

UK CLIMATE RESILIENCE ROADMAP PROPOSALS

RESPONSE TO THE INDUSTRY CONSULTATION [AUGUST 2024]

UKGBC is co-developing the UK's first Climate Resilience Roadmap for the built environment industry. The Roadmap aims to provide an informative, actionable, and evidence-based pathway to help the built environment adapt to, protect people from, and thrive within our changing climate while considering our natural environment. It is being developed in close collaboration with a wide range of organisations across all subsectors of the built environment.

The consultation launched in July this year provided an update on progress and sought broad industry feedback to build consensus on the current development proposals.

This document summarises the feedback received for each question and provides our responses to them.

Please contact the Resilience & Nature team at resilience.nature@ukgbc.org if you have any questions about the consultation process.

With thanks to the

Resilience and Nature Programme Partners:



UK Climate Resilience Roadmap Project Partners:



SUMMARY OF INDUSTRY FEEDBACK AND OUR RESPONSE

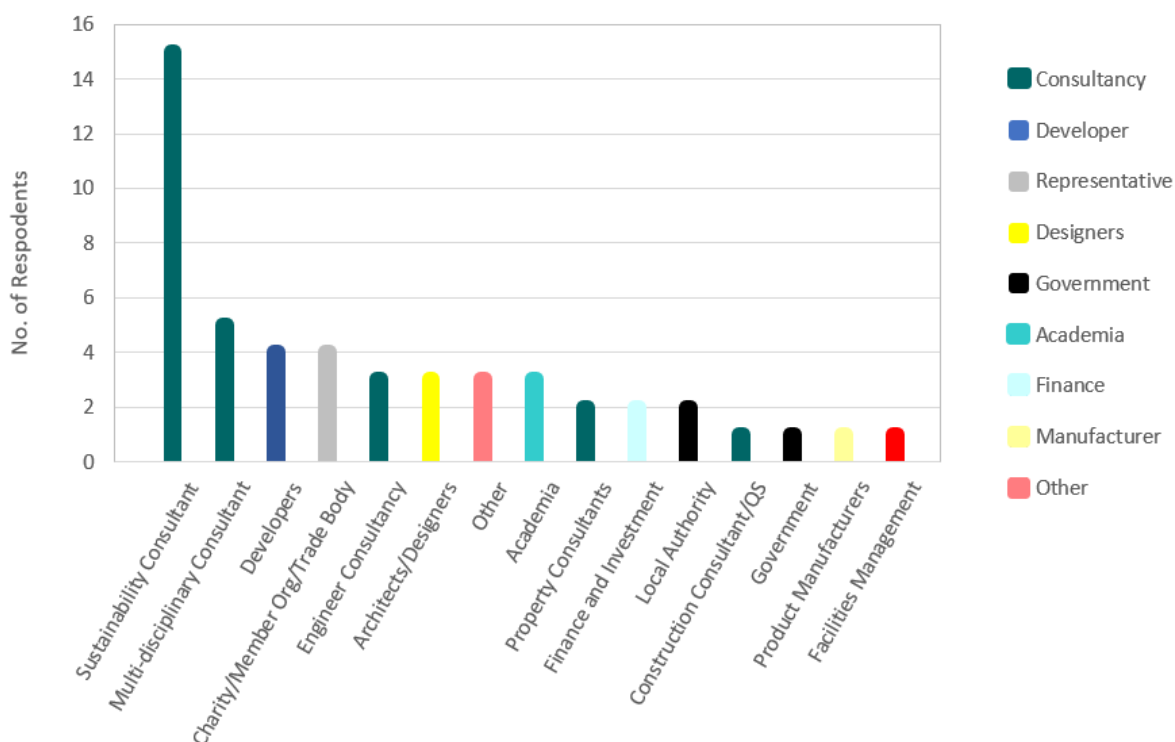
INTRODUCTION

Between July and August 2024, UKGBC invited the industry to consult on the initial proposals for the UK Climate Resilience Roadmap. Feedback was sought from our members to evaluate and comment on each section of the Roadmap. This document summarises the consultation responses received and outlines the subsequent actions taken by UKGBC.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

A total of 50 responses were received from individuals representing 41 different organisations.

Consultation Response by Built Environment industry Subsector



Of the responses, 54% were submitted on behalf of organisations, while the remainder came from individuals. No responses were received from the Contractor sector.

All respondents provided in-depth observations, comments and suggestions on various parts of the Roadmap. These have been evaluated and are summarised below.

FEEDBACK RESULTS

The following section summarises the feedback received, including the proportion of agreement levels (where applicable) and the observations shared by respondents. UKGBC reviewed each comment to determine its relevance to the project scope, alignment with the project goals, and need for action.

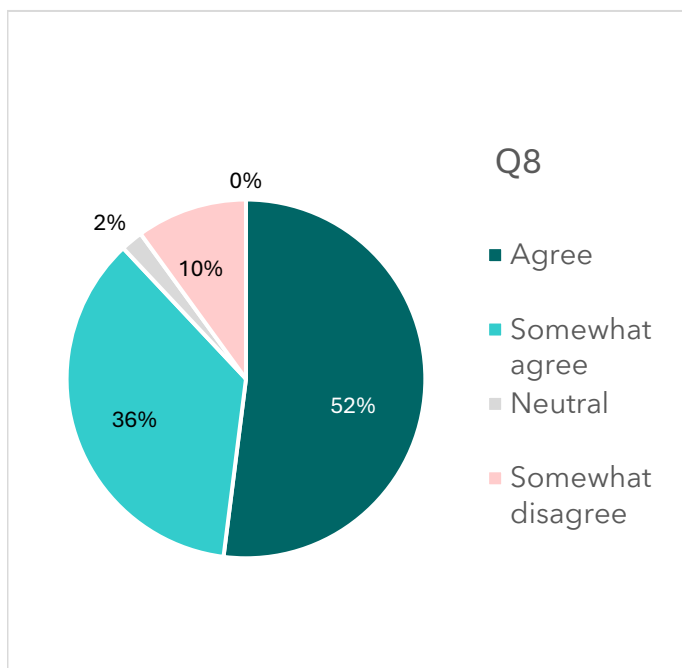
SECTION 1 – ABOUT THE PARTICIPANT

Q1 to 7. Questions related to personal and organisational details.

SECTION 2 - AUDIENCE FOR THE UK CLIMATE RESILIENCE ROADMAP

Q8 & 9. To what extent do you agree with the list of primary audiences identified for the UK Climate Resilience Roadmap? If you disagree or somewhat disagree with the listed audience, please share your reasons.

The industry said:



Comments included:

- Respondents felt that investors, developers, contractors and facility managers should be included in the primary audience groupings.
- Insurers were most frequently suggested as additional players for inclusion.

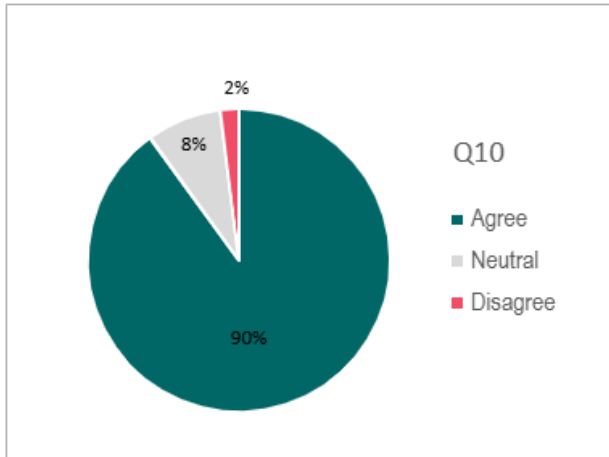
Our response is:

We agree that the finance and insurance subsectors are key audiences for advancing climate adaptation in the industry, and are incorporating relevant high-level information to better engage them. While the Roadmap currently focuses on certain subsectors, we aim to collaborate with all subsectors and expand detailed work across the broader industry. We plan to develop comprehensive Stakeholder Action Plans to include these and other subsectors in our programme for FY25/26.

SECTION 3 - DEFINITIONS: CORE CONCEPTS

Q10. By adhering to the UNDRR 2022 definitions of climate resilience, adaptation, and readiness, we ensure our industry communication remains consistent, comprehensible and relevant at a global context. Do you agree that the industry would benefit from adopting these UNDRR definitions for global relevance?

The industry said:



Comments included:

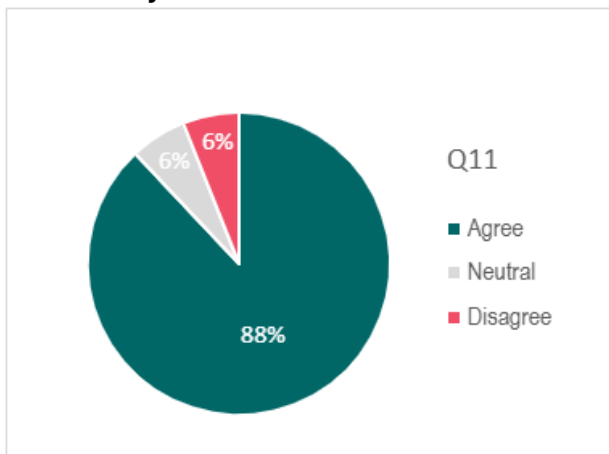
- *There was overwhelming agreement with adherence to the UNDRR definitions.*

Our response is:

It is agreed that the UNDRR definitions for global relevance will be adopted.

Q11 & 12. Do you agree that climate resilience, adaptation, and readiness are the essential core concepts that all stakeholders in the built environment must understand to work towards achieving climate resilience? Are there any other key concepts around climate resilience and adaptation that all decision-making stakeholders of the built environment should understand to support climate resilience?

The industry said:



Comments included:

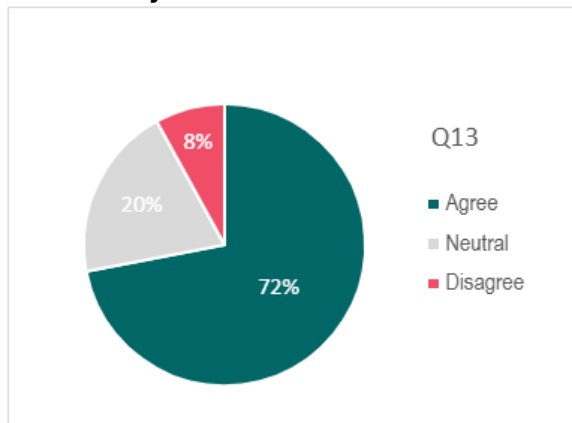
- *Other concepts suggested by multiple respondents included climate mitigation, risks, vulnerability, equity, planetary boundaries, biodiversity and inter-relationships. Additional enablers were also mentioned including policy, climate governance and compliance, risk assessment and management, hazard and likelihood, stakeholder collaboration, regenerative, technology and innovation, adaptation strategies, adaptation pathways, system approach, climate finance. The majority of suggestions came from Sustainability Consultants.*
- *Although not directly asked for, some respondents emphasised the need to consider a human-centric approach.*

Our response is:

The vast majority of respondents agreed that three core concepts shared - climate resilience, adaptation, and readiness - are essential for stakeholders to work towards climate resilience. The main report will also include a glossary that incorporates most of the concepts suggested, as appropriate for this output.

Q13 & 14. Do you agree with the definition provided for climate resilience in the built environment? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

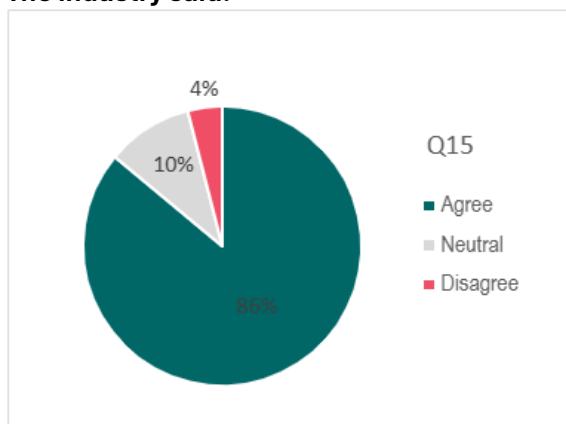
- While the majority of respondents agreed with the definition, several felt it could be simplified or rephrased to either make it clearer or expand it to include people and communities. Attention was also drawn to a typo in the definition.
- A small proportion (3) of respondents suggested aligning the definition more closely with the UNDRR definition.

Our response is:

The definition will be updated to include people and communities (as society), and the typo will be corrected. While we align with UNDRR definitions, creating a built environment-focused definition of climate resilience allows us to target specific goals and engage stakeholders more effectively. Since the majority have approved it, no further changes will be made to the definition.

Q15 & 16. Do you agree with the definition provided for climate adaptation in the built environment? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

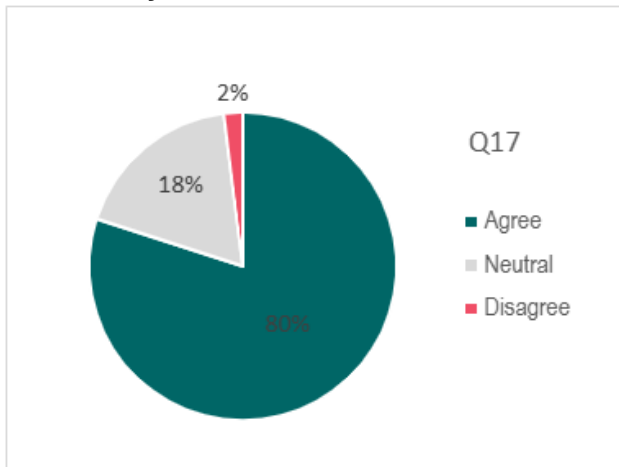
- Most responses either agreed with the definition or suggested minor adaptations.
- A small number of suggestions focused on referencing new builds, the capacity to respond to, anticipate and manage change, as well as considerations related to people, systemic perspectives, the landscape and climate responsibility.

Our response is:

The definition will be updated to include references to new builds, people, and the capacity to respond to, anticipate, and manage change, while also aiming to simplify the wording. The systemic perspective is already addressed as an overarching aspect of the UK Climate Resilience Roadmap, and the landscapes are considered within the ecosystems perspective.

Q17 & 18. Do you agree with the definition provided for climate readiness in the built environment? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

- *Most respondents agreed with the definition or suggested minor changes, primarily to simplify the wording and clarify its distinction from other key definitions (climate adaptation and climate resilience).*

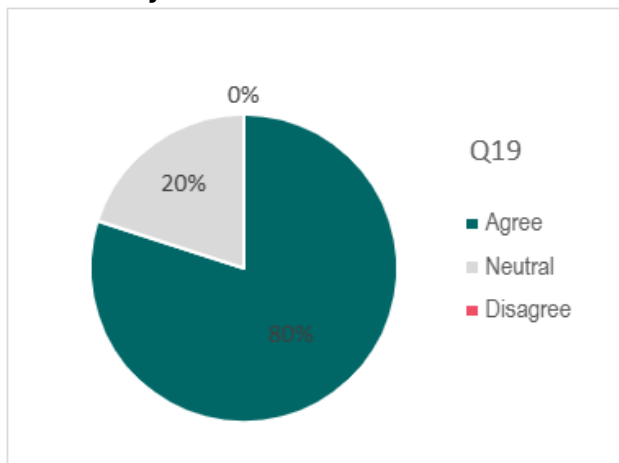
Our response is:

We will add a temporal frame that addresses both the present and the future, and clearly distinguish between the definition and the methods. Additionally, we will highlight the connection to climate risk, which will help in comparing this definition with the other two (climate resilience and climate adaptation).

SECTION 4 - VISION FOR A CLIMATE-RESILIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Q19 & 20. Do you agree with the overall sentiment of the vision of a climate resilient built environment? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

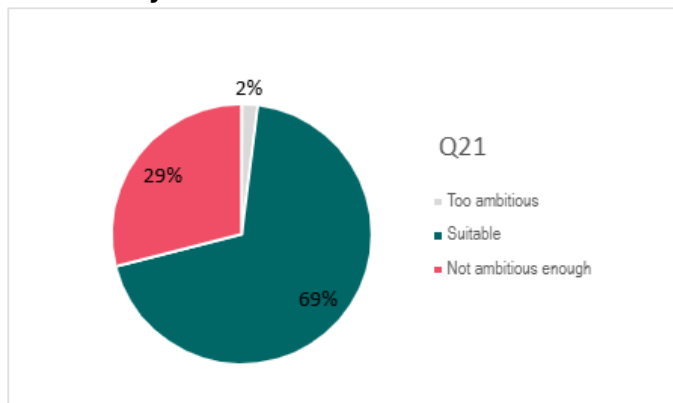
- *Most respondents agreed with the vision, though some suggested minor adjustments for clarity.*
- *Proposed additions included references to communities, socio-economic impacts, long-term effects, finance, climate mitigation, and the potential inclusion of specific measures and timelines.*

Our response is:

We have incorporated the suggestions and revised the vision to improve clarity and simplicity. The changes focus on refining terminology, prioritising best practices, such as integrating nature and the reduction of energy use, followed by technical enhancements for energy efficiency.

Q21 & 22. Do you believe the ambition of the vision is in line with the scale of action needed on climate adaptation? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

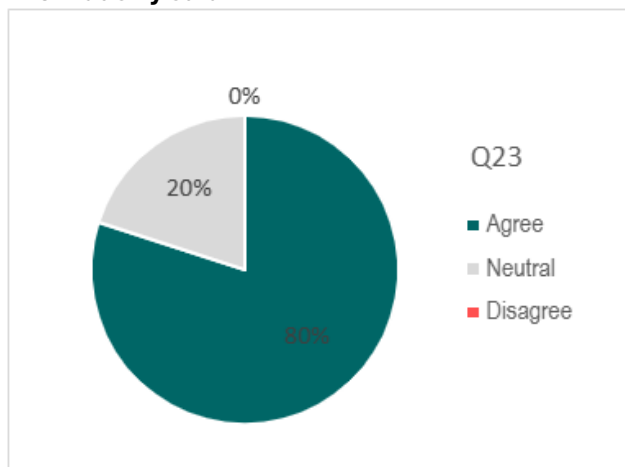
- *The majority of respondents agreed that the vision is suitable. However, 29% of the remaining respondents felt it was not ambitious enough.*
- *Suggested amendments included shortening or simplifying the vision, along with potential additions referencing people, responsibility and ownership, long-term effects and mitigation.*

Our response is:

Amendments have been made to the vision to increase its level of ambition, and it will be shared again during the COP29 period.

Q23 & 24. Do the high level behaviours resonate with you in your role or organisation? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

- *There was no clear pattern in the feedback, as respondents provided individual observations and suggested a variety of changes and additions.*

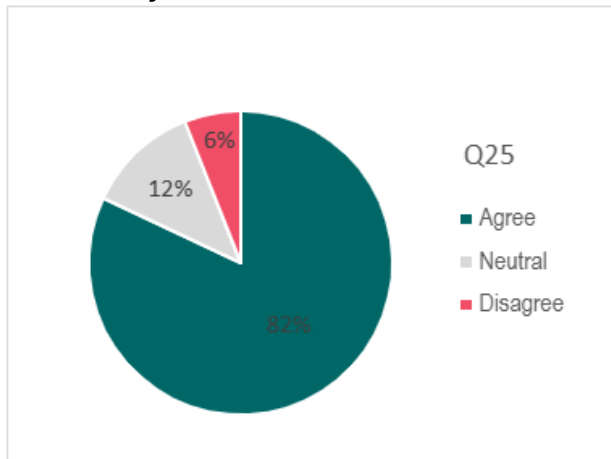
Our response is:

All points raised by the respondents in this question were reviewed, and the feedback was incorporated into the responses for questions 21 and 22. Key points highlighted include the need for industry collaboration, the reduction of energy use, and overall alignment with decarbonisation efforts.

SECTION 5 - CLIMATE RISKS, METRICS, AND INDICATORS TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY ACTION

Q25 & 26. Do you agree that the identified list of climate-related risks is the most critical for the built environment? Please provide any further comments or feedback.

The industry said:



Comments included:

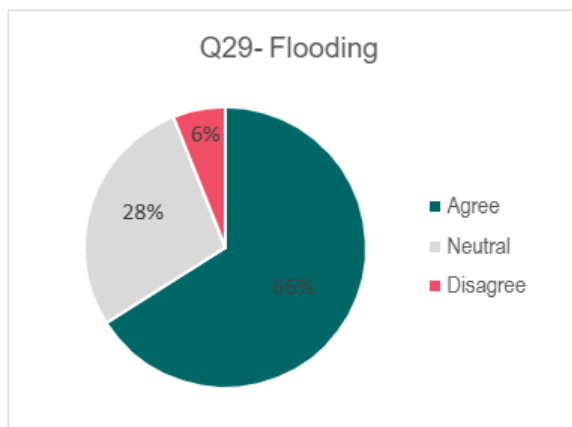
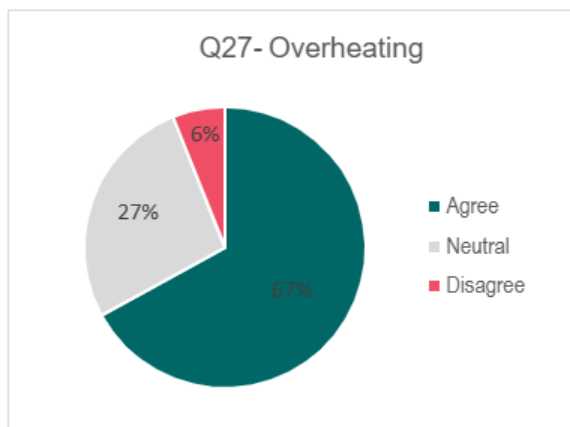
- A large number of observations were made regarding risks and their explanations, with the vast majority in agreement.
- Many amendments were suggested including simplification, clarification and alignment with other risk reports.
- Proposed additions included considering the interrelationships between risks, expanding the list of risks under ecosystems and nature, and providing more detail on the risks to society.

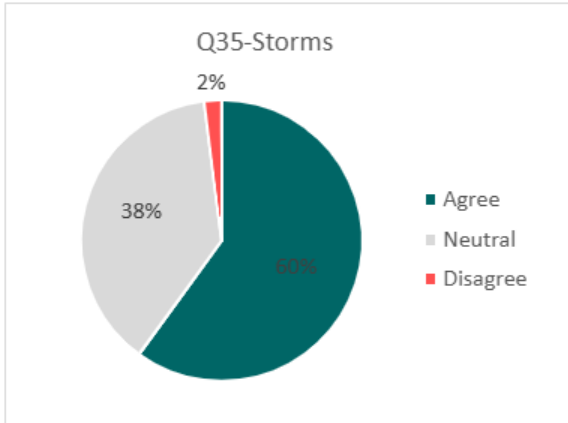
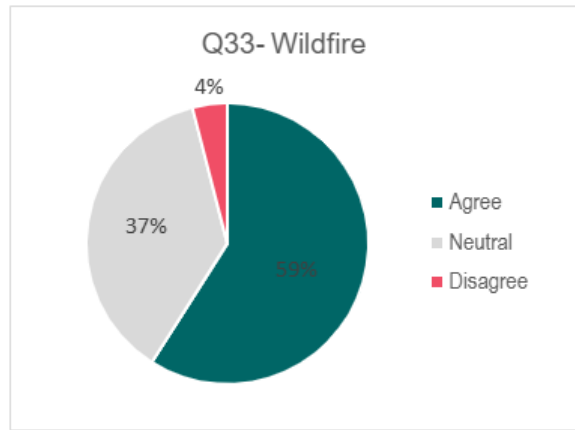
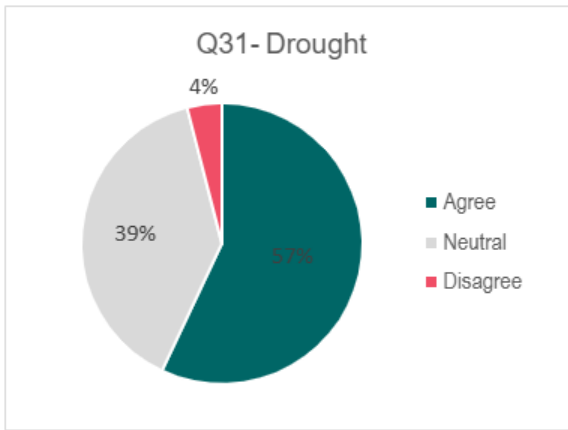
Our response is:

A full review of the risks table will be conducted to incorporate the proposed clarifications, additions and simplifications, with further collaboration from the development team. We will work on highlighting the interdependencies and interlinkages of the hazards in the context of the metrics.

Q27 – 35. Do you agree that the listed metrics and indicators would be informative for measuring the built environments' vulnerability and/or resilience to this climate risk?

The industry said:





Comments included:

- While more than half of respondents agreed with metrics for this climate risk, the proportion of neutral responses is significant.
- A large number of observations, suggestions and additions were made for each of the hazards.

Our response is:

Further review and research will be done to consider all comments provided. This work is ongoing and given the extent of it, a new version will be shared at a later stage.

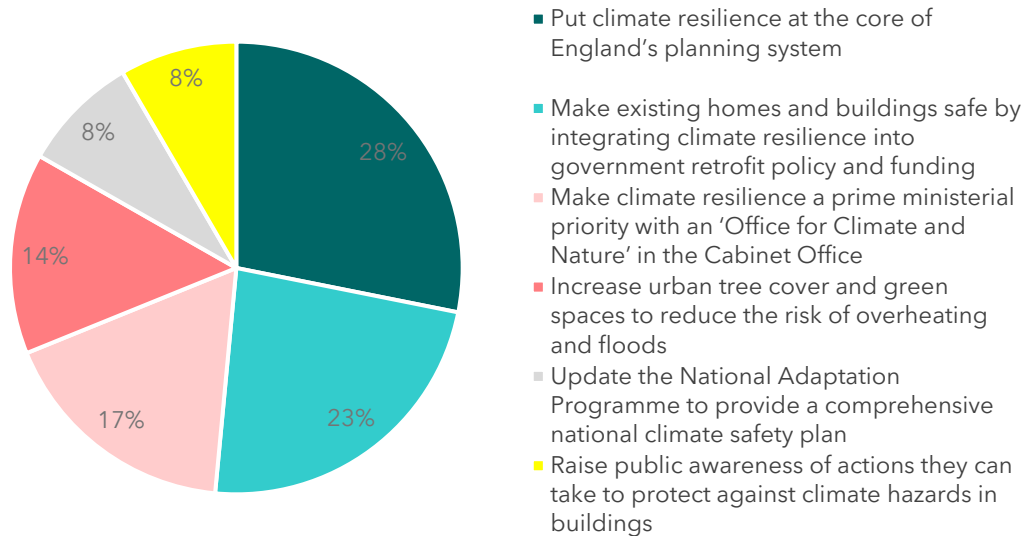
SECTION 6 - POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Q37 & 39. Which 3 policies do you want the Government to prioritise as immediate areas of focus? Please select three from the list below. Explain the reasoning behind your choice of priorities. Please provide details below if we have missed any issues that you are prioritising in relation to climate resilience.

- Make climate resilience a prime ministerial priority with an 'Office for Climate and Nature' in the Cabinet Office to coordinate and drive government action.
- Update the National Adaptation Programme to provide a comprehensive national climate safety plan.
- Put climate resilience at the core of England's planning system so every decision is part of the solution, not the problem.
- Make existing homes and buildings safe by integrating climate resilience into government retrofit policy and funding.
- Increase urban tree cover and green spaces to reduce the risk of overheating and floods.
- Raise public awareness of actions they can take to protect against climate hazards in buildings.

The industry said:

Policy Priorities



Our response is:

All of the policy proposals were considered priorities by respondents, particularly placing climate resilience at the heart of planning and integrating climate resilience into government retrofit policy. These issues are reflected in the policy recommendations outlined in the policy section of the report.

Q40. What physical climate risks pose the greatest threat to your organisation, which would benefit from policy attention? Please explain below.

The industry said:

Respondents identified flooding and overheating as the most pressing physical climate hazards, though concerns were also raised about drought, storms and high winds. Several respondents highlighted the specific impacts that overheating could pose to workers in their organisation.

Our response is:

The policy section of the report addresses various climate hazards, with a focus on overheating and flooding as the two most significant hazards with the potential to impact the built environment, in line with the industry's response.

Q41. Please give us feedback on what you think about the following proposal: Making sustainable drainage systems mandatory across new developments. Tell us (yes or no) if you would support this policy in principle, and if so, please explain below how you think it could be made effective and workable.

The industry said:

Most respondents strongly support the policy proposal to make Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) mandatory in new developments. They also offered several policy suggestions for effective implementation, including clear guidelines and monitoring. Additionally, adaptation actions like rainwater harvesting and ponds were mentioned as methods for reducing surface water flooding.

Our response is:

The policy section of our report contains recommendations for various areas of government on both built environment and nature-based solutions to minimise the risk of surface water flooding.

Q42. Please give us feedback on what you think about the following proposal: Resilience Performance Certificate (RPC) - similar to the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Tell us (yes or no) if you would support this policy in principle, and if so, please explain below how you think it could be made effective and workable.

The industry said:

There was support for the RPC proposal. Respondents suggest that an effective RPC should include standardised metrics and align with other performance indicators. Some feedback expressed concerns about potential complexity or redundancy in certification, recommending that the RPC be simplified or integrated with existing standards.

Our response is:

The report includes proposed updates to ensure the EPC can more adequately reflect overheating risks and impacts, and we have suggested that the government consult on an RPC that addresses other climate hazards.

SECTION 7 - WRAP UP

Q43. Do you have any further feedback or comments on the overall proposals for the Climate Resilience Roadmap?

The industry said:

Respondents frequently emphasised the need for clearer guidance and practical examples to facilitate the Roadmap's application. Several suggested incorporating case studies or real-world applications to make the recommendations more actionable. Others recommended simplifying the language to make the content accessible to a broader audience, particularly those new to climate resilience concepts.

Q44. Do you believe the UK Climate Resilience Roadmap, in its current form, will support your efforts to enhance climate resilience and adaptation action? If so, how? If not, please explain why.

The industry said:

Many responses expressed appreciation for the relevance and timeliness of the UK Climate Resilience Roadmap. Feedback indicated that stakeholders find it applicable to their needs and believe it as addresses key challenges.

Q45. Use this space below to share any other comments you may want to share.

The industry said:

Remarks were made about aligning the Roadmap with current policies and regulations, ensuring it remains updated as policies evolve. Additionally, several responses emphasised the importance of ongoing stakeholder engagement and feedback loops to maintain relevance and effectiveness over time.

References:

[UKGBC Climate Roadmap Consultation](#)

[UK Climate Resilience Roadmap Proposals – Industry Consultation July 2024](#)