher energy bills than homeowners and tenants living in social housing. Also looks at how dwelling types and lifestyle can affect energy expenditure. and spend.



## Work in the area of communication and stakeholder engagement

### Dedicated sustainable development communication channels

#### Statistics for 2011/2012:

**Global Balance:** bi-monthly e-newsletter with a readership of 9 708

**RICS Sustainability LinkedIn Group:** 702 members

**RICS Sustainability Blog:** total number of views 43 416, covering 52 posts

**RICS Sustainability website:** 11 222 hits.

In terms of our online communication, we have seen particular growth of our dedicated Sustainability LinkedIn group and our Sustainability Blog, indicating a shift towards interactive social media and blogs as the preferred options of how our members and stakeholders would like to receive and manage sustainability related information.

Sustainable development also continues to be a key theme of **Modus**, the RICS flagship magazine: four of the 10 issues in 2011/2012 had a sustainable development lead theme and all the remaining issues featured sustainable development-related issues through individual articles.

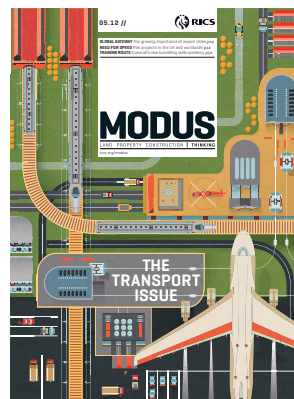
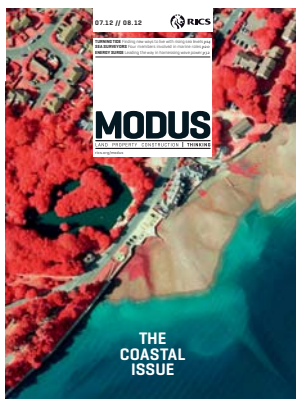
#### The three key topics in 2011/2012 were:

- low carbon construction and retrofit
- urban regeneration and sustainable city development
- renewable energy.

### Promotion of our commitment to the UN Global Compact

#### Dissemination of the 2010/2011 *A Vision for Sustainability* report including Global Compact commitment:

- limited print run of 1 000 hard copies disseminated at key global member and/or stakeholder events such as Rio+20, EcoBuild (UK & China), SB11 in Helsinki, RICS Governing Council, EU Sustainable Energy Week, Consense 2012, Expo Real 2011, etc as well as at meetings with global industry leaders, academic institutions and policy makers, such as the US Department of Energy and the US Environmental Protection Agency
- promotion through November 2011 and January 2012 Global Balance e-newsletters and Sustainability LinkedIn
- Promotion through sustainability website **rics.org/sustainability**
- promotion through dedicated YouTube video featuring RICS Vice President and Director of Human Resources and Corporate Responsibility<sup>1</sup>
- dedicated article in February 2012 Modus issue (circulated to 90 000 members)<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>Available at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjhHk0c3Qok&list=PLCC84E61EA333ECB2&index=4&feature=plpp\\_video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjhHk0c3Qok&list=PLCC84E61EA333ECB2&index=4&feature=plpp_video)

<sup>2</sup>Available on p.44 at: <http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=mypagesuite&pnum=&refresh=Br2016Kt3a0Y&EID=a8728160-2ec1-40ec-bbd6-4fce62838372&skip=>

## Work in the area of communication and stakeholder engagement

### Stakeholder engagement

We believe that collaboration is key to fully integrating sustainable development principles into day-to-day business practices along the built environment value chain and work in close co-operation with over 40 national and international professional organisations worldwide and through liaison with these organisations, we actively participate in educational and technical projects and events.

### RICS engagement at UN level

In addition to existing partnerships with UN agencies (FAO, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UN ISDR) and active participation in the UK UN Global Compact UK Network, RICS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP FI (United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative) and UNEP SBCI (United Nations Environment Programme Sustainable Buildings Climate Initiative) forming the basis for closer collaboration in the future.

### New partnerships/collaborations with global built environment stakeholders active in the field of sustainable development include:

- The National Institute of Building Sciences, NIBS, United States
- The ASHRAE High Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition (HPBCCC), United States
- The European Construction Forum
- The World Green Building Council
- The Green Deal Skills Alliance, UK.

## Work ahead: our plan for 2012/2013

### Building on this year's work, in 2012/2013

#### we will focus on the following five key areas:

- widening of active support of UN initiatives, especially in the areas of education and anti-corruption
- seeking completion of ISO 14001 certification for our main UK sites through adoption and implementation of supporting internal policies and associated programmes
- optimisation of our year-on-year qualitative and quantitative tracking of progress made by integrating CR issues into our quarterly reporting
- development of a 'New Market Entry & Stakeholder Risk Assessment Protocol', mapping risks potentially facing the organisation in countries where RICS is either legally represented or planning to pursue business opportunities
- further strengthening of our global community engagement.



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**Advancing standards in land, property and construction.**

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RICS is a **regulator** of both its individual members and firms enabling it to **maintain the highest standards** and providing the basis for **unparalleled client confidence** in the sector.

RICS has a worldwide network. For further information simply contact the relevant RICS office or our Contact Centre.

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