Open data has two major uses in this sector: helping individuals find homes to rent or buy, and enabling contractors and city planners develop those homes as well. The most widely used data includes housing, demographic and social, and geospatial.

**HOW ORGANIZATIONS USE OPEN DATA**

Uses of open data in this sector include:

- Real estate websites that help potential renters or buyers make informed housing choices; they use open data to provide users with comparable property prices, crime statistics across neighborhoods, and proximity to public educational, health, and recreational facilities.
- Construction companies using land use information and permits are consulted before undertaking excavation works and beginning building on new sites.
- Contractors, buyers, planners, and city advocates that monitor land use and analyze real estate markets and access to housing.
- Investors, surveyors, real estate brokers, and others that use topographical, social demographics, education, transportation, and the environment to develop detailed analyses of the renting and ownership markets.

**USE CASES**

**BRE**
Advisory services for the built environment sector through research, testing, and training practices

**URL:** [http://www.bre.co.uk/](http://www.bre.co.uk/)

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Impact:** Provides cost effective and regulation certified resources for building construction

**Data Used:** Code for Sustainable Homes Certificates from the U.K. Department for Communities and Local Government, Number of permanent new dwellings from the Office for National Statistics

**NestReady**
Provides online tools identify user preferences to facilitate relocation in Canada

**URL:** [http://www.navut.com/](http://www.navut.com/)

**Country:** Canada

**Impact:** Customizes and cuts down the cost of housing searches

**Data Used:** Census data from Statistics Canada, Education data at the province level from the Ministries of Education, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

This fact sheet is based on data from the Open Data Impact Map, a public database of organizations that use open data from around the world. 45 housing-related orgs were assessed to develop these findings. To learn more, visit: [http://OpenDataImpactMap.org/housing](http://OpenDataImpactMap.org/housing)