



RISE

Retrofit information,
support & expertise

How It Went At Futurebuild 2026

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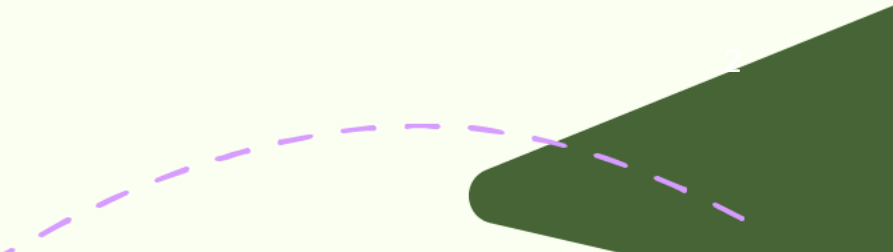
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What is Futurebuild?

Futurebuild is one of the UK's most significant events for the built environment, bringing together the people, ideas, and solutions shaping the future of construction.

The conference was held in May at ExCeL London, attracting more than **20,000 professionals** and over **600 exhibitors**, making it one of the largest gatherings in the sector. It goes beyond a traditional exhibition, with collaborative and interactive stands and sessions designed to connect those driving meaningful change across the industry.

The event's importance and influence are reflected through the conference's notable attendees. At Futurebuild 2026, this included Martin McCluskey MP, Minister for Energy Consumers, and Rt Hon Chris Skidmore, Former UK Energy Minister, alongside several other senior policymakers and industry leaders.

Why was RISE there?

RISE significantly expanded its presence at Futurebuild this year, with an upgraded stand that hosted a comprehensive fringe programme. Across the three-day conference, the RISE team **delivered 11 sessions** at the RISE Stage, covering a variety of topics spanning from Warm Homes funding to Heritage buildings.

The RISE stand also saw strong engagement, engaging directly with nearly 400 attendees whilst also hosting visits from Minister McCluskey (below) as well as senior representatives from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).



The RISE stage delivering the Retrofitting Traditional Buildings session

Beyond the RISE Stage, RISE Subject Matter Experts **hosted an 'Ask an Expert' drop in** at Futurebuild Connect lounge and **chaired sessions at the National Retrofit Conference** with Keynote speakers such as Selvin Brown, Director for Net Zero Buildings at DESNZ.

The breadth of RISE's activity this year reflected a stronger, more visible presence at Futurebuild and reinforced RISE's in the retrofit sector.

Insights

From the three days of exhibiting at Futurebuild, several key insights emerged. Overall, the mood across the conference was notably positive, with growing optimism and confidence in both the feasibility and impact of retrofit.

The other key thematic insight collected across the conference was from the Supply Chain, who had strong engagement with the RISE stand. The overarching sentiment was that the supply chain was energised and wanted to engage and support the sector.

The insights gathered from Futurebuild highlight a sector with strong momentum and optimism, supported by rising engagement and confidence in retrofit. Progress at scale continues to be shaped by structural, delivery, and information gaps that the sector is still working through, with RISE looking to support and fill such gaps.

Actions

Having collated and analysed the insights and feedback received at Futurebuild, RISE is continuing to evolve its offer to better address sector needs and delivery challenges.

This involves a number of actions as a priority:

- **Continue to develop our learning offer to match the needs of clients:**
 - Provide onboarding support for supply chain with clear guidance for entry-level stakeholders.
 - Build on our guidance specific to sector policy and delivery models.
 - Produce more specialist learning content on more bespoke topics that attendees expressed interest in, such as heritage assets.
- **Nurturing third-party collaboration opportunities:**
 - Continue follow-up engagement with those who wished to collaborate after meeting at Futurebuild.
 - Progress and mould existing engagement opportunities to support ongoing sector delivery challenges based on conference insights.
- **Learning Communities for Grant Recipients:**
 - Consider insights gathered from Grant Recipient's conversations to help identify strategically beneficial Special Interest Group topics to continue to support them with their Warm Homes Wave 3 delivery.

Summary and forward look

Looking back on Futurebuild 2026, RISE's largest conference presence to date marked a successful and valuable engagement with the sector. The event provided an exciting opportunity to connect with a wide range of organisations, including grant recipients, while also delivering a diverse programme of live sessions.

Through RISE's presence, the team have been able to gather valuable insight into the areas where the sector is seeking further knowledge and support. These insights are now informing the ongoing development of RISE's Learning and Development offer, ensuring it continues to respond to evolving needs of the sector. If you are interested in what events RISE have coming up, please look on: [Knowledge Hub - RISE App](#)

Looking ahead, RISE's engagement with the sector through events and conferences is set to continue. The team has recently participated in Housing 2026 in Manchester and is actively exploring further opportunities to engage and share learnings with the sector.

For those interested in engaging with RISE or keeping up to date with future activity, the RISE newsletter provides regular updates and insights. If you would like to join the mailing list, please use the link here: [Newsletter - RISE App](#)



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