



RICS Consultation RICS Red Book Global Standards 2024 TRUUD Response

It is very welcome seeing the inclusion of ESG into the revised RICS Red Book Global Standards. Here we recommend three additions:

1. Given that 'health and wellbeing' is included both in the definition of 'sustainability' and 'social factors', we suggest including this '[TRUUD Definition](#)'* (as has been done for the CRREM definition on stranding risk). It describes what 'health' (and 'wellbeing') means and why it matters. This definition should not only help RICS Members get more conversant on the links between 'health', 'wellbeing' and 'social factors', but also enable them to engage specialists in this area more effectively. For example, there are significant and growing links between health and sustainability, as is being evidenced through work on what's now being referred to as 'planetary health' ([United Nations, 2017](#)). This is important as RICS Members may be working on issues of sustainability, which may be improving health outcomes, without knowing about it.
2. Depending on what's needed, it might also be worthwhile underlining why health is important for RICS Members and their clients. For example, indoor air pollution has been shown to affect the cognitive function of office workers ([JGC Laurent et al, 2021](#)) and the wider neighbourhood can impact in a number of ways, such as a lack of access to nature affecting mental health ([Ige-Elegbede et al, 2020](#)). The health of buildings and their surroundings environment is now widely recognised as being important, as set out by the Better Building Partnership GN 13.2: [Why health and wellbeing is important](#).
3. RICS Members may also be interested in the University of Bath's Health Appraisal of Urban Systems ([HAUS](#)) Tool, which quantifies health outcomes linked to urban form in five areas: buildings, transport, natural environments, community infrastructure and socio-environmental factors. It was developed on two major regeneration development projects and is currently being adopted by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in to their [Appraisal Guidance](#), which sets out the default assumptions, theoretical framework and metrics to be adopted by analysts. It is also currently being tested with two real estate companies, Federated Hermes and LandSec, via University of Reading's Henley Business School (Real Estate and Planning).

**TRUUD is a 6-yr/£10m research programme on disease prevention linked to urban environments: <https://truud.ac.uk/>. There is information freely available on health and the urban environment: academic [publications](#), [briefing notes](#), [videos](#), and more. This research is funded by the [UK Prevention Research Partnership](#), an initiative of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Councils, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the UK devolved administrations, and leading health research charities.*

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