
LDN Architects

The Environmental Policy Of :

LDN Architects LLP

57-59 Bread Street
Edinburgh
EH3 9AH

29 St Leonards Road
Forres
IV36 IEN

General Statement of Policy

LDN Architects are committed to developing a better understanding of sustainable and environmental issues through our architecture and the way we work. As project leaders we have a responsibility to realise our clients sustainable aspirations, and ensuring other members of the design team match our commitment.

We have a broad-minded approach to environmental design, relying on analysis of particular briefs and location to inform our designs rather than relying on dogmatic principles. While each project is unique, similar issues arise in other projects. To ensure an evolution in our understanding of environmentally conscious design the outcomes of completed works are shared to ensure an appreciation of sustainable design principles throughout the office.

For LDN sustainability is not a specialism but an integral part of our working method. Often the most environmentally sustainable decisions are made by implementing the simplest measures, constructing buildings well rather than appending elaborate energy saving devices.

The Practice is a member of the Scottish Ecological Design Association (SEDA) and has experience in using the BRE's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) to measure the environmental impact of new buildings.

Our dedicated Sustainability Group acts as key element of the Practice's aim to incorporate the knowledge and working methods that lead to a reduction in the impact of our work in the wider environment. By introducing sustainable design in all our projects and environmental management in our daily activities, we endeavour to move closer to that aspiration.

Contents

Section A: Staff

- 1.0 Responsibilities
- 2.0 Staff training

Section B: Internal

- 3.0 Office Use
- 4.0 Transport

Section C: External

- 5.0 Project Inception
- 6.0 Design
- 7.0 Construction
- 8.0 Post Occupancy

Section A: Staff

1.0 Responsibilities

1.1 Person in charge of the implementation of the Environmental Policy is **Mark Sidgwick** (Partner)

1.2 Environmental Group

Dedicated group of staff responsible for managing the policy within the office:

Angel Morales-Aguilar

Alex Liddell

Derek McDonald

Ian Fraser

1.3 All aspects of the Environmental Policy will be administered by the above mentioned personnel including:

- Maintaining knowledge of current environmental advances in the industry.
- Maintaining a knowledge of relevant Government and Local policy changes
- Managing internal design reviews
- Updating the Green Database
- Attending Sustainability related CPD events
- Presenting Environmental CPDs to all employees
- Preparing Post Occupancy Project evaluations

1.4 All employees have the responsibility to co-operate with the above named supervisors to implement the policy both internally within the office and on all projects undertaken by the practice.

2.0 Staff Training

2.1 The practice will fund training to allow members of the **Environmental Group** to attend relevant CPD events in order to stay abreast with current advances in environmental design, materials and Government Policy.

2.2 The **Environmental Group** are responsible for preparing and presenting in house CPD on sustainable issues to all LDN employees.

Section B: Internal

3.0 Office Use

3.1 57-59 Bread Street Location

The office's central location allows it to be readily accessed by foot or public transport

3.2 29 St Leonards Road Location

With a client base in the north of rural Scotland the Forres office is a central hub for projects spanning Aberdeenshire through to the West coast cutting down lengthy commutes from the Central Belt.

3.3 Building Fabric

Both offices are located in existing buildings converted by LDN for office use. The adaptive reuse and maintenance of this building stock gives excellent return for its invested embodied energy. The Bread Street Office is insulated with a mixture of natural insulations and care has been taken to specify products without the harmful toxins contained in glues and paints.

3.4 Office waste will be managed so that recycling of waste is possible.

The practice shall provide paper recycling facilities in all studios. Provision for aluminium can and plastic bottle recycling to be provided in kitchen areas.

3.5 Minimisation of office waste. The Practice operates a paperless policy, most day to day correspondence issued in electronic format and printed documentation is kept to a minimum to reduce waste.

3.6 Energy Usage in both offices is kept to a minimum through:

- Low energy light fittings
- Spaces are ventilated naturally
- Heating is zoned with thermostatic controls in each studio
- Studio IT equipment is all shut down at the end of the working day
- Apple Macintosh IT equipment is designed to consume 94% less energy while in sleep mode (while staff are at meetings etc.)

Bread Street has a number of extra features which save energy:

- Daylight and movement sensors for lighting control
- Super insulated walls and roof
- Good Airtightness
- High performance Timber / aluminium windows

4.0 Transport

4.1 The Bread Street premises is located centrally with limited parking provision so most staff take public transport or walk to work. Both offices provide provision for bicycle storage.

4.2 Transport to Site

It may not always be possible to travel to site by foot due to projects being spread across the UK. Wherever practical staff should use public transport to travel to and from site. Rail should precede air travel wherever possible.

4.3 The practice is a member of the City Car Club and uses this communal car pool to travel to sites out with main travel arteries.

Section C: External

5.0 Project Inception

- 5.1 Environmental considerations permeate all parts of the design process and a formalised procedure of reviews ensures that the most is made of every project.
- 5.2 Consider adoption of relevant measure of sustainability, BREEAM or equivalent, and the appropriate target standards. Even in the absence of a formulated assessment environmental principles can be followed through
- 5.3 Building inevitably uses finite world natural resources. Use of material and energy used in building can be balanced against benefit to society. Architecture carries responsibility to utilise resources effectively.
- 5.4 Sustainable buildings require environmentally aware architects and clients. Architects need to understand how the building users intend to use the building; users need to continue to use it this way.
- 5.5 Delivery of sustainable design requires appropriate knowledge for delivery of particular projects. This varies with each commission and we work with a range of environmental consultants with different skills. Key to the delivery of a sustainable design is the working relationship with the environmental engineer, which is required from the early stages of the project.

6.0 Design

- 6.1 Ensure that all members of the design team are briefed as to the buildings environmental aspirations.
- 6.2 Consider the following factors during the sketch design process:
- Orientation (solar gain) to optimise the efficiency of the fabric.
 - Daylight penetration into plan
 - Natural ventilation / Mechanical heat recovery
 - High insulation values
 - Internal thermal mass for temperature stability
 - Water conservation
 - Space for cycles / recycling bins
 - Toxicity of materials
 - Embodied energy of materials
 - Renewable Energy

7.0 Construction

7.1 During contractor selection establish whether the proposed contractor has had experience of:

- Sourcing and installing green building products
- Carrying out air tightness testing
- Supervising the minimisation of site waste

8.0 Post Occupancy

8.1 Not all completed projects will be completely green. An evaluation of each project will help to build knowledge of what environmental initiatives were successful and what proved to be difficult to achieve. This will help to inform future projects.

8.2 Catalogue changes in specification made during the course of the contract and evaluate the environmental impact of those changes.

8.3 Write a short description of the environmental procedures implemented on the project and evaluate how well they have worked during the construction phase.

8.4 Following the building occupation by its users evaluate what environmental initiatives were successful and to what degree the building works for its users.

8.5 File on the Office Green Database for future reference.