

# Environmental Policy

We recognise that our activities have an impact on the environment in terms of waste generation, the use of raw materials, and emissions to air and water. Eric Parry Architects are committed to creating socially and environmentally responsible contemporary architecture to the highest practical standards to minimise the effect on global warming and non-renewable resources available for future generations, serving as the foundation to our Environmental Management System (EMS). We aim to provide our clients with exemplary quality of service and deliver designs that match their ambition and requirements, whilst committing to the protection of the environment, prevention of pollution, and minimising our impact on the environment.

This policy aligns with Eric Parry Architect's design principles and as signatories of Architects Declare we will uphold the principles of this statement in committing to a responsible workplace and responsible design.

## Responsible Workplace

We are committed to providing our service in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for our staff, our visitors, and which minimises our impact on the environment. We take care to run our organisation in an environmentally efficient way through clear direction on the benefits of a responsible approach to the environment and its resources in the following key areas:

- Maintaining an EMS in line with the ISO 14001:2015 standard and integration of our EMS to our existing Quality Management System (QMS ISO 9001:2015).
- Where required by legislation or where significant health, safety or environmental risks exist, develop and maintain appropriate emergency assessment and response programmes.
- Working towards continually reducing our carbon footprint, whilst maintaining a zero-carbon office through offsetting.
- Seeking the use of a renewable energy supply and monitoring and minimising usage of space heating/lighting, office equipment, including electricity, raw materials, and other resources.
- Minimise business travel emissions by reducing meetings, using more sustainable methods of transport or utilising technology.
- Encourage sustainable water usage.
- Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and ensure responsible disposal of remaining unavoidable waste.
- Purchase and utilise recycled, renewable, recyclable or refurbished products, materials and equipment where available, economical and fit for their intended use.
- Promote and enable staff to understand and reduce their own carbon footprints.
- Commitment to knowledge growth by providing appropriate training and awareness to enhance competence and understanding.

## Responsible Design

We create buildings and places that exceed design expectations throughout their life cycle. A holistic strategy of loose fit, long life, and low energy is applied through collaboration with other consultants to create long lasting sustainable projects. We recognise that the realisation of our designs has greater environmental impact than our own activities and operations and therefore we are committed to minimising environmental impact as far as possible within the constraints of our client's brief. We are committed to:

- Establish key sustainability targets at the outset and encourage our clients to include and undertake sustainability assessments such as BREEAM, LEED, WELL, NABERS, PASSIVHAUS/EnerPHit.
- Ensure briefing, communication and sharing of knowledge on an open-source basis and collaborate with consultants to meet or exceed the initial targets.
- Maximise the potential for reducing energy demand by a considered approach to the passive potential of the site, including siting, orientation and building form.
- Advocate a fabric first approach to minimise energy usage and ensure the building is robust, will age gracefully and last as designed.

- Make use of energy modelling tools and analyse material selection at early design stages where applicable to test design options and their predicted operational and embodied energy.
- Follow clear policies on minimising embodied carbon and use of sustainably sourced materials.
- Consider opportunities for existing building upgrades as an alternative to demolition and new construction where feasible.
- Embed regenerative principles in our design to encourage the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and maximising sustainable greening opportunities.
- Deliver low energy, long life, loose fit and maintainable buildings that encourage healthy and sustainable usage and travel.
- Seek efficiency in construction methods including optimising prefabrication where appropriate, to reduce construction waste.
- Design for deconstruction to maximise materials that can be kept in the circular economy where practicable.
- Manage and plan efficient workstreams internally and with consultants in accordance with our ISO 9001 policies to ensure coordination, minimise mistakes, and reduce wastage.
- Evaluate sustainability objectives at every stage of a project's development.
- Encourage a soft landings framework to ensure that buildings are commissioned fully before handover and that full O&M manuals are provided.
- Post Occupancy Evaluation: encourage this to test the sustainability assumptions of the designs, performance gaps and to ensure the design meets or exceeds the design intent.
- Disseminate lessons learnt both within the practice and with external consultants and clients.
- Seek to deliver continual improvement in environmental standards and performance and commit to establishing a focus group to achieve this.

This policy applies to all activities carried out by Eric Parry Architects, including our design services, office operations, procurement decisions, and engagement with staff, clients, suppliers, and other stakeholders.

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with senior management. Oversight is provided through regular management reviews, internal audits, and monitoring of objectives to ensure its ongoing effectiveness and alignment with our strategic goals.

This policy is reviewed annually or in response to significant changes in our operations, legislation, or environmental impact. Lessons learned and feedback inform continual improvement of our EMS and this policy.

It is our policy to continually improve the effectiveness of our EMS and environmental performance, to ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations, and codes of practice. Our objectives are met by monitoring, measuring and enhancing our environmental, quality and procedural systems.