



ARCHITECTS

Environmental Sustainability Policy

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ima-architects.co.uk

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1.0. Introduction

IMA Architects recognises the profound impact that the built environment has on the natural world. As a responsible architectural practice, we are committed to promoting environmental sustainability in all aspects of our work. Through responsible practice and innovative design, we aim to reduce environmental impact, enhance building performance, and contribute to a sustainable future.

We have adopted this environmental strategy to show our commitment to reducing our ecological footprint, enhance building performance, and contribute to a sustainable future. Our approach reflects our core values of responsibility and innovation in architecture, aiming to drive positive change through sustainable practices both in our operations and the projects we design.

The construction and operation of buildings account for nearly 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions, making the built environment a key player in achieving global net zero targets. We are committed to supporting global net zero goals by reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, and advancing sustainable practices in every aspect of our work.

As part of our ISO 9001 accreditation, we have included a sustainable quality objective, which is as follows:

“3. Sustainability Policy to be created.

Measured by showing that IMA Architects have influenced 1 no. positive sustainable action on 3 no. live projects during 2025.”

2.0. Sustainable Workplace

IMA Architects is dedicated to integrating sustainability into our operations, ensuring that our day-to-day practices reflect our commitment to environmental responsibility. Our commitments include:

- **Endeavouring to reduce our carbon footprint** by optimising energy efficiency in our office operations, including the use of energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems.
- **Minimising waste** by implementing comprehensive recycling methods and reducing single-use plastics
- **Adopting digital tools** to reduce paper consumption promoting electronic documentation and investing in cloud-based collaboration platforms.
- **Ensuring compliance** with all relevant environmental regulations, industry standards, and best practices to maintain a sustainable work environment.
- **Engaging with suppliers and contractors** that prioritise sustainability, sourcing office supplies and services that align with environmentally friendly practices.
- **Creating a culture of environmental responsibility** among employees through training and awareness initiatives, encouraging sustainable behaviours in daily work activities.
- **Considering the implementation of green procurement policies** to ensure that all office and operational purchases consider sustainability factors such as recyclability, durability, and ethical sourcing.
- **Providing a comprehensive health scheme** for staff to ensure their well-being and support their personal health goals.
- **Providing cycle to work scheme** and promoting car sharing when possible.

We also have sustainability targets that we are currently working towards, these include:

- **Considering the implementation of water efficient fixtures** to assist in minimising water consumption within office operations by installing water-efficient fixtures and encouraging mindful water usage among staff.
- **Investigating the most efficient and cost-effective ways of monitoring and regularly assessing** the environmental impact of our workplace operations, setting targets for improvement, and reporting progress transparently.
- **Explore the potential for a PIR sensor lighting system** to our offices.

3.0. Sustainable Design

As architects, we have the opportunity to influence the environmental impact of buildings from inception to completion. IMA Architects commits to:

- **As far as possible, promoting the design of energy-efficient buildings** that exceed regulatory sustainability standards by incorporating renewable energy sources.
- **As far as possible, integrating passive design strategies** to optimise natural light, ventilation, and thermal performance, reducing reliance on mechanical heating and cooling systems when possible.
- **Encouraging adaptive reuse and refurbishment** of existing buildings to reduce embodied carbon, preserving materials and minimising demolition waste, when applicable.
- **Promoting water conservation** and responsible stormwater management by incorporating rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and permeable landscaping solutions when possible.
- **As far as possible, collaborating with clients, engineers, and contractors** to encourage that sustainability is embedded at every project stage, from initial concept development to construction and post-occupancy evaluation.
- **Striving for BREEAM certification** in all relevant projects, ensuring that we meet and exceed sustainability benchmarks.
- **When applicable, prioritising low-impact construction methods** to minimise environmental disruption, such as using modular building techniques, reducing construction waste, and sourcing local materials to lower transport emissions.
- **When possible, designing buildings for long-term adaptability and resilience**, ensuring that structures can evolve with changing needs and environmental conditions, reducing the need for major renovations and minimizing future resource consumption.
- **Promoting biodiversity** through thoughtful design practices that prioritise ecological balance and create opportunities for the integration of natural elements within the built environment.
- **Specifying sustainable, environmentally friendly** low carbon materials and construction build-ups when possible

4.0. Continuous Improvement and Professional Development

IMA Architects is committed to maintaining a culture of continuous improvement and professional development to ensure that sustainability remains central to our practice. We recognise that the built environment is constantly evolving, and it is crucial to stay informed about emerging trends, technologies, and best practices. Our commitments in this area include:

- **Providing ongoing training and development** opportunities for our team to ensure they are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills related to sustainable design, environmental performance, and emerging technologies.
- **Actively participating** in industry conferences, workshops, and seminars to stay informed about the latest research, innovations, and regulations in sustainability and architecture.
- **Encouraging knowledge-sharing** and collaboration across teams and projects to drive innovation and creative problem-solving.
- **Seeking feedback** from clients, stakeholders, and industry peers to continuously improve our sustainability strategies and design processes.
- **Promoting a culture of accountability and reflection**, where we regularly assess the environmental impact of our projects and operations, set new targets for improvement, and strive for excellence in sustainability.
- **Appointing a sustainability champion** internally to ensure that sustainability targets are progressed.