

# COLLECTIVE ARCHITECTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - ISO 14001**

It is the policy of Collective Architecture to maintain an environmental system designed to meet the requirements of UKAS ISO 14001 in pursuit of being industry leading architectural practitioners.

It is the policy of Collective Architecture to:

- give satisfaction to all of our customers and other stakeholders and interested parties whenever possible, meeting and exceeding their expectations;
- comply with all compliance obligations, codes of practice and all other requirements applicable to our activities including the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services;
- the reduction of hazards, prevention of injury, ill health, protection of the environment, including prevention of pollution, sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and any other specific commitments which are relevant to the context of the organisation;
- provide all the resources of equipment, trained and competent staff and any other requirements to enable these objectives to be met;
- ensure that all employees are made aware of their individual obligations in respect of this environmental policy;
- maintain a management system that will achieve these objectives and seek continual improvement in the effectiveness and performance of our management system based on "risk".

This environmental policy provides a framework for setting, monitoring, reviewing and achieving our objectives, programs and targets.

Customer service is an essential part of the environmental process and to ensure this is fulfilled, all employees receive training to ensure awareness and understanding of the environment and its impact of the products or service in which we provide.

To ensure the company maintains its awareness for continuous improvement, the environmental system is regularly reviewed by "Senior Management" to ensure it remains appropriate and suitable to our business. The Environmental System is subject to both internal and external annual audits.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Architects have the chance to play a crucial role in the efforts to moderate the environmental deterioration that has accelerated over the last century. Collective Architecture was established with the intention of concentrating on ecological, sustainable and community led projects, and we have maintained these as primary responsibilities as the company has developed.

Utilising sustainable options is vital to encourage development for individuals, business organisations and society as a whole, they also form an essential aspect of the way we view the aesthetic, social and cultural space that architecture can inhabit.

Whilst working with these issues, it is vital to understand the interests and concerns of our clients, including their need to respond to changing social opinions on sustainable issues, and maintaining a high level of professional quality, as well as company competitiveness and profitability.

Through the application of this policy we aim to introduce, whenever possible, the most sustainable options and procedures when planning and developing new and existing projects. We will uphold an active commitment to sustainable design and practice, which integrates care for the environment in each of the company's operations.

Within our working environment we aim to continue reducing the consumption of energy and other natural resources, and maximise the efficiency with which they are used. We will continue to develop awareness in all our employees of a working practice, which promotes sustainability, by training and discussion.

We will maintain an effective relationship with the local community through participation in education workshops, exhibitions and seminars. Where possible, the company will contribute to the long-term improvement of the local environment.

We will endeavor to present reliable information on the products and services offered to our customers to enable them to make an informed choice on the grounds of sustainable issues. The company will continue to develop its operations from a sustainable perspective, to provide services with the least possible environmental impact, and actively research and distribute information aimed at promoting demand for these services

Collective Architecture's overall aim is the continuous development of its sustainable working practice to achieve the gradual reduction of the environmental impact of its operations as a whole.

Collective Architecture has produced a Sustainable Management System in accordance with the aims and objectives of the company's Sustainability Policy. The management of Collective Architecture is responsible for the development and interpretation of this policy and for monitoring its implementation.

## **STRATEGY**

Each project is considered by maximising the lifetime use of the building and is designed with flexibility for future use. These are then reviewed with regard to their environmental implications. We have compiled an extensive database with sources of sustainable materials and systems, which we consult in preference to standard specification. We encourage continual research into new and developing strategies for sustainable practice and have provided consultant services for this to clients including Communities Scotland.

Collective have been actively involved in the teaching of Sustainable Housing and Architecture at Strathclyde University for over fifteen years. This has included substantial contribution to the 'Architecture & Ecology' design unit. Collective Architecture are also currently teaching at the Mackintosh School of Architecture and are often guest tutors at other Scottish Universities.

Procedures are established to reduce the consumption of fuel and energy. Staff are encouraged to reduce the number of car journeys between home and work by sharing cars or using public transport or cycle routes. We actively utilise new technologies to improve efficiency in communication and data storage, therefore lowering the levels of paper use, postage and

unnecessary travel. Further methods have been established to reduce the amount of office consumables and increase the recycling of office waste materials.

Work is undertaken in compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements, and any changes to these are identified and implemented as soon as they become apparent.

## AGENDA 21

Collective Architecture recognise the aims of Local Agenda 21 as put forward by the United Nations and in particular we would highlight the following

### Community Involvement:

Educating people about sustainable development and getting them involved in action to ensure a good future for their district.

### Community and Health:

Improving peoples' health and well-being and ensuring a sense of community in places where people live.

### Local Economy:

Supporting a sustainable local economy, which does not damage the environment and allows people to provide for themselves.

### Natural Environment:

Protecting natural systems from damage and pollution and protecting and enhancing the variety of plants and animals, which rely on them.

### Built Environment and Resource use:

Using resources carefully and sustainably, and ensuring the built environment is pleasant and accessible.

### Transport:

Developing sustainable transport to meet the needs of people traveling within and through the district.

*Please note that we are currently working to align the above list with our 6 areas of environmental focus which follows the work of Climate Framework <https://www.climateframework.com> underpinned by the UN Agenda 2030 and the 17 sustainable development goals. Please refer below.*



social  
human



circular  
economy



energy  
carbon



biodiversity  
ecology



water  
ecology



connect  
travel

## **RIAS POLICY STATEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY** (The role of the Built Environment in Creating Social, Economic and Environmentally Sustainable Places) 1997 revised June 2016

### ***Maximum Architectural Value. Minimum Environmental Harm.***

Collective Architecture recognize the RIAS Policy Statement and Implementation Strategy (The role of the Built Environment in Creating Social, Economic and Environmentally Sustainable Places) 1997 revised June 2016. Please note the following 6 key issues:

**Use resources effectively** – ensure buildings do not consume a disproportionate amount of money, energy, water, materials, or land during construction, use or demolition.

**Minimise pollution** – minimise future risks and liabilities by creating manageable buildings, minimising dependence on polluting energy and transport and taking a precautionary approach to products and materials that may be difficult or expensive to dispose of.

**Create healthy environments** – enhance living, leisure and work environments; do not endanger the health of the builders or users, or others, through exposure to pollutants or toxic materials or harmful organisms.

**Support communities** – identify and meet the real needs, requirements and aspirations of stakeholders and involve them in key decisions.

**Enhance biodiversity** – use materials that do not threaten species or environments. Improve natural habitats where possible through appropriate planting and water use and avoidance of chemicals.

**Manage the process** – use process tools to from briefing through to Post Occupancy Evaluation (PoE) as appropriate. It is vital that sustainable buildings are recognised as part of a process, rather than simply a product at handover.

## **RIBA CODE OF CONDUCT 01.05.2019**

Collective Architecture recognize the recent changes to the RIBA Code of Conduct made in 01.05.2019. In relation to Environmental issues, we reference Principle 2, sections 13. Environment and 14. Community and Society.

## **ARB Mandatory Competency (all technical staff to use)**

Everyone deserves a built environment which helps people to live healthy, happy and safe lives. Anyone using an architect, or an environment designed by an architect should have confidence in their professionalism and quality. ARB protects the public by ensuring everyone admitted to the Register has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours to practise as an architect.

The Sustainability guidelines state that architects should:

- Understand the principles of climate science in order to make informed and responsible decisions
- Do everything within their remit to minimise their negative impact on the environment
- Advocate for sustainable or regenerative design solutions
- Maintain their knowledge about key legislation and regulations in this area
- Share building performance data to raise industry awareness and encourage the industry to work towards a zero-carbon culture.

For further information on ARB safety and sustainability guidelines for architects:

<https://arb.org.uk/architect-information/guidance-notes/arb-safety-sustainability-guidelines-architects/>

## NET ZERO CARBON

Collective Architecture are committed to participate in the various Net Zero Carbon commitments of Nations, Cities and Local Authorities we work with. We currently developing an in house Net Zero Carbon position paper which is in draft format.

## RECORD INFORMATION

*Chris Stewart*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Director

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