

Environmental Policy

HUTCHINSON & PARTNERS

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01.00 Introduction

Hutchinson & Partners believe that architects have a pivotal role to play in helping society, humanity, and the planet in a time of paradigm shift. We design and research for inherent and holistic sustainability. Our belief is we must explore re-use options as a primary approach, and if after thorough investigation a new-build option is genuinely justifiable, then we have a duty to ensure that it is fit for purpose long into the future. We believe that buildings can only be considered sustainable if they can be proven to be adaptable to other future uses. The enduring nature of our architecture, the rationalism on which it is based, and our employment of simple form and use of robust materiality inherently provide for adaptability and longevity of use, with the aim for permanence to mitigate future need for recycling and re-use. We believe in the long-term benefits of contextualism in providing a sense of place, identity, and ownership. This is realised in our work through in-depth research of the specific conditions of a site's geographical, climatic, historical, social, and cultural context with the aim to improve the quality of experience and engagement within the city through a creative reimagining of its contextual conditions.

Hutchinson & Partners recognises the responsibility it has for the protection and welfare of its employees, clients, and society at large. We are aware of the effects human activity has on the environment, the damage that has been caused in the past and will continue into the future. The practice takes a serious, informed interest in the influence its business activity has on the environment and is committed to minimising impacts as much as possible.

We aim to accurately assess the implications of alternate solutions and are able to use analytical, design and graphic tools to bring them to life and clearly communicate them to clients and partners. Hutchinson & Partners is committed to achieving the most appropriate solutions to any brief, promoting best practice, and in ensuring that the project can reasonably achieve those solutions within the limiting criteria in which it is inherently conceived.

This policy sets out how we can commit to reduce the impact of not just our projects, but also our operation as a business. We have put in place a system to analyse and review our carbon footprint, reduce the impact of travel, lower our energy usage, improve recycling, reduce reliance on packaging, minimise waste and improve efficiencies on finite natural resources in all the business operations and products, within our workplace, and through our designs.

02.00 *Our Workplace*

02.01 **Overview**

We are committed to providing a quality service in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for our employees, visitors and minimises our potential impact on the environment. We will operate in compliance with ISO 14001:2015 and all relevant environmental legislation, and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practises in all that we do. We are currently a Carbon Net Zero Office and have put in place a system to allow us to accurately track our operation carbon usage, this fundamentally allows us to better reduce our carbon consumptions, but also offset any residual carbon usage.

02.02 **Hutchinson & Partners will do the following:**

- Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all our decision making and activities.
- Record, monitor and analyse operational carbon, so as to allow us to highlight areas of improvement and reduce our footprint.
- Promote environmental awareness among our employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner, such as by working electronically wherever it is safe and secure to do so while ensuring that all key information is fully and securely backed up.
- Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable, or refurbished equipment, products, and materials where these alternatives are available, economical, and suitable.
- Ensure responsible disposal of remaining unavoidable waste.
- Promote efficient use of space heating/lighting, equipment, materials, and resources including water, electricity, raw materials, and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable purchases and use environmentally responsible products where available.
- Ensure that energy supplies are from renewable resources where possible.
- Include energy efficiency as one of the selection criteria when purchasing new equipment.
- 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 where required by legislation or where significant health, safety or environmental hazards exist, develop, and maintain appropriate emergency response programmes communicate our environmental commitment to clients, customers and public and encourage them to support it.
- Strive to continually improve our environmental performance and minimise the social impact and damage that our activities may inadvertently cause, by periodically reviewing our environmental policy, analysing our performance in both project and operational terms, and considering our current and planned future activities.
- Use active or public transport in preference to travel by air or private vehicle travel wherever it is possible and effective to do so.

03.00 Our Designs

03.01 Overview

We recognise that the product of our design work 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, whilst also striving to promote best practice to those with whom we work. Key to the success of this is the ongoing learning and development of our teams to ensure that we are performing to the best of our abilities.

03.02 Hutchinson & Partners are committed to the following:

- To raise the awareness of clients about sustainability and environmental issues and help the members of the design team to develop a shared vision of environmental aspirations.
- Make contractors, suppliers, and anyone with whom we work aware of the company's commitment to reducing the negative impact on the environment of its activities and encouraging them to do the same.
- To encourage and create sustainable communities through the planning and development of healthy mixed-use, urban environments, through the creation of beautiful, functional people-centric places.
- 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.
- To assess sites for their ecological value microclimate, and ensure buildings make best use of the natural features of the site including sun, wind, and landscape.
- To ensure that biodiversity is protected or enhanced.
- To explore the retention of existing building fabric, structures or landforms wherever possible, and only propose new forms if it is felt absolutely imperative to do so.
- To reduce the environmental impact arising from the consumption of energy, as far as practical, and ascertain the potential for local power generation from renewable energy sources locally or on site.
- To make best use of orientation and shape to reduce the need for artificial forms of conditioning.
- To design for the long-term consider the whole lifecycle, and how a building may need to adapt and change to ensure its long-term appropriateness, and reduce its chances of future obsolescence.
- To operate a 'right first time' culture (through our QM system) for our production information in order to avoid wasteful site reworking.
- To minimise the use of construction materials and recommend and specify the use of environmentally sound materials and components i.e., products obtained from sustainable sources and with the optimum balance between environmental impact and performance in use.
- To constantly seek out clean, energy efficient technologies to be used in designs.
- To ensure that building services are inherently efficient and controllable and that metering encourages monitoring and management after use.
- To ensure that buildings are commissioned fully before handover, and that full operating manuals are provided.
- To support clients in the first few months of operations by providing on-site training and advice to ensure that systems are fine-tuned and operate in accordance with the design intent.

04.00 Monitoring & Compliance

04.01 Training

The Hutchinson & Partners Sustainability Group will provide an ongoing programme of environmentally focussed training exercises and CPDs, both as a series of practice-based learning events, and a wider list of industry focussed events, to ensure that all members of the practice are able to carry out their duties with sufficient skill. These will be monitored to ensure compliance against the current Royal Institute of British Architects' core modules.

04.02 Monitoring & Compliance

Hutchinson & Partners have a protocol in place as set out in our ISO 14001:2015 Procedures Manual to ensure that there are arrangements for responding to, monitoring, and recording environmental incidents, emergencies, and complaints. For workplace related matters, these are reported to the Studio Manager who will add these to the formal log of incidents. For project / design related matters, these should be recorded on the Project Control File, and the Project Director should be made aware.

The monitoring of the Hutchinson & Partners' supply chain, and sub-contractors is also key to the ongoing success of our environmental approach. Care should be taken to ensure that any potential supplier provides a record of the relevant documentation and policies to ensure that they are appropriate. These should be recorded on the Sub Contractor Appraisal Questionnaire.

04.03 Reviews

The policy, procedures and requirements set out in this document will be reviewed on an annual basis, and a formal record of the actions and next steps will be taken.