



Sustainability Action Plan

February 2024

Reddog
ARCHITECTS

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Introduction

At Reddog Architects, we are committed to creating sustainable solutions for our practice and for all our designs. We have prepared this Sustainability Action Plan to support and guide our practices in this area. As signatories to the Architects Declare movement, we are proudly working to investigate and implement the ten sustainability principles into our practice.

In addition to the ten principles, we are committed to becoming more educated about how we can better understand and embrace Indigenous Design Principles.

We commit to reviewing and reflecting on our actions outlined in this SAP on a regular basis. The first version of our SAP was published in December 2022. This latest version has been updated to reflect the actions we have taken since that original publication date.

Ten Australian Architects Declare Principles

1. Raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action amongst our clients and supply chains.
2. Advocate for faster change in our industry towards regenerative design practices and a higher Governmental funding priority to support this.
3. Establish climate and biodiversity mitigation principles as the key measure of our industry's success: demonstrated through awards, prizes and listings.
4. Share knowledge and research to that end on an open source basis.
5. Evaluate all new projects against the aspiration to contribute positively to mitigating climate breakdown, and encourage our clients to adopt this approach.
6. Upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a more carbon efficient alternative to demolition and new build whenever there is a viable choice.
7. Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modelling and post occupancy evaluation as part of our basic scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use.
8. Adopt more regenerative design principles in our studios, with the aim of designing architecture and urbanism that goes beyond the standard of net zero carbon in use.
9. Collaborate with engineers, contractors and clients to further reduce construction waste.
10. Accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials in all our work. Minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning, both in quantum and in detail.

Our commitment

We are committed to integrating the ten Australian Architects Declare principles into our approach to sustainable design and our business operations. The Architects Declare movement provides a framework of progress as measured against the goals of the movement. We believe, in the majority of areas, we are meeting the 'extend' level of sustainability in our operations. We are continuously striving to ensure our operations and our projects align with the principles.

At an operational level, we have already taken many actions to ensure our work environment meets the stated sustainability principles. In many ways we have been leading by example, and we have been using our experiences to collaborate and advocate across our industry. We are committed to continuing our leadership in this area.

Raising awareness of the need for sustainability as 'standard' involves conversations with clients but also equally applies to conversations with suppliers and consultants too. There are many touchpoints for these conversations. From having conversations around sustainability at the feasibility and concept phases of the design process through to maintaining clear goals with our team throughout design development and documentation. The conversations continue during construction and upon project completion. Simple actions such as presenting previously completed projects to end-users and outlining the sustainability principles can be effective in furthering the education of the wider community.

The framework and our chosen path

Architect's Declare is a voluntary global movement, started in the UK in 2019, declaring climate and biodiversity emergencies. As a signatory we have committed to working towards applying the eleven principles; seeking to continuously improve across all key areas.

We acknowledge the wide variety of green certifications that are available. For us, the important part of the process is to not just seek to "tick boxes" to meet sustainability checklists. Instead, we aspire to think about every design and every operational decision as an opportunity to have a positive effect on our environment and our community.

In the following sections of our SAP, we have examined our current practices and our future plans as we continue to measure against the Australian Architects Declare ten principles using the following framework:

1. Design and Approach
2. Evaluation and Reporting
3. Outreach and Advocacy
4. Training and Education
5. Operation and Outlook

Design and approach

Current practice

We believe in enhancing the experience of place. The surrounding environment, a structure and its interior all work together to play a part in the complete design. Our design approach is to be flexible and explore a number of solutions. We have extensive experience in large and small-scale projects that required an exploration of ideas.

Actions taken

- Design working group formed with the focus on how to ensure our design practices consistently incorporate sustainability solutions. Begin to regularly have conversations with clients about sustainability
- Researching and specifying products with sustainable credentials on some projects
- Beginning conversations with builders on construction waste

Our future

We will seek to integrate sustainable principles into every part of our design process. We want those principles to guide the way we work; building a framework that ensures the integration of sustainable principles into every stage. We want to build a culture where we are always asking "how can we communicate the value of sustainable strategies to clients". We aspire to acknowledge and be guided by indigenous principles of land management.

We will approach our designs with a fundamental understanding of embodied carbon in a final outcome and make informed decisions.

Immediate goals (to June 2024)

Conduct regular working group meetings to examine each of the steps in the design phase to determine sustainable practices and actions that should be part of the design process.

Short term goals (12 months - February 2025)

Collaborate with builders, engineers and contractors to determine opportunities to reduce construction waste.

Drawing on the learnings from the working group, introduce strategies for consistently incorporating sustainable design strategies into each stage our design process.

Long term goals (3 years - February 2027)

Consistently collaborate with clients, contractors and suppliers to ensure projects are using sustainably sourced materials.

Ensure processes are in place to ensure the consistent incorporation of sustainable design into our design process for every project.

Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modelling and post occupancy evaluation on 50% of our projects.

Evaluation and reporting

Current practice

Our practice uses tools such as NatHERS, BASIX and Green Star to evaluate on the environmental performance of selected projects.

We currently do not have any systematic methods in place for collecting and evaluating post-occupancy information on a project. The post-occupancy information we have comes from maintaining long-term relationships with clients who share experiences anecdotally.

Actions taken

- Held discussions with a variety of Carbon Audit consultants in order to educate ourselves around the requirements for (and cost of) conducting a carbon audit on our projects

Our future

We commit to using data to help us and our clients and suppliers better appreciate concepts such as energy usage and other whole-building utility data.

We will collect and collate post-occupancy data - measurables such as energy, water and occupancy comfort and use that information to help inform the design process for other projects.

Immediate goals (to June 2024)

Select a current project to become the pilot project for a carbon audit at the completion of the project.

Short term goals (12 months - February 2025)

Participate in education programs designed to help the office understand the tools used in the evaluation and reporting process.

Conduct a carbon assessment of the pilot project to help establish an understanding of how to collate and utilise our understanding of energy usage.

Long term goals (3 years - February 2027)

Develop a process for collecting consistent post-occupancy data for projects.

Develop information material to share with clients to encourage participation in post-occupancy data collection projects.

Establish an office standard for basic post-occupancy evaluation on every project.

Adopt a low carbon design assessment of 50% of our projects.

Outreach and advocacy

Current practice

Our team are aware of the need to disseminate ideas and for action and change as we work to combat climate change. Our practice is carbon neutral through the efforts of all our team members.

Where we can, we participate in forums and discussions considering how architects can make a difference. Our Managing Director, Paul Worroll, is the current Chair of the AIA Qld Sustainability Committee.

We are committed to sharing our sustainable knowledge and research in an open source.

Actions taken

- We have shared our SAP with our clients via our website, social media and other methods.
- We have presented at a number of forums - including the AIA - on topics including "Designing for Flood".
- Prepared and published a series of articles aimed at clients and potential clients on sustainability topics with the intention of providing information and educating them.

Our future

We aspire to have sustainability conversations with all our clients on a regular basis. We aim, through on-going advocacy with our clients to build a culture where clients are engaged in these discussions and are happy to examine design options that support sustainability. As part of our supplier selection process, we commit to requesting the sustainability

action plans and ensuring suppliers with the strongest sustainability credentials are prioritised.

We will build this decision making process into our quality assurance processes.

We will be continuing our involvement with Architects Declare.

Immediate goals (to June 2024)

Regularly engage and educate our clients, consultants and suppliers in conversations around how sustainability can be incorporated into their project.

Short term goals (12 months - February 2024)

Explore opportunities for more of the Reddog team to become recognised as sustainability experts - and have them share that knowledge at various forums.

Long term goal (3 years - February 2027)

Be acknowledged as advocates of climate and biodiversity mitigation principles by becoming recipients of a sustainability award for one of our projects.

Training and education

Current practice

We embrace knowledge sharing and openly debating and discussing topics as a way of improving our practice. We hold regular business improvement meetings to discuss ways to improve our operations. We find this culture is enhanced by our open plan office and communal spaces.

We invite external experts to present ideas to the team to widen our knowledge base on topics including sustainability and supplier offerings.

We have established a sustainability lunchbox series (RA Confab) to widen and deepen team knowledge on various sustainability topics. All team members are invited to attend these learning sessions.

Actions taken

- Held a series of lunchtime learning sessions facilitated by ADP - focused on a variety of sustainability topics.
- Created a sustainability resource library for the team to access and/or contribute to.
- Interested staff members have undertaken training and attended workshops and lectures to educate themselves and share with others, sometimes as part of CPD (ongoing).

Our future

As we welcome new members to our team, it is important that we ensure everyone increases their level of understanding on the ideas of sustainability. We will achieve this through a variety of activities

including the continued focus on team education through lunch time sessions and the incorporation of specific sustainability questions into our quality assurance processes.

Immediate goal (to June 2024)

Educate ourselves on what actions we can take and what options are available to reduce construction waste on our projects.

Encourage individual team members to actively increase their knowledge and expertise across various areas of sustainability and then share that knowledge with the team.

Continue to encourage the team to add to and utilise the resource library to ensure knowledge about sustainability topics is shared across the team.

Short term goals (12 months - February 2025)

Continue to build a culture of sustainability knowledge sharing across the office through regular knowledge sharing sessions.

Long term goals (3 years - February 2027)

Build sustainability expertise across the practice, with many of our team members holding qualifications across various components of sustainability.

Operations and outlook

Current practice

Our practice is proudly carbon neutral. Our office space adopts passive design principles including cross-ventilation and natural light to minimise the use of energy from lighting and air-conditioning. Our office is populated with plants. In our office day to day operations, we recycle as many materials as we can. We encourage riding/walking or using public transport in commuting to the office. We have limited parking spaces but offer bike spaces and change facilities for everyone to use. We have an electric car charging station within the office carpark.

We conduct carbon audits on an annual basis, choosing to work with Pangolin Associates for this process. Completing the audit requires us to provide a year's worth of data – such as staff commutes, electricity and water consumption, stationery purchases, air conditioning usage etc. The process is a collaborative effort as it is important that everyone in the practice takes responsibility and ownership in helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

Actions taken

- The results of our carbon audit are published on our website.
- All new team members are made aware of the Reddog office sustainability practices by incorporating information within our induction process.

Our future

We will continue to actively foster a sustainability culture in our practice. We will educate new Reddog members on the carbon neutral journey of our office.

We will find ways to move our office from carbon neutral to climate positive.

Immediate goals (to June 2024)

Continue to discuss office sustainability opportunities at our monthly office business improvement meeting.

Short term goals (12 months - February 2025)

Share examples of our office practices on our website and socials as a way of leading by example.

Long term goal (3 years - February 2027)

Become a carbon neutral practice, without having to rely on the purchase of carbon credits; helping us move towards our ultimate goal of becoming a climate positive practice.

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