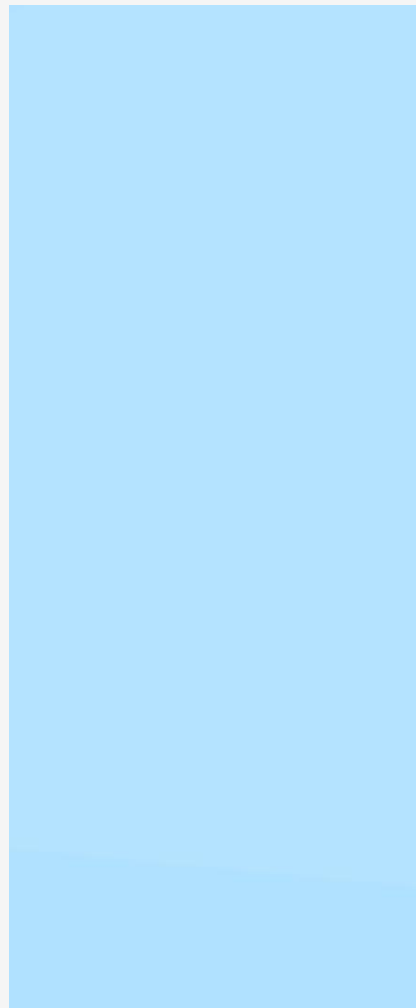


BE-ST



Who are we?

BE-ST is Scotland's national innovation centre for construction and the built environment.

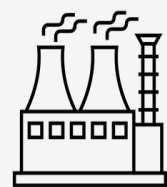
The built environment
requires a smarter transformation.

Construction has a huge impact on our planet and society.



30%

Energy
Use



45%

CO₂e
Emissions



50%

Waste
Generation



60%

Material
Consumption



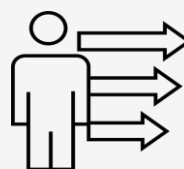
12.5%

of the total
workforce



11,000

learners into
Scotland's Colleges
& Universities



342,000

Employees
in Scotland



£4bn

of Scotland's public
sector spend per year



£8bn

Gross Value Add (GVA) per
year in Scotland

The built environment is facing a variety of wider challenges.

→ Costs and affordability

Materials, energy, and labour costs are rising at unprecedented rates, squeezing margins, while house prices are at an all time high, making homes unaffordable.

Finding efficiency in our systems is more vital than ever.

→ Productivity & efficiency

The construction sector's productivity has barely improved in decades. Compared to manufacturing, which has doubled efficiency, we still rely on outdated processes, slow procurement, and fragmented supply chains.

A shift towards modern methods of construction (MMC) and digital tools would dramatically improve speed, quality, and profitability.

→ Health and safety

The built environment is one of the most hazardous industries to work in. Despite advances in regulation, thousands of workers are still injured or killed every year due to outdated methods and a lack of innovation. Moreover, the long-term health impacts of site work is often ignored.

Adopting new technologies at scale, from exoskeletons to digital modelling, is crucial to reducing risk, preventing injuries, and saving lives.

→ Housing shortages

The Scottish Parliament declared a national housing emergency in 2024. Demand far outstrips supply, putting pressure on developers to build at scale while navigating labour shortages, material price volatility, and requirements.

Solutions, such as modern methods of construction (MMC) and retrofitting existing buildings, are crucial to addressing the crisis, but adoption remains slow due to regulatory barriers and investment risks.

→ Culture and inclusivity

The built environment needs leadership that cares. It should reflect the people it serves, but right now, women, ethnic minorities, and young talent remain underrepresented, limiting the sector's ability to innovate and grow. A truly diverse and inclusive industry is more creative, resilient, and profitable.

We need to break down barriers for new entrants, change workplace culture, and build an environment where everyone can thrive.



Challenges which are impacting every kind of organisation:

→ Labour and skills gaps

Across the board, a lack of relevant skills and training is a major barrier to meeting building demands and achieving business goals, sustainability and innovation.

→ Financial constraints

Limited budgets and concerns about the financial viability of sustainable practices are shared struggles, particularly for smaller organisations and the public sector.

→ Navigating uncertainty

Whether it's financial risk for SMEs, unclear priorities in the public sector, or difficulty aligning education with industry needs, uncertainty hampers progress.

→ Isolated approaches

The community often works in isolation, making it difficult to align efforts and maximise collective impact.

These issues are stalling progress for people,
profit, and the planet.

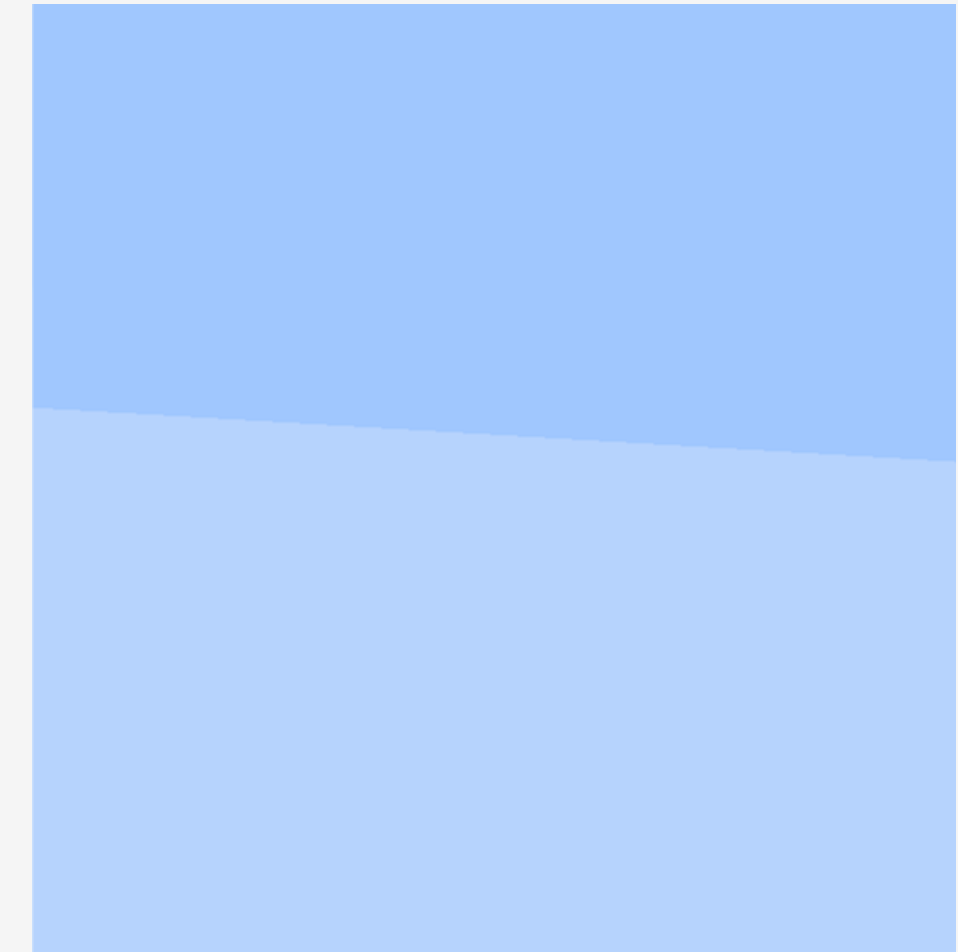
As an innovation centre, we have seen how sustainability helps our community succeed.

- There are ways for the sector to do things better, faster, and more effectively.
- The pursuit of sustainability offers us the opportunity to harness the community around transformation, while also future proofing organisations.
- Collaborating, innovating, and embedding sustainable solutions can unlock financial, operational, and reputational benefits that drive long-term value and success.
- We should build and nourish relationships across the sector, to connect industry, policy, expertise and skills to make positive change happen.



To create better outcomes for all:

1. A better built environment that produces net zero carbon emissions
2. Drive economic growth across sectors underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable construction industry and built environment ecosystem.
3. Safeguard existing jobs and businesses and create new green jobs and businesses.
4. Build greater supply chain capability and resilience through new models of deeper integration and collaboration.
5. Support talent attraction, improve education pathways, embed entrepreneurial activity, and build a highly skilled workforce through new models of learning.
6. Encourage inward investment and enable businesses to export.
7. Drive more impact from academic collaborations and help increase business investment in innovation, research and development, and knowledge exchange.
8. Eradicate fuel poverty, tackle health inequalities, and create better places for Scotland's citizens.
9. Deliver more efficient use of public investment.
10. Support diverse talent attraction and retention.
11. Improve connectivity and engagement between key stakeholders involved in decarbonising the built environment and within Scotland's innovation and business support ecosystem.



BE-ST provides the clarity, capability, and connections to the built environment community, to inspire new ideas, innovate, and help businesses, education, and communities thrive.

Who we serve

We work across the built environment sector, with decision-makers, leaders, and changemakers in the public sector, industry, educators, and academia, to deliver value for all.

What we do

BE-ST provides the clarity, capability, and connections to the built environment community, to inspire new ideas, innovate, and help businesses, education, and communities thrive. We aim to be by your side enabling, facilitating, connecting, dot-joining, and supporting to help us all deliver against the mission of accelerating the built environment's transition to zero carbon. We focus our impact on:

- Housing & Manufacturing
- Retrofit & Energy Efficiency
- Skills & Training

Our core partners:

Supported by



Administered by



**Built
Environment
—
Smarter
Transformation**

Our offer

We support you, our community, to:

1.

Unlock the 'win-win' within solving challenges through innovation, skills and collaboration.

2.

Access pathways to training, funding and partnerships that empowers you to upskill, innovate, and deliver real-world impact.

3.

Break down siloes and collaborate across the sector to achieve better economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Our offer to:

SMEs

BE-ST provides the training and platforms to help SMEs work towards achieving sustainability in both their business and the planet, and unlock the quicker, better, smarter way of doing things.

Public & third sector

BE-ST is the friendly face, advocate and navigator to help make better, more cost-efficient decisions and help co-create better built spaces for citizens and homeowners.

Educators and Researchers

BE-ST empowers education and research sectors to equip industry with the workforce and knowledge needed for the future of the built environment.

Large firms

BE-ST provides the expertise, connections, and resources to large firms in the built environment sector to help meet client, industry, and regulatory demands.

Smarter retrofit

Our experience and assets:

- A history of building platforms that support organisations looking to thrive while transitioning to a smarter, more sustainable future.
- A proven track record of delivering transformative, collaborative projects as a researcher, partner, project manager, or connector.
- Close working relationships with Scottish Government, industry leaders, innovators, and policymakers.
- One-of-a-kind facilities and training resources to support you to innovate, upskill, and build resilience.

Our campus

Scotland's National Retrofit Centre

The development of the National Retrofit Centre, co-funded by the Scottish Government, Edinburgh Napier University, and BE-ST, will revolutionise our approach to retrofitting existing buildings in the United Kingdom.

As an extension of the UK Government's National Retrofit Hub, this centre is fostering deep collaboration between industry, academic stakeholders, public sector organisations, and citizens to create a comprehensive national retrofit response.

Mass Timber Centre of Excellence

Our Mass Timber Manufacturing facilities are transforming how we deliver housing in Scotland and beyond, to position the construction industry as a solution to both these crises.

Leveraging the unparalleled equipment, facilities and expertise at BE-ST, we provide a full range of solutions to support the industry to integrate timber into projects.



Our events

BE-ST Fest Summit

Each year we run the festival for the zero carbon built environment.

BE-ST Fest is a rich events programme encompassing all aspects of a zero carbon built environment.

International Retrofit Conference (IRC)

The IRC brings together the international retrofit community to collectively move beyond talk and towards tangible learning, decision making and action to make retrofit and transformational change happen.

Accelerate to Zero Awards

The Accelerate to Zero Awards recognise the businesses, organisations and individuals making the biggest contribution to decarbonising the built environment and supporting the just transition to net zero.

Campus facilities

We have three flexible conferencing and event spaces.

Our events team will work with you to determine the best options available and will support your event from the initial enquiry all the way through to delivery.

Campus tours

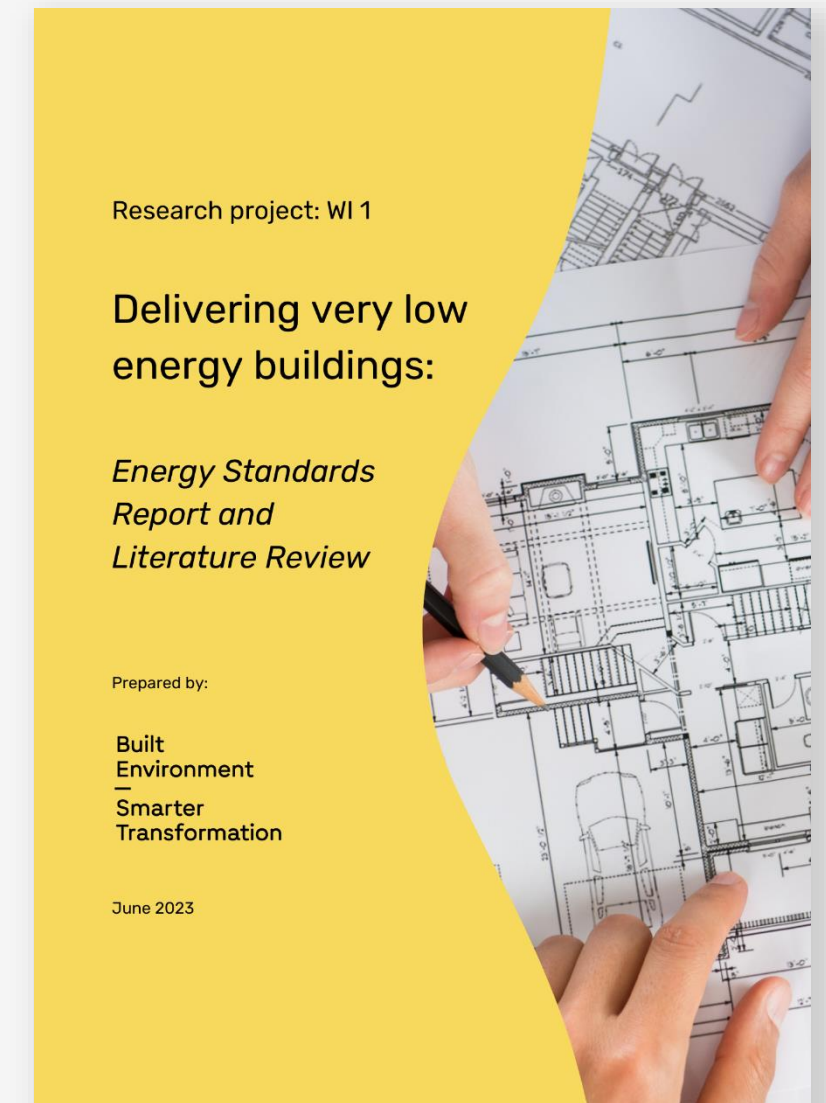
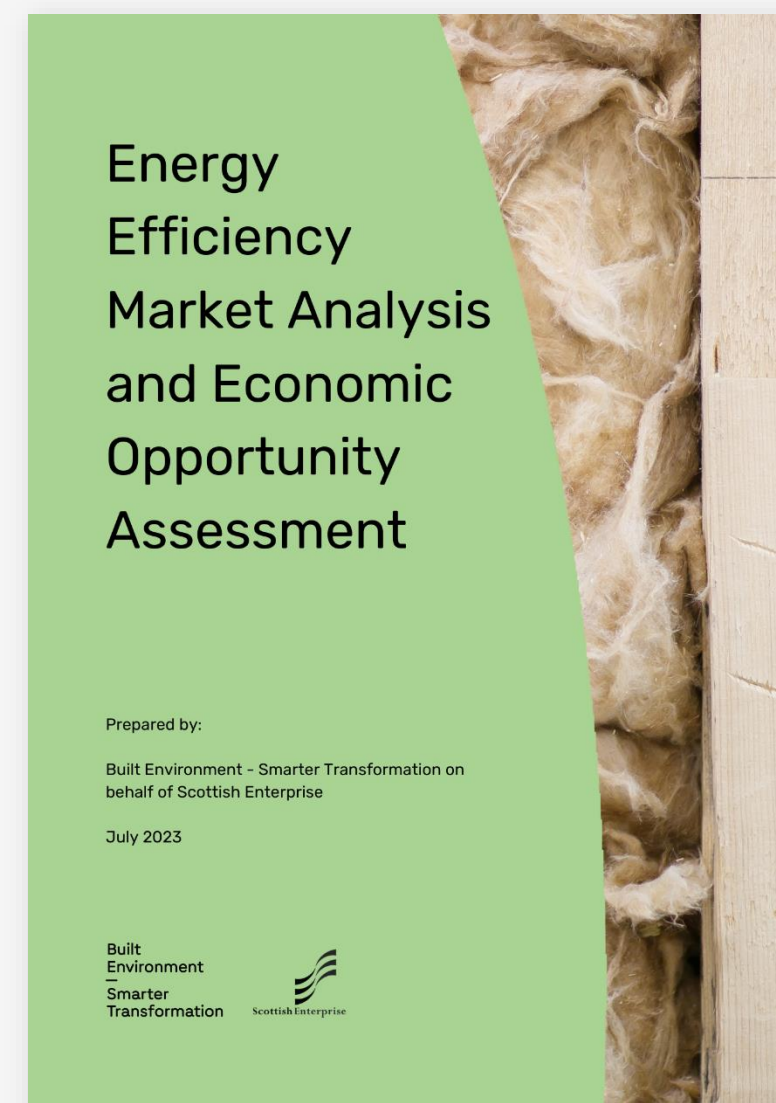
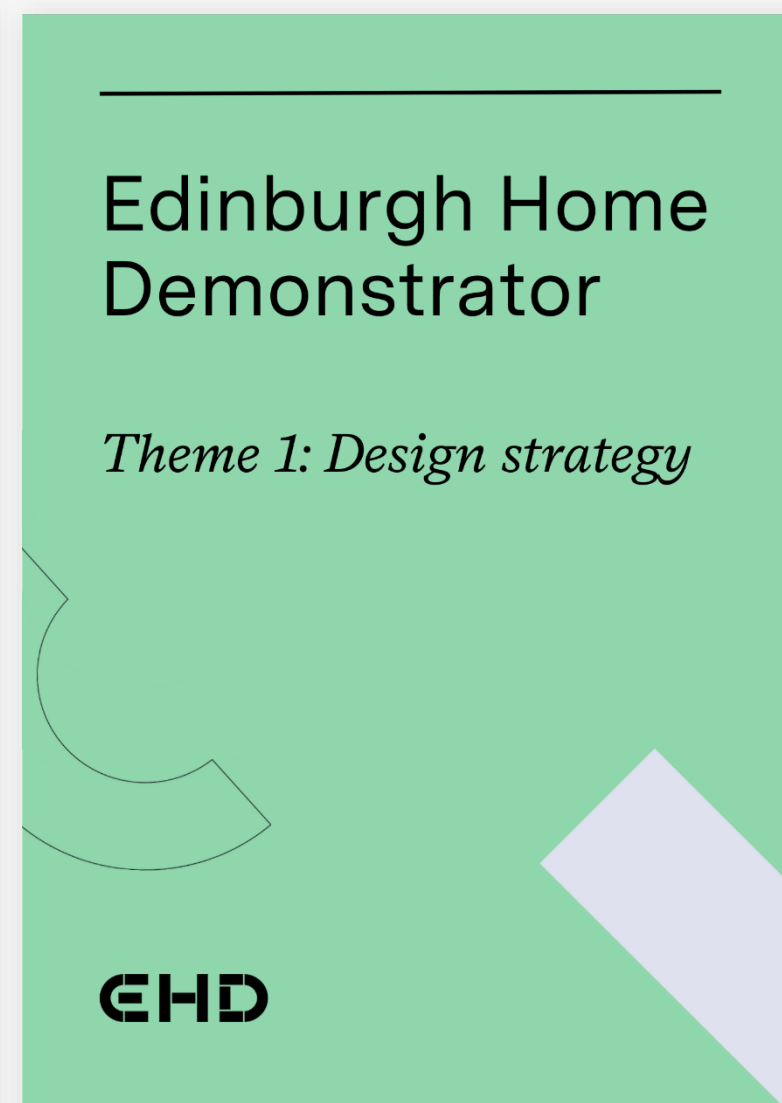
You can book onto our monthly free tour of the BE-ST Campus.

Take a tour around innovation and explore our Retrofit Centre of Excellence and now Mass Timber Centre of Excellence.

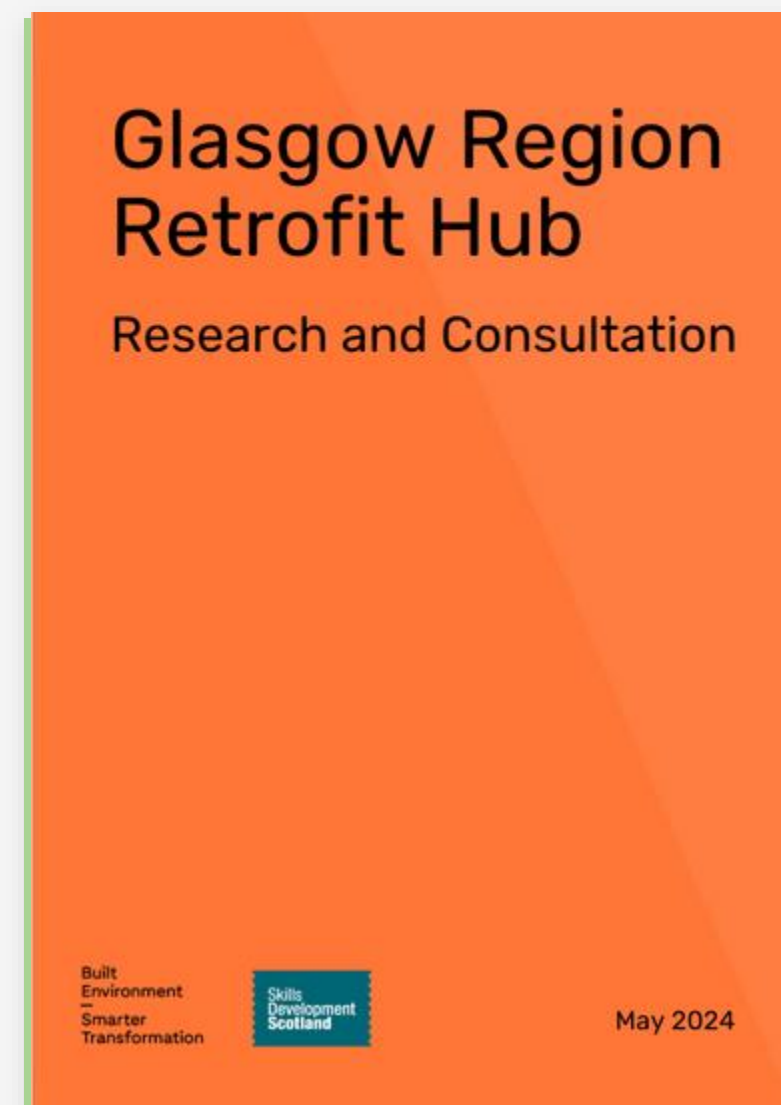
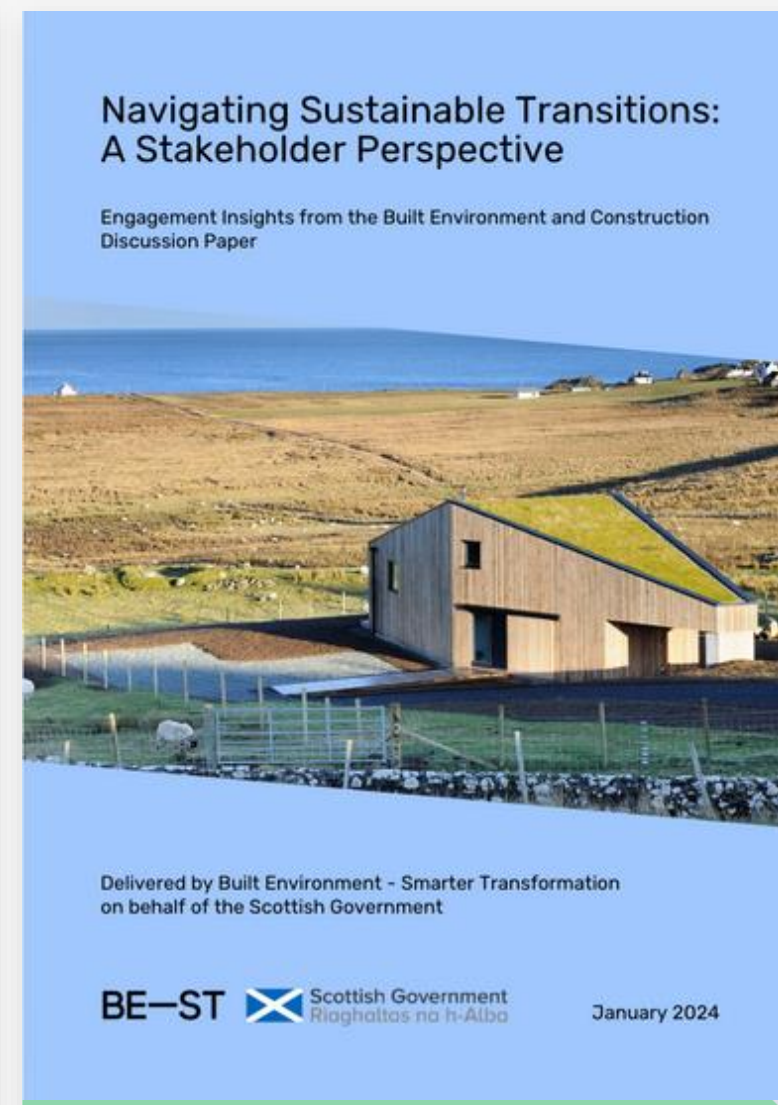
The monthly tours cover the role of BE-ST and how our core programmes intend to support the industry to accelerate the built environment's transition to zero carbon.



Our research



Our research



Think differently about the
relationship between zero carbon
and the built environment.

Thank you

gjohnston@be-st.build
www.be-st.build



Built
Environment
—
Smarter
Transformation