

jmarchitects ltd recognise that both our office procedures and operations and the services that we provide on our project-based work have an impact on the environment. We recognise our scope of works to be Architectural Services, Project Management and Interior Design and are committed to minimising our negative impacts wherever we can. We also recognise that we have an opportunity to influence clients and consultants that we work with to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated within our design work and consider this to be an essential part of responsible business practice.

We are fully committed to the principles of sustainable development and to a process of continual environmental improvement, environmental protection and the prevention of pollution. We keep our knowledge base up to date with current and future environmental legislation developments and seek to comply and exceed these requirements wherever it is feasible to do so.

Project Work

We work for a diverse range of clients including private individual developers, large property plc's, local authorities and building contractors. We also work on an equally wide range of building types including private and social housing, offices, hospitals and schools. Consequently, the opportunity to influence the design and construction of the projects to make them as sustainable and energy efficient as possible varies considerably from project to project.

We do however recognise that as architects we often have the ability to make a significant contribution to the sustainability of our buildings and to encourage our clients to make sustainability a key objective on their projects.

On most of our major projects we design our buildings along the guidelines set down by BREEAM and our buildings often attain Very Good or Excellent ratings. In addition, projects within Greater London must meet the requirements of the GLA and London Plan in terms of CO2 emissions and renewable energy generation. All residential projects are designed to meet Part L of the Building Regulations. Part L of the Building Regulations aims to achieve a reduction in the carbon footprint of a dwelling, with a further 35% reduction for dwellings within a London Borough.

Our key environmental commitments to our project work are:

- Consider sustainability at all stages in the project and particularly at the inception stage.
- Refurbish rather than rebuild wherever it is appropriate to do so.
- Design to suit site conditions and the local environment.
- Allow for and specify products from sustainable sources. Ensure that any Cost Plan reflects the materials and methods of construction.
- Consider the embodied energy in materials and whenever appropriate specify local materials.
- Consider the longevity and the durability of our designs and the materials we use.
- Achieve the highest levels of thermal insulation that the built form and the budget will allow.
- Avoid or limit the use of air conditioning and wherever appropriate use natural ventilation and natural cooling.
- Investigate the suitability of energy from renewable sources.
- Record the characteristics and data associated with our buildings and compare them with similar building in order to monitor or performance.
- In essence; reduce energy usage, reduce waste and increase the longevity of our buildings.

Office Procedures

In respect of our office procedures we have an environmental management system in place and have identified our key environmental aspects, which we have control over, to be paper consumption and electricity use.

Accordingly, our key environmental commitments are to:

- Conserve natural resources through the efficient use of energy, fuel, water, and office supplies.
- Ensure our offices are designed to take advantage of daylight and natural ventilation.
- Give preference to recycled, recyclable and items with minimal packaging when making purchasing decision.
- Minimise waste by implementing the principles of the waste hierarchy (prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle) at all stages of resource use, from purchasing to disposal.
- Provide all employees with training and information in order to raise internal awareness and appreciation for our environmental procedures.
- Encourage staff to use public transport for commuting and business travel requirements wherever feasible.
- Select suppliers and contractors which demonstrate good environmental practice.
- Monitor our environmental impacts and put in place objectives, targets and resources to reduce them.
- To communicate our environmental performance and achievements to clients, stakeholders and other interested parties on a regular basis.
- Request suppliers to take back samples once they are not being required.
- Only print out documents when necessary and where possible use electronic versions.
- Use screens rather than paper copies to present schemes at meetings.

Our environmental policy is communicated to all employees and is available to all externally interested parties upon request.

This policy has been agreed and endorsed by jmarchitects Ltd Board of Directors, who have taken responsibility for its implementation, regular review, and development.

This policy will be reviewed and updated whenever necessary.



Mark Burgess, Director, jmarchitects Ltd
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