



## LETI celebrates 1 year anniversary of Climate Emergency Design Guide & Embodied Carbon Primer publication

Climate change is not the fault of any one person, industry, or government. It can only be fixed when people take responsibility for things within their sphere of influence. Governments can make responsible policy, individuals can reduce their carbon footprint through small changes, and industry professionals can take responsibility for their industry.

As Architects, Engineers, and other construction professionals we can ensure that we are designing and constructing buildings that reduce our negative impact on the environment and in some cases even provide a surplus of clean energy.

LETI was founded in 2017 and has grown to become a voluntary based collective with members from over 1000 companies from London and the wider UK. The group is made up of developers, engineers, housing associations, architects, planners, academics, sustainability professionals, contractors, and facilities managers, with support and input provided by the GLA and London boroughs. Continually challenging the way, the construction industry works to reduce its environmental impact, specifically working towards understanding how we can meet our climate change targets.

For quite some time it has been relatively easy to identify if a project is 'bad' for the climate, but it has been much harder to identify when something has achieved a level of sustainability that it can then be classified as 'good', i.e., meeting our climate change targets.

So, in 2019 LETI held a series of industry-wide workshops and carried out independent research to establish consensus on articulating the standard of 'good' for the many different elements that go into building a building. Then, one year ago today, LETI released our



Climate Emergency Design Guide. The Climate Emergency Design Guide (CEDG) is a comprehensive guide, simply outlining the requirements of new buildings to ensure that they meet these targets. LETI also developed the Embodied Carbon Primer (ECP) which offers supplementary guidance to those interested in exploring embodied carbon in more detail. These guides allow designers, for a wide range of project types to still have freedom of choice when designing, but also have quantifiable data telling them if their design overall has achieved the standard of 'good' for the environment.

The LETI guidance is very much aligned with the RIBA 2030 climate challenge and the UKGBC guidance on zero carbon. Industry consensus in this complex area has been key to successful update and implementation.

The guides have been a huge success, over the past 12 months the guides have been downloaded over 40,000 times by companies and individuals all over the world. Acting as a common language for many built environment professionals, the design guides have become increasingly popular in tackling the challenges of building net zero in the run-up to 2030. This amalgamation of widespread knowledge has enabled teams to work more closely and consistently with mutual understanding, not only within individual projects but also in partnership with local authorities.

The guides have been:

1. Incorporated into standard briefing documents.
2. Used by local authorities in setting briefs for their own projects and in emerging policy requirements.
3. Helpful in discussions with consultants of all disciplines, widespread knowledge of the guides has made it much easier as everyone seems to have read it and agree with the principles.
4. Used in shaping education in the construction industry.
5. Evolved job roles in the construction industry.

The targets in the guides are being implemented in many projects across the UK. For examples in at least 500 homes that are currently in the design phase the energy use and/or embodied carbon targets are being implemented. We are sure there are many more projects than we are currently aware, if you are implementing the LETI targets in your project, please let us know [here](#).

The past year has also highlighted particular emphasis on how the guides have shaped education on embodied carbon and net zero within the industry, not only for current construction professionals within CPD training but also future professionals. Since its publication last year, the Climate Emergency Design Guide has been incorporated into teaching material for both undergraduate and postgraduate education.

The success of the Design Guide would not have been possible without the amazing volunteers at LETI. Their knowledge, dedication and teamwork has been invaluable, proving that working together on neutral ground can create an incredible force for good.



See below some stories of how the guides have been implemented from our volunteers who worked on the guides below;

'The CEDG has been used on several of our housing projects to carry out net zero carbon option studies, and the guide has influenced our standard briefing documents. The widespread awareness of the guide has made discussions with consultants of all disciplines much easier as everyone seems to have read it and agree with the principles.'

**James Parker from Clarion who was part of the proof reading and graphics team**



'The CEDG criteria featured in project briefs mentioned at design workshops and referred to as best practice. It has proven to be an invaluable resource in engaging clients and design teams.'

**Nuno Correia from Cundall who co-led the future of heat workstream of the CEDG**

'Very rarely now do I go to a meeting where there isn't some mention of the documents. They have given everyone involved in construction a peer-reviewed starting point to understand how a net-zero building should perform and what are the key features.'

**Tom Gwilliam from Etude who worked on the Operational energy chapter of the CEDG**

'I have seen bid briefing documents using the LETI metrics and guides as a baseline requirement for future projects, with clients ranging from councils to private developers adopting them as part of their sustainability strategies. Guides have also been used in CPDs to teach built environment professionals about Embodied Carbon and Net Zero.'

**Kat Scott from dRMM who worked on the Embodied Carbon Primer and was part of the graphics team**

'I have responded to multiple consultations - Government, GLA and Haringey. Each time I have linked to LETI work and said that they should be using EUI instead of references to Part L or EPCs.'

**Sydney Charles from Community Energy London who was part of the proofreading team on the CEDG**

'We have been introducing the LETI standards to clients at the briefing stage and encouraging them to adopt as many as possible. We have been referencing the information in all design reviews and to people in our office who want to know what they can do on their project but don't know where to start.'

**Louisa Bowles from Hawkins \ Brown who worked on the Embodied Carbon Primer**





'The guides have been a great go-to resource for ambitious design targets this year. These documents provide a clear graphical explanation of key concepts and it has been fantastic to see LETI targets adopted within external design guidance and competition briefs.'

**Alex Johnstone from Haworth Thompkins who was part of the demand response working group and the graphics team**

'Even a year after it was published, I seem to mention the guides nearly every day, they are such a useful reference point when talking to developers and design teams. It has been really useful to have a clear definition of net-zero operational carbon. We often see the targets included in design briefs. At Elementa we use the targets to 'define good' in our projects.'

**Hugh Dugdale from Elementa Consulting who worked on Future of Heat chapter of the CEDG**



'The targets have been implemented on many projects, for example the specification of appointment for the Barts Health NHS Trusts Whipps Cross Hospital development includes familiarity with the CEDG.'

**Robert Cohen from Verco who was involved in the Data Disclosure chapter of the CEDG**

'Councils, government departments, university estates, and housing developers have all used the LETI CEDG and ECP guides unprompted as the start point of discussions with us. It has proved to be a great leveller of sustainable design for all involved in construction.'

**Joe Jack Williams from FCB Studios who was involved in the Demand Response chapter**

We are looking for more stories of how the guides and targets have been used [please tell us here.](#)

