

## Office Environmental Policy

Paul McAlister Architects are committed to sustainability both within the office and through producing socially responsible and environmentally sustainable buildings.

The principles of Sustainability are incorporated at every stage of the design process and are managed by our design team.

## Design Strategy

In each project we aim to find the optimum balance between sustainability, value and design quality, based on our client's priorities and taking a life-cycle approach. We design robust and durable buildings without compromising on aesthetic quality. Innovation forms a central part of our approach in relation to new materials, technologies and energy use. We work closely with service engineers with a strong track record in sustainable design.

With the client's support we aim to:

1. achieve BREEAM Excellent rating on all projects
2. use materials of low embodied energy and minimise environmental degradation
3. use timber exclusively from certified sustainable sources
4. reduce construction waste through design
5. integrate the project into local regeneration strategies where these exist
6. re-use the existing building fabric where appropriate
7. carry out post-occupancy evaluation to monitor the performance of our buildings

We have established our Sustainability approach to:

1. Ensure long-term commitment to Sustainability from the highest level
2. Advise project teams on Sustainability issues at every stage
3. Manage the Environmental Management System process
4. Keep up to date with Best Practice
5. Develop an in-house database of successful environmental design strategies in use



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## Office Environmental Policy

Paul McAlister Architects implements an in-house Environmental Management System based on BS8555 and aiming towards ISO14001/

Our objectives are to:

1. reduce our consumption of resources, such as paper, plastic, electricity and water.
2. find more sustainable sources for all our consumables.
3. reduce waste and recycle paper, plastic, glass, metal and toner cartridges.
4. reduce travel through video-conferencing.

By working with consultants we have undertaken an evaluation of the office's ecological footprint, which has enabled us to identify the environmental factors over which we do have control so that we can develop a series of targets to support change across the company.



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## Design Procedure

We work with our client to develop a sustainability strategy and targets, based on their own priorities. From the brief we identify project-specific opportunities for sustainable design. We can advise on Design Team selection to bring in the necessary expertise where appropriate.

Paul McAlister has particular interest in low-energy design and is involved in the design of low energy housing for commercial purposes.

## Eco House Design

1. Current housing projects include the following sustainable features principles:
2. Super-insulated building envelope ( in excess of building regulations)
3. Heat recovery systems in lieu of trickle ventilation to windows
4. Air tight construction in excess of building regulations
5. High specification double glazed windows or treble glazed window or
6. Passive solar strategies, making best use of solar gain and minimizing heat loss
7. Solar water heating
8. Rainwater harvesting

We look to maximise the potential of the site by considering aspects such as topography, sun paths, prevailing winds, water disposal, local ecology and the social and economic context. Where appropriate we minimise use of artificial ventilation and lighting through design and use energy-efficient technologies, thereby reducing the lifetime energy use and running costs of the building. Using tools such as the **National Green Specification**, we select materials which provide the best balance of value and reduced ecological impact over their life-cycle. We consider embodied energy, transport energy, toxicity of materials including in production and disposal, local resources, recycled materials, construction waste, occupant health and social and economic factors.



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