

Environmental policy 2020-2021

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Document Reference: | 5.7.1 P03 |
| Originated | October 2016 |
| Ownership | HR Manager |
| Last reviewed | April 2021 |

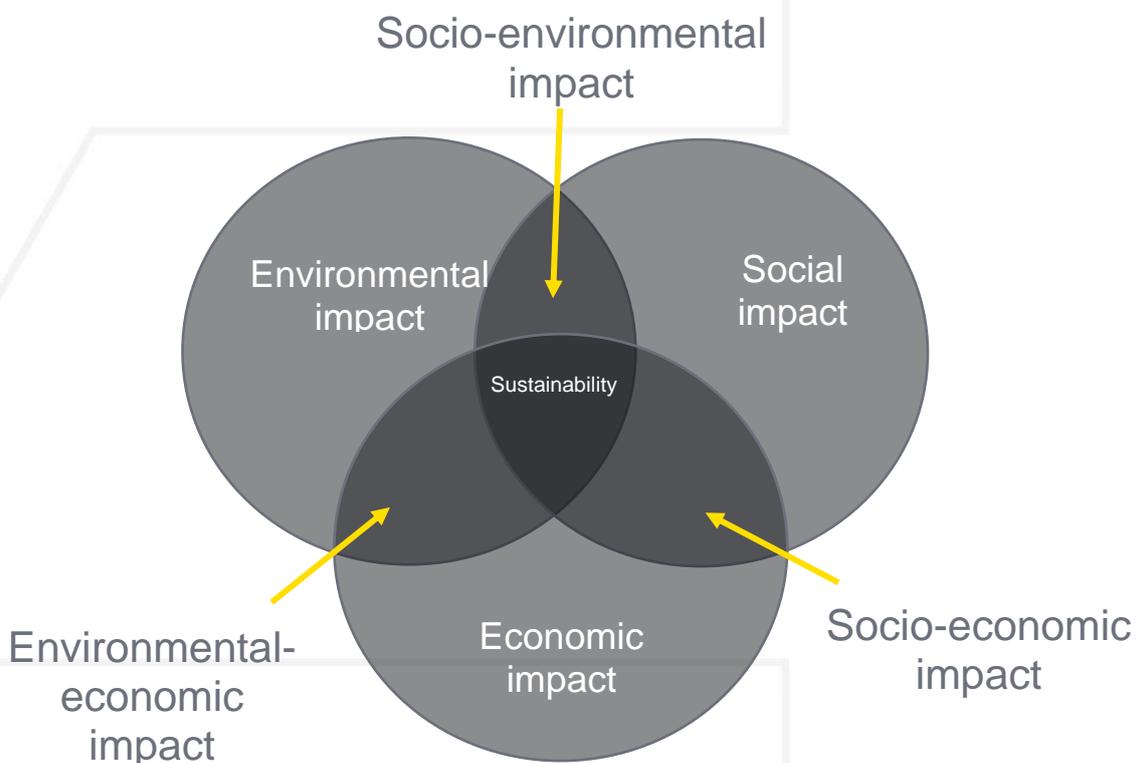


We believe that our activities should have a positive effect on the environment and society.

Our activities must respect planetary boundaries and the ecological ceiling whilst ensuring a just social foundation for all. We seek to achieve positive outcomes for our clients and business partners, the community, and our employees.

We embrace the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are continually working to increase our understanding and position in a truly sustainable world; we are committed to all three pillars of sustainability:

- + Environmental protection
- + Social value
- + Economic equality



We are committed to protecting the environment in our Services and business activities.

As signatories to Architects Declare, we recognise the climate and biodiversity emergencies. We accept our opportunity and obligation to help steer our industry and our services towards a regenerative future. We are an active voice, supporting campaigns and consultations for positive change from UK GBC, LETI, ACAN and the Architects Journal.

We have been a long-standing advocate of BIM workflows and are now developing our procedures and processes so that whole life cycle carbon analysis will be considered in all of our projects. As a UK GBC member we have adopted their Framework definition for Net Zero Carbon Buildings and are adopting these principles into our standard services.

We will seek to:

- + raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action amongst our clients and supply chains.
- + advocate for faster change in our industry towards regenerative design practices and a higher Governmental funding priority to support this.
- + establish climate and biodiversity mitigation principles as the key measure of our industry's success: demonstrated through awards, prizes and listings.
- + share knowledge and research to that end on an open source basis.
- + evaluate all new projects against the aspiration to contribute positively to mitigating climate breakdown and encourage our clients to adopt this approach.
- + upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a more carbon efficient alternative to demolition and new build whenever there is a viable choice.
- + include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modelling and post occupancy evaluation as part of our basic scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use.
- + adopt more regenerative design principles in our studios, with the aim of designing architecture and urbanism that goes beyond the standard of net zero carbon in use.
- + collaborate with engineers, contractors and clients to further reduce construction waste.
- + accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials in all our work.
- + minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning, both in quantum and in detail

In 2021 we published our first ever '2020 carbon report' calculating our business carbon footprint; scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 (business travel) activities. Following this work, we have set a course to become a net zero carbon business.



We are committed to becoming a net zero carbon business by 2025 by:

- + Reducing our scope 1 emissions by 60% by 2025 against the 2016 baseline
- + Reducing our scope 2 by 50% by 2025 against the 2016 baseline
- + Offset our remaining scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2022 onwards
- + Improve our internal systems to capture all methods of business travel by category, type, mode and distance in line with government conversion factor categories during 2021-22
- + Set a scope 3 reduction target in 2023
- + Offset all remaining emissions from 2025 onwards

Our Environmental Management System [EMS] monitors our procurement, use and recycling of all key resources used by the business. Our EMS is aligned to ISO 14001 and is reviewed by Senior Management. We aim to:

- + minimise the use of natural resources and improve the efficiency of their use in our business operations according to the principles of reduction, re-use and recycling.
- + integrate recognised environmental management best practice into our business operations
- + reduce our energy consumption by improving the efficiency of our office and our equipment usage
- + reduce the impact of our business travel through the use of technology, public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing
- + reduce paper consumption by moving towards a paperless office
- + reducing our general waste and increasing the recycling of paper, computers, cardboard, plastics, cans, glass wherever practicable. Ensuring waste is disposed of in a proper manner using registered carriers
- + audit and review environmental performance and the effectiveness of the environmental system
- + fully comply with all relevant legislative and statutory environmental requirements placed upon us, whilst at all times striving to meet and exceed industry best practice
- + ensure our suppliers and contractors are aware of our environmental policy and work with them to ensure environmental criteria are taken into account in the procurement of goods and services, selecting wherever practical, those which are less damaging to the environment
- + provide training and encouragement to our employees to develop environmentally responsible behaviour and awareness and enlist their support in improving the company's performance



Signed: Andrew Rainford (Managing Director)

Date: April 2021



aew architects
The Zenith Building
Spring Gardens
Manchester, M2 1AB

T: 0161 214 4370
www.aewarchitects.com