

ARB Architecture Environmental Policy Statement – Nov 2011

1. The Workplace:

The practice is committed to providing a quality service in a manner that ensures a safe healthy workplace for all employees, visitors and minimises our potential impact on the environment. The practice operates in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we strive to use pollution preventive measures and environmental best practices in all that we do.

The Practice will endeavour to:

1. Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision making and activities.
2. Promote environmental awareness amongst employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner, such as by working electronically wherever and whenever it is safe and secure to do so, whilst ensuring that all key information is fully securely and backed up in accordance to the practices back up procedures.
3. Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled items such as consumables, for example our A4 & A3 paper is 100% recycled and office drawings pens are 98% recycled. In addition the practice will reduce waste further by purchasing recyclable or refurbished equipment, products and materials when these alternatives are available and economically feasible.
4. Ensure that all remaining waste will be collected by a suitable and responsible contractor.
5. Promote the efficient use of space heating, lighting, equipment, materials and resources including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable.
6. Purchase and use environmentally responsible product where economically feasible.
7. Include energy efficiency as one of the selection criteria when purchasing new equipment.
8. Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible, and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of.
9. Where required by legislation or where significant health, safety or environmental hazards exist, develop and maintain appropriate emergency response programmes.
10. Communicate our environmental commitment to clients, customers and the public and encourage them to support it.
11. Strive to continually improve our environmental performance and minimise the social impact and damage of activities by periodically reviewing our environmental policy in light of our current and planned future activities.
12. Use public transport in preference to travel by car wherever it is possible and effective to do so.

Alex Bolt R.I.B.A. is responsible for monitoring that the workplace policy is being implemented and it is his duty to ensure the environmental workplace policy is explained to all new employees.

2 In Our designs:

We recognise that the products of our designs will have far more environmental impact than our own operations therefore we are further committed to exercising our professional skills in such a way as to minimise environmental impact in so far as this is possible within the instructions received from our clients.

ARB Architecture is committed:

1. To raise the awareness of clients about sustainability and environmental protection, and help the members of the design team to develop a shared vision of environmental aspirations
2. To ensure as far as possible that building projects are supported by a travel plan that promotes sustainable travel choices through public transport and cycling provision
3. To assess sites for their ecological value and microclimate, and ensure buildings make best use of the natural features of the site including sun, wind and landscape
4. To ascertain the potential for local power generation from renewable energy sources locally or on site
5. To ensure that biodiversity is protected or enhanced
6. To make best use of orientation and shape to reduce the need for artificial forms of conditioning
7. To operate a 'right-first-time' culture (through our QM system) for our production information in order to avoid wasteful site reworking
8. To minimise the use of construction materials, and specify materials and components with the optimum balance between environmental impact and performance in use
9. To ensure that building services are inherently efficient and controllable, and that metering encourages monitoring and management of resource use
10. To ensure that buildings are commissioned fully before handover, and that full operating manuals are provided
11. To support clients in the first few months of operation by providing on-site training and advice to ensure that systems are fine-tuned and operate in accordance with the design intent.

Alex Bolt R.I.B.A. is responsible for monitoring that the above is being implemented on all projects and it is his duty to ensure the environmental workplace policies are explained to all new employees.