

# Environmental Policy

Limiting climate change is without doubt the most serious and pressing challenge that mankind has so far had to face. We are at the forefront of environmentally conscious design and bring best current thinking and practice to our projects. We understand the importance of good environmental governance and are committed to creating spaces that are healthy, economically viable and sensitive to social needs.

## All buildings we design should be:

- energy-efficient and ecologically sensitive — bound to the idea and practice of sustainability
- the result of full collaboration between the design team and the client including where possible those who will use and those who will manage the building
- in close integration with their context



## We believe the above are fundamental, not 'add ons'. In designing we aim to:

- maximise the benefits of natural environmental systems by siting and design. At the outset establish an overall site strategy that promotes/sustains biodiversity.
- minimise environmental impact as far as possible
- reduce the overall energy consumption of buildings (both in construction and life cycle in use within the available budget) and minimise carbon dioxide emissions. Agree with client at an early stage the energy targets to work to. We believe life cycle and whole life costing must be a principal part of design and maintenance considerations.
- review comfort criteria for buildings with a view to minimising energy consumption
- use materials and systems that are benign in terms of environmental impact, non damaging to the health of users and frugal in terms of use of finite resources. Re-use and recycling is to be encouraged, disposal avoided. Targets for materials of low embodied energy to be negotiated at early stage of the detailed design.
- use renewable materials and renewable energy resources wherever appropriate
- set guidelines/ targets for construction processes so that energy consumption can be minimised. The export of waste materials, in particular excavated material, to be minimised and methods to achieve this at both design and construction phases demonstrated. To help us achieve the above in our projects we work with high calibre Environmental Consultants adept at environmental modelling and Cost Consultants well versed in Life Cycle costing.