



POLICY	SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Latest Update	17 th August 2022
UrbanEdge Reference:	F2108 - Sustainability & Environmental Policy
ISO 14001:2015 Reference	Clause 4.2

We have established this environmental policy to be consistent with the purpose and context of our organisation. It provides a framework for the setting out and review of environmental objectives in addition to our commitments towards our approach to Sustainable Design and Sustainable Operations.

Urban Edge Architecture Limited is committed to achieving environmental best practice throughout its business activities wherever this is practicable. The Directors and members of the organisation recognise that the pursuit of economic growth and a healthy environment are closely linked and that ecological protection and sustainable development are collective responsibilities, in which governments, businesses, individuals and communities all have a role to play.

Our environmental responsibility programme is based on continuous improvement, consistent with current knowledge and best practice. Our Environmental Management System (EMS) has been developed in compliance with ISO14001:2015 and is a central part of the business and as such has been fully integrated into all aspects of our design strategies and business operations. We believe sound environmental practice is a key factor demonstrating effective corporate management. We seek to educate and train our staff to act in an environmentally responsible manner.

We conduct internal environmental reviews and monitor the results. The reviews measure our performance and ensure that we are meeting our policy goals as well as compliance requirements.

Our Approach to Sustainable Design

Every project that we work on is given the same level of consideration by our experienced team as we continue to deliver sustainable and environmentally responsible architecture to our clients whilst also managing our commercial activities in order to minimise environmental impact:

- We aim to raise our client’s awareness about sustainability and environmental protection whilst working closely with them to understand their objectives and provide relevant, project specific and informed advice on environmental design and the subsequent commercial implications. Much of this centers on pursuing a design policy geared to promoting environmental considerations. Our suppliers are encouraged to provide proof of their environmental credentials.

- We encourage clients to consider sustainability at the initial stages of a project. We suggest they undertake a sustainability assessment for the project and we will collaborate with the project team to develop a tailored design strategy, using the industry's leading sustainable benchmarking tools and assessment methods such as BREEAM and LEED.
- We continue to make significant investment into BIM technology (Building Information Modelling) – an intelligent working method which allows us to collaborate remotely with consultants in a smart and simple way, facilitating faster and more economic decision making. Adopting this forward-thinking methodology helps us to mitigate the environmental impact of the construction - which includes minimising construction waste, maximising design coordination, creating an electronic prototype to resolve clashes and reviewing the life cycle of the building.
- We recognise that environmental risks are an important part of the design process and management of a project. We operate a design considerations checklist and environmental risk management forms part of this. We will work with the design team and wider project team to manage environmental risks.
- We will maintain a thorough understanding of current regulations, new regulations and best practice to control energy performance. We work closely with our clients and project teams to ensure designs are future-proofed where feasible.
- We consider the long-term impact of our designs from an environmental, economic and social perspective, by addressing key life cycles within our environmental and ecological design philosophy.
- We encourage the specification of appropriate building services that are inherently efficient and controllable and are metered to encourage monitoring and efficient use of energy and natural resources.
- We collaborate with our clients and project teams to protect the existing on-site biodiversity, aiming to maintain and enhance natural habitats including ground water and natural water courses.
- We ensure that sustainability issues are regularly discussed and understood in the ongoing professional development of our employees, via regular internal knowledge sharing sessions and sustainability focused CPD sessions.

Our Approach to Sustainable Operations

At Urban Edge Architecture Limited, we are committed to ensuring our business is operated in an environmentally responsible manner by:

- Promoting Environmental awareness amongst staff, supported by suitable training, continued development and improvement, actively encouraging all our colleagues to work in an environmentally responsible manner
- Reducing and controlling our waste by re-using and recycling and purchasing recycled, recyclable or refurbished equipment, products and materials where available, economical and suitable.
- Ensuring unavoidable waste is separated and responsibly disposed of by an authorised, licensed waste carrier.

- Ensuring energy efficiency is part of the selection criteria when purchasing new supplies and equipment.
- Promoting the efficient use of energy in the workplace by using heating, cooling, lighting and IT systems as effectively as possible.
- Periodically monitor and reduce our known carbon footprint utilising in-house methodologies, including reviewing our energy and utility tariffs – we have recently committed to a green 100% renewable energy tariff.
- Promoting sustainable transport, including cycling, car-pooling and public transport, where it is safe and effective to do so.
- Being well placed geographically with convenient links to major rail networks thus minimising travel time/distance for client and site visits
- Encouraging reduced travel through the use of video and telephone conferencing for clients and project meetings, whilst promoting hybrid working between the office and home for employees.
- Maintaining an Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register to help monitor improve our environmental performance.
- Being actively involved in supporting the local community

At Urban Edge Architecture Limited we are committed to a sustainable future.

We review our sustainability targets and objectives on a regular basis and have committed to continually strive to improve our environmental performance in all aspects of our business, whilst maintaining the same high standards our clients expect.

We have produced environmental objectives which relate to this policy and our ISO 14001:2015 accreditation and they can be found in our Environmental Management System Procedures Manual. This policy is communicated to all interested parties as well as being made available to the wider community through publication on our website and company notice board.

Responsibilities

- Director (Tom McNamara) is ultimately responsible for environmental issues but co-ordination / operation within the company is delegated to the Environmental Management Team.
- All members of staff are required to follow this Policy and implement the requirements when designing and undertaking activities within the office.

Authorised by:

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 Tom McNamara
Director
 For and on behalf of Urban Edge Architecture Limited

17.08.22

 Date