Environmental Policy

Architype is an architectural practice, which leads the field of sustainable design and construction. Alongside the impacts of its workplace, Architype's main environmental impact is in ensuring the buildings designed by the practice are low in operational and embodied energy, water-efficient, minimise pollution, reduce the impact of transport and are built from materials and components that minimise environmental impact, and that are carefully selected to maximise their lifecycle potential and the lifecycle of the whole building.

Our workplace
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 all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all that we do.

We will:

- implement and maintain an Environmental Management System that meets the requirements of ISO 14001:2015.
- integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision making and activities
- nurture environmental awareness among our employees and encourage them to contribute to making our working practices as environmentally responsible as possible
- 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
- purchase and use environmentally responsible products accordingly
- 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 the public and encourage them to support it
- strive to continually improve our environmental performance, by periodically reviewing our environmental policy in light of our current and planned future activities and using our objective setting procedure to set and review environmental targets
- use public transport in preference to travel by car wherever it is possible and effective to do so.

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.

We are committed:

- 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
- to disseminating knowledge and contributing to debate amongst our professional peers, students and the wider public.
- 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 and 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 make best use of orientation and shape to reduce the need for artificial forms of conditioning
- to reduce embodied energy and operational energy to a minimum within the budget available
- to design passive solutions, but where required, ascertain the potential for local power generation from renewable energy sources regionally, locally or on site
- to operate a 'right-first-time' culture (through our QA system) for our production information in order to avoid wasteful site reworking
- to minimise the use of construction materials, and specify materials and components with the optimum balance between environmental impact and performance in use
- to ensure that building services are inherently efficient and controllable, and that metering encourages monitoring and management of resource use
- to ensure that buildings are commissioned fully before handover, and that full operating manuals are provided in addition to a simple building guide
- 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.