

RESILIENT HOUSING AT COP26

Reach us at:

advocacy@buildchange.org

Glasgow, Scotland

November 2021



About Build Change

Better housing is better health. Safe housing is a front-line strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19, and means access to running water for washing hands and cooking, a place to study and work, and sturdy protection from earthquakes and hurricanes.

Build Change's engineers, builders, coders, policy advocates, and lending partners are providing urgently needed housing solutions in the world's most disaster prone countries.

Since 2004, Build Change has safeguarded more than \$1.5B in housing infrastructure assets across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia Pacific, improving the lives of nearly 600,000 people and building new or retrofitting more than 90,000 buildings. Learn more at www.buildchange.org, or at any of our social media channels below.

Mission and Vision

At Build Change, we prevent housing loss caused by disasters.

We mobilize people, money, and technology to transform systems for regulating, financing, building, and improving houses around the world.

Our vision is that every house is disaster resilient.

What Does COP26 Mean for Resilient Housing?

As climate-related disasters have become more frequent and more severe, houses and people across the globe are more vulnerable than ever before, with 40% of the world projected to live in substandard housing by 2030.



Build Change works with homeowners across the world to make their houses resilient to natural hazards, making over 450,000 people safer since 2004.

“Climate resilient housing can and must be accessible to everyone, but it’s only possible through systems change in the housing sector. Policymakers and the private sector must prioritize housing in climate ambitions, and COP26 is a critical moment to commit to change,” says Dr. Elizabeth Hausler, Build Change Founder & CEO.

“We can eradicate the disease of vulnerable housing; we have the tools, the knowledge, and we know the path forward.

Now it’s time for action.”



At COP26, let's build better before.

How Can COP26 Mobilize Around Housing Resilience?

Build Change and its network of resilient housing partners are advocating for the following critical actions:

1) Raise awareness of the role of housing in achieving the Paris Climate Agreement

- Housing is essential to build a net zero and resilient world
- Housing collapse due to the impacts of climate change is preventable - we must not only build new, but also upgrade existing housing to withstand hazards
- To build a resilient world, we must seek inclusive strategies to protect those most at risk of disasters

2) Offer commitments to strengthen disaster-resilient housing, before the next disaster occurs

- The greatest barriers to achieving climate- and disaster-resilient housing are people & policy, money and technology. State actors must fund and prioritize solutions which address all three barriers for sustainable futures.
- Changing housing systems requires the collaboration of state actors as well as non-state actors - actors from finance, insurance, and construction, and most importantly homeowners

3) Bridge the financing gaps to implement resilient housing programs at scale

- Both public and private investment is needed to implement disaster-resilient housing at scale
- Investing in housing can have positive ripple effects towards other climate-resilient outcomes, including health and food security
- Making housing climate-resilient does not have to be complex or expensive; small investments can make a huge difference.

Why Should Housing Be On the Climate Change Agenda?

1) Housing is the ultimate protection for families

Access to safe housing is fundamental: a sketch of a house is often the first image a child draws.

2) Three billion people will live in vulnerable housing by 2030

That's 1 in 3 worldwide. We need to act now!

3) Housing is the ultimate silo-breaker

Resilient, affordable housing contributes across a wide range of SDGs.

4) In the pandemic, your house is now your shelter, workplace, and school combined

Improving housing represents an economic recovery opportunity.

5) Resilience doesn't have to be expensive

Simple changes can reduce vulnerability and carbon emissions.

6 Equal access to affordable housing builds wealth and promotes racial justice.

Unsafe, unhealthy housing fuels inequality

7) Public health starts at home

Hygiene is impossible without proper sanitation.

Disasters are increasing in frequency, but mass casualties, millions of homeless and/or displaced people and property losses are preventable.

8) Housing losses due to windstorms are preventable

The 2017 hurricane season hit the GDP of the Caribbean harder than the Ebola crisis hit West Africa. Preventive action is needed to stop catastrophic economic loss.

9) Housing losses due to wildfires are preventable

Yet homes that aren't fire-resilient continue to be built in the highest-risk areas at a time when more than 28 million Americans are now vulnerable to megafires.

10) Housing losses due to flooding are preventable

52% of the global population and 46% of global assets will be at risk of flooding by 2100. There is still time to change climate change, but we must do more starting now.

Housing is the Ultimate Protection for Families



The Resilient Housing Wheel

From The Build Change Guide to Resilient Housing: An Essential Handbook for Governments and Practitioners. Denver, CO: Build Change, 2021.

Come check us out at COP26!

Mobilizing city- and regional-level action

Build Change is a co-lead on the Cities, Regions and Built Environment theme within the [Resilience Hub](#). We're curating a program that emphasizes systems change and leadership for resilience.



What does climate resilience mean in practice?

November 8, 1:30pm GMT

Blue Zone, Climate Action Hub

Dr. Elizabeth Hausler will speak on a panel organized by the Marrakesh Partnership on climate risk governance and capacity building for climate resilience as members of the Race to Resilience.

Make Your House Climate Resilient

November 8, 5pm GMT

Blue Zone, Climate Action Hub

Build Change is showcasing a "choose your own adventure"-style game called "Make Your House Climate Resilient" to introduce the concept of housing resilience to the broader climate community.



Cities & Regions Mobilizing for Housing Resilience

November 11, 3:15pm GMT

Blue Zone Hall 5 or Virtual

Build Change is leading a panel featuring mayors and regional leaders showcasing how disaster-resilient housing factors into sustainability, climate, and urban planning. Register for the live stream [here](#).

