

PCM 08 - ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

4D Studio Ltd is in the business of providing sustainable solutions in response to commissions from construction industry clients. In doing so, we subscribe fully to the principle established by the Brundtland Commission that development should meet 'the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

We put this principle into practice with regard both to our own operations and procedures as a company and to the way we design and deliver projects to our clients. We seek to do so consistently and continuously by:

- Communicating our vision to all stakeholders, both those within our business and those with whom our business relationships and activities bring us into contact
- Implementing our vision by embedding sustainability into everything we do
- Measuring and confirming our progress as an integral part of our business management procedures
- Promoting our vision as a means of securing improving the lives of all

Our sustainability policy thus requires us to act in an environmentally responsible manner in respect of both our own operations and our services to others.

In our own operations:

Our directors and staff are expected to support implementation of this policy in accordance with their roles and responsibilities within our business. To assist with compliance, 4D Studio:

- Integrates sustainability best practice with other business practices and reporting, monitors progress and continuously seeks to improve performance against agreed targets
- Promotes environmental responsibility among all personnel – ranging from provision of cycle parking and use of public transport wherever possible, to conserving and recycling paper, printer cartridges etc, and minimising the office's water and energy consumption – and gives them the information, training and resources they need in order to comply
- Ensures our operation conform to the relevant legislation and regulations
- Draws the attention of our suppliers, contractors and partners to our environmental expectations, encouraging them to adopt sustainable practices themselves
- Sources products and services derived from the safe and healthy workplaces and practice of suppliers who respect the rights of their own people

In our services to others

Buildings and their use are responsible for more external air pollution than cars - or indeed any other form of human activity. Energy consumption in buildings – for heating, lighting and air

conditioning purposes – account for around half the UK’s production of greenhouse gases. Buildings are also responsible for emitting significant amounts of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen (which cause acid rain) and for the use of some CFCs (which contribute to ozone depletion).

In order to assess the effects of our designs on the environment – globally, locally and in terms of a building’s internal environment – 4D Studio has adopted the widely recognised Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and its equivalent for assessing housing designs, EcoHomes. These standards are aimed at balancing environmental performance with the need for a high quality of life and a safe and healthy internal environment. The issues assessed are grouped into seven categories: energy; water; pollution; materials; transport; ecology and land use; health and well-being. Based on a review of current ‘best practice’, BRE provides scales against which to measure the environmental consequences of design decisions. Architects and others are thereby encouraged to have regard to sustainability issues in a number of important areas of design and specification, such as:

- Building orientation on site
- Natural ventilation and energy efficiency
- The use of materials derived from renewable resources.
- Avoidance of materials generating pollutants
- The design of non-CFC maintainable air-conditioners
- Life cycle assessment of products so as to minimise environmental impact and facilitate maintenance.

The BRE assessment methods now cover offices, homes, shops and schools – all construction sectors in which 4D Studio operates. Through careful design we aim to achieve a minimum of a ‘very good’ rating for our projects while urging our clients to achieve an ‘excellent’ rating. In this way we aim through our projects to deliver to owners and users the same healthy, flexible environments, with car dependence and running costs minimised, as we intend for our staff.

4D Studio also supports the appropriate use of off-site manufacture for building processes. This can bring important advantages in terms of quality of components, reduced site traffic and mitigation of the ‘neighbour nuisance’ that can result from the traditional reliance on ‘wet’ trades.

4D Studio has now adopted the ISO 14001 which is a certifiable environmental management system