

Design Engine Architects

Environmental Policy

Design Engine Architects is working to BS EN ISO 14001:2015

Design Engine Architects understand the impacts that the practice could have upon the environment during the course of our work. We are committed to achieving good environmental performance at all times, regardless of the size or type of work that we undertake, which means:

- Working with a sustainability framework to guide design principles. This framework offers our clients a holistic approach to sustainable design principles, enabling their projects to co-ordinate with multiple sustainability accreditations. As a result of this, many projects will be designed and delivered to BREEAM level "Excellent" or equivalent accreditation of equal or superior environmental standards, unless required otherwise by the client.
- Understanding the context of our organisation and assessing our environmental impacts for significance, and implementing an Environmental Management System to manage those impacts.
- Developing objectives and targets annually to manage our environmental impacts and implementing site practices based upon these objectives.
- Complying with all relevant legal requirements and other requirements such as industry standards. We also look to work in accordance with accepted best practice and implement solutions to improve the environments we operate in.
- Preventing pollution that arises from our activities. We seek to minimise the impacts of our operations on the environmental and local community. To minimise in particular those impacts associated with noise, dust, vibration and public nuisance.
- Maintaining commitment from our staff to reduce environmental impacts. We will provide training to those having an influence or control on environmental control measures, and in addition raise awareness across our business, encouraging others to come forward with new ideas.
- Monitoring our works and measuring performance. We are committed to ensuring that controls set down in our working procedures are implemented within the studio.
- Identifying opportunities for continually improving our methods and materials in order to reduce both environmental impacts and to improve our expenditure. We recognise that there is room for improvement in all of our operations.
- Implementing changes to our system and applying new innovations to realise identified improvements.

The Practice will, to support this policy, operate an Environmental Management System developed to meet the requirements of International Standard BS EN ISO 14001:2015

The continual improvement of the effectiveness of the company's Environmental Management System is fundamental to the success of its business and good environmental practice and design, and therefore must be supported by all employees as an integral part of their daily work.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

Introduction

Design Engine Architects recognises that buildings have an enormous impact on the environment. The practice recognises this impact and accepts its responsibilities to the environment in pursuit of its own business activities and in the professional advice given to clients.

We recognise our responsibility to promote the sustainable use of the world's valuable natural resources.

Statement

Design Engine Architects will pursue policies, practices and design solutions to help create a more sustainable environment. The contribution of all members of the Practice is considered to be essential to the achievement of improved sustainability and environmental performance.

The practice is committed to briefing the client on sustainable and environmental issues and working to enhance the quality of the built environment.

Objectives

We have developed Sustainable Design Aspirations based on the following key sustainable priorities, which are aligned with government principles. By applying these principles it helps us to manage our environmental, social and economic responsibilities and bring added-value to our clients.

- Sustainable site planning including reducing the impact on ecology
- Water efficiency
- Minimising energy use
- Specifying sustainable materials and reducing waste
- Improving the quality of the internal and external environments

This Policy is a working document, which reflects the current practice with regard to sustainability and environmental issues; it is reviewed annually to reflect current initiatives.

All management and staff are expected to follow the guidelines and to contribute to their development and implementation. The Practice aims to continuously improve its environmental performance.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT DESIGN ASPIRATIONS

Sustainable Site Planning

- Consider building location and orientation
- Consider the density of the development and connections to the local community
- Encourage use of sustainable transport through provision of appropriate facilities such as good cycle storage and provision of changing facilities/showering etc
- Protect existing trees and habitat and consider setting aside wildlife areas for the future
- Considered design of open space to improve amenity
- Encourage the use of SUDS where possible and reduce the areas of hard impermeable paving
- Consider light pollution from the site when considering lighting design
- Minimise water run off by limiting the extent of 'hard' landscaping
- Consider the use of ponds/ lakes to improve amenity
- Be aware of the pollution likely to be produced from building operations. Find out about local watercourses and make the contractor aware of chemical pollution i.e. run off from compound, etc
- Limit extent of the construction site; protect existing trees and areas of site not used directly by the contractor/ finished development
- Create external environments with both visual and environmental benefits e.g. deciduous trees for summer shading
- Developments should invest in landscaping, environmental amenity and be respectful neighbouring sites
- Ensure space is available for the collection and recycling of waste

Sustainable Use of Water

- Water efficient soft landscaping. Use low maintenance design and drought resistant species
- Reduce use of water by considering rainwater harvesting and grey water systems
- Reduce the need for water by incorporating low water usage appliances

Energy Use

- Maximise the use of natural daylight and positive solar gain
- Make best use of passive strategies such as thermal mass and solar shading
- Exploit the potential for natural ventilation
- Avoid air-conditioning where possible
- Exceed insulation standards required by Building Regulations
- Specify low energy lighting
- Encourage and support the client in the use of renewable energy

Sustainable Materials and Minimising Waste

- Where possible exploit the potential of existing buildings / structures on site
- Designers should aim for 'lean' construction by avoiding over-specification
- Make best use of possible re-cycled building materials
- Consider using building materials/forms of construction that lend themselves to re-use once the building is obsolete
- Consider the cost/energy consumption of construction, e.g. excessive excavation/ removal of spoil from site, transport energy, etc
- Use sustainable materials with embodied energy (See Green Building handbook in Technical for material energy advice)
- Avoid ozone-depleting chemicals in manufacture and operation of the building
- Ensure that wherever possible timber is obtained from sustainable sources as set out by CITES (Commission on Independent Trade in Endangered Species). The government have confirmed through DEFRA that four certification schemes demonstrate timber and wood products come from legal and sustainable sources. These are:
 - FSC - Forest Stewardship Council
 - CSA - Canadian Standards Association
 - PEFC- Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
 - SFI- North American Sustainable Forest Initiative

Indoor Environmental Quality

- Controllable and flexible natural ventilation - a range of window sizes and opening options available to users
- Maximise the use of low VOC emitting materials - areas where you might look for alternatives are adhesives, sealants, paints, carpets and smooth sheet flooring and composite wood products
- Controllability of natural and artificial lighting (eg blinds and switching)
- Maximise both daylight and views within the building
- Avoid overheating through solar gain (consider brise-soliel)

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Introduction

Design Engine Architects recognises that its business activities have an impact on the environment. The practice recognises this impact and accepts its responsibilities to reduce the negative impact of these activities on the environment.

Process

The practice will pursue policies and procedures to reduce its negative impact on the environment. The contribution of all members of the practice is considered to be essential to the achievement of improved environmental performance.

The Company is committed to:

- Continuous improvement
- Education of employees in environmental issues and the effect of our activities on the environment
- The monitoring of progress and the regular review of environmental performance
- Recognition of relevant environmental legislation as a minimum standard

Objectives

The practice's overall environmental objectives can be summarised as:

- Retain Environmental Standard Specification BS EN ISO 14001:2015
- Continual development of our Environmental Management System
- Commitment to the promotion of environmental and sustainable design
- Minimise energy usage
- Minimise water usage
- Minimise pollution
- Reduce travel and fuel consumption
- Minimise waste
- Increase recycling and encourage re-use
- Sustainable product and service specification
- Understand our carbon footprint and work towards a net zero carbon footprint by 2050

The Policy is a working document, which reflects the current practice with regard to environmental issues; it is reviewed annually to reflect current initiatives. All management and staff are expected to follow the guidelines and to contribute to their development and implementation. The practice aims to continuously improve its environmental performance. This Policy is a published document and forms the basis for our Environmental Management System.