

# Decarbonizing the Built Environment: Importance of Data, International Standards and Surveyors

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**Key words:** Cost management; Quantity surveying; Standards

## SUMMARY

Decarbonizing the built environment is imperative to address the climate crisis, as the sector generates 40% of global carbon emissions annually. The operation of existing built assets is responsible for 27% of these emissions, while construction materials, products, on-site operations, and other construction industry-related emissions account for an additional 13%. The business-as-usual approach cannot continue. As stewards of construction information, we must deploy our expertise to decarbonize built assets cost-effectively. Using the ICMS standard as a backdrop, this session explores the role of data, assessment methodologies, and surveyors in measuring and managing the whole-life carbon emissions of built assets. ICMS provides an integrated taxonomy for life cycle costs and carbon emissions. ICMS can allow project teams to evaluate various carbon-reducing alternatives for new and existing built assets when connected with design workflows. In this session, we discuss the role of data, international standards, and assessment methodologies in decarbonization.

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