
Westminster Sustainable Business Forum

Bricks and Water 2: Property resilience for new and existing homes

Outline

In 2018, the Westminster Sustainable Business Forum (WSBF) launched Bricks and Water, an evidence-based assessment of the challenges associated with sustainable housebuilding and water management in England. This inquiry will build on the recommendations made in Bricks and Water, especially those for development of a Property Resilience Certificate (PRC). Our objectives for this work are as follows:

- To review current policy and guidance surrounding water efficiency, surface water runoff, drainage design, and flood risk/resilience.
- To determine where existing policies are effective and where gaps exist.
- To develop items for inclusion within a PRC and explore how this could align or integrate with the existing Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).
- To establish forthcoming opportunities for policy change in 2019/2020 (Building Regulations review, Environment Bill, Future Homes Standard).

Process & methodology

The inquiry will be conducted by staff at [Policy Connect](#) with contributions from the [Westminster Sustainable Business Forum's](#) member organisations and advisory board. Data collection will take place through a series of roundtables, which will focus on the following topics:

- Water efficiency and re-use
- Property-level flood resilience
- Green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- PRC administration and incorporation into the planning regime.

Each of these sessions will be informed by a briefing paper developed through desk research and an initial scoping session. Follow up interviews with relevant stakeholders will be carried out in order to inform the interpretive report and develop an indicative PRC.

Audience & outcome

The Government's current ambitious programme of housebuilding presents a unique opportunity to ensure that our new homes can deliver on the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This project aims to provide policymakers with a roadmap to put water efficiency, flood resilience and sustainable drainage at the heart of planning policy and to inform forthcoming legislation such as the Future Homes Standard and updates to building regulations. However, development of the PRC itself will form a practical document for developers and homeowners alike.

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