

**DesignInc**

Architecture  
Urban Design  
Interiors  
[designinc.com.au](http://designinc.com.au)

# Sustainability Action Plan

Melbourne Studio

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on in Naarm. We pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Version Control				
Issue	By	Review	Date	Comments
DesignInc_Melbourne_SAP	BV	KL	01.08.23	Final Report

# Introduction

Architects bear a significant responsibility for the 39% of global greenhouse gas emissions generated by the building sector. To address this challenge, our architectural practice has developed a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) to achieve sustainability goals, promote accountability, and optimise resources.

By setting clear objectives, fostering collaboration and innovation, we aim to reduce our impact on the environment and inspire others to prioritise sustainability in the building sector.

At DesignInc Melbourne we aim to create healthy buildings and environments which improve the quality of people's lives. This is achieved through providing meaningful connections to nature and natural experiences alongside supportive functions which conserve, harvest and renew our natural resources.

A healthy, resilient, building operates with a minimum of energy, water, and waste. It is carbon neutral, ecologically positive, and beautiful – supporting mental and physical wellbeing.

To support this goal, we have set benchmarks and proposed aspirations to hold ourselves accountable and encourage others.

## Targets

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### Project

Carbon

Energy

Water

Materials

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### Practice

Carbon

Energy

Water

Consumables

Waste

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# Project Targets

We have set targets in four areas that will allow us to track our progress towards readily quantifiable aspects of resilient, regenerative buildings.

Achievement of these goals will require ourselves to change and external advocacy to encourage those we collaborate with.

Our progress towards our targets will be reviewed and reported on an annual basis.

## Carbon

Reduce the carbon emissions of our projects towards a net zero 2040 goal.

### 2025

30% reduction of embodied carbon and operational carbon.

### 2030

50% reduction embodied carbon and operational carbon.

### 2040

Net zero carbon.

## Energy

Treat energy as a precious resource, seek to minimise use and renew.

### 2025

Reduce energy need by 50% for new buildings.  
Provide renewable infrastructure.  
Gas free projects.

### 2030

Reduce energy needs by 70% for new buildings.  
Provide renewable infrastructure.  
All energy sourced from renewables (on or off-site).  
Gas free projects.

## Water

Treat water as a precious resource, minimise waste and use of potable water, while avoiding downstream impacts and pollution.

### 2025

Limit use of potable water for irrigation.  
Reduce water needs by 35% for new buildings.  
Treat stormwater on site.

### 2030

Reduce water needs by 50% for new buildings.  
Limit use of potable water for irrigation.  
Treat stormwater on site.

## Materials

Set baseline for responsible materials, transparency, sustainable extraction, support of local industry and waste diversion for all projects.

### 2025

Minimum 5-star Green Star.  
Prioritise locally made.  
Minimise toxic chemicals.  
Divert 30% materials from landfill.

### 2030

Minimum 6-star Green Star.  
Prioritise locally made.  
Minimise chemicals.  
Divert 50% materials from landfill.

# Project: Carbon

<p>Architects hold a moral responsibility and pivotal role in the building sector, responsible for 39% of global greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>We must take proactive measures to reduce this number and combat global warming.</p> <p>Our targets progress towards a 2040 net zero goal.</p>	Target	Action		
	Reduce the carbon emissions of our projects towards a net zero 2040 goal.	1.0	2.0	3.0
	<b>2025</b> 30% reduction of embodied carbon and operational carbon.	Establish bench marking process to implement on all projects.	Measure up-front embodied carbon for all projects.	Review outcomes and iterate to seek further reductions.
	<b>2030</b> 50% reduction embodied carbon and operational carbon.			
	<b>2040</b> Net zero carbon.			

# Project: Energy

Resilient, carbon zero ready buildings must be electric, consume less energy, and generate energy where possible.	<b>Target</b>	<b>Action</b>			
	Treat energy as a precious resource, seek to minimise use and renew.	<b>1.0</b> Develop Energy Use Intensity (EUI) benchmarking process.	<b>2.0</b> Educate and enable project teams to optimise energy use through passive design.	<b>3.0</b> Engage with consultants to review, measure and optimise energy use.	<b>4.0</b> Advocate for gas free projects and renewable infrastructure.
	<b>2025</b> Reduce energy need by 50% for new buildings. Provide renewable infrastructure. Gas free projects.				
	<b>2030</b> Reduce energy needs by 70% for new buildings. Provide renewable infrastructure. All energy sourced from renewables. Gas free projects.				

# Project: Water

<p>Water is a precious resource to be respected and protected by our projects.</p> <p>The stormwater and off-site impacts should also be minimised and sought as opportunities for regenerative outcomes.</p>	<h2>Target</h2> <hr/> <p>Treat water as a precious resource, minimise waste and use of potable water, while avoiding downstream impacts and pollution.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2025</b></p> <p>Limit use of potable water for irrigation. Reduce water needs by 35% for new buildings. Treat stormwater on site.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2030</b></p> <p>Reduce water needs by 50% for new buildings. Limit use of potable water for irrigation. Treat stormwater on site.</p>	<h2>Action</h2> <hr/> <p><b>1.0</b></p> <p>Develop and implement water use benchmarking process.</p>	<hr/> <p><b>2.0</b></p> <p>Educate and enable project teams to optimise water use through high efficiency fixtures as standard selections. Develop positive strategies for stormwater and minimisation of off-site impacts.</p>	<hr/> <p><b>3.0</b></p> <p>Engage with consultants to review, measure and optimise water use.</p>	<hr/> <p><b>4.0</b></p> <p>Advocate for rainwater harvesting and re-use, where appropriate. Advocate for regenerative stormwater and off-site impact strategies</p>
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# Project: Materials

<p>The materials we use impact the embodied carbon and environmental quality of our projects. We aim to minimise unnecessary materials and adopt a 'less is more' approach to design. Selected products should align to, or exceed our material targets.</p>	<h2>Target</h2> <hr/> <p>Set baseline for responsible materials, transparency, sustainable extraction, support of local industry and waste diversion for all projects.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2025</b></p> <p>Minimum 5-star Green Star. Prioritise locally made. Minimise toxic chemicals. Divert 30% materials from landfill.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2030</b></p> <p>Minimum 6-star Green Star. Prioritise locally made. Minimise toxic chemicals. Divert 50% materials from landfill.</p>	<h2>Action</h2> <hr/> <p><b>1.0</b></p> <p>Minimise the amount of new material in our projects during upfront design phases.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2.0</b></p> <p>Educate and enable project teams to select sustainable options when new materials are required.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3.0</b></p> <p>Measure the embodied carbon of our designs and optimise these to reach our targets.</p> <hr/> <p><b>4.0</b></p> <p>Advocate for sustainable practices to industry.</p>
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# Practice Targets

<p>DesignInc has been Carbon Neutral since 2020.</p> <p>Our practice targets illustrate our commitment to minimising the environmental and negative ethical impacts of our practice.</p> <p>Beyond these targets DesignInc will continue to maintain it's 'Just' label which measure our social justice and equity against 21 metrics.</p>	Carbon	Energy	Water	Consumables	Waste
	Become Climate Active and seek to reduce emissions annually.	Reduce energy use.	Reduce water use.	Reduce consumption and increase ethical supply.	Reduce waste.
	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p>Achieve climate active status. Seek to reduce emissions annually.</p>	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p>Reduce office energy usage. Encourage staff to use renewables, clean energy and phase out gas. Advocate for base building renewables.</p>	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p>15% reduction in water use. Use high efficiency fixtures. Advocate base building water saving.</p>	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p>Reduce consumable and appliance purchasing. 60% Local and ethical purchasing</p>	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p>30% reduction in landfill. Recycle 60% of equipment and samples. Implement waste streams.</p>
<p><b>2030</b></p> <p>Continue climate active status. Seek to reduce emissions annually.</p>	<p><b>2030</b></p> <p>Continue optimisation and advocacy.</p>	<p><b>2030</b></p> <p>30% reduction in water use.</p>	<p><b>2030</b></p> <p>Further reduce consumable and appliance purchasing. 80% Local/ethical purchasing.</p>	<p><b>2030</b></p> <p>50% reduction in landfill. Recycle 80% of equipment and samples.</p>	

# How

## In-house Education

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Strategic focus on building sustainable and regenerative design knowledge of staff.

## Green Team

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Sustainability / regenerative champions within practice to lead initiatives towards achievement of project and practice targets.

## Sustainability Tool-kit

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Continue to develop and implement guides, checklists and exemplar documents into 'tool-kit' to enable project and practice targets.

## Advocacy

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Advocate for sustainable, regenerative outcomes to suppliers, consultants, clients and stakeholders.

# Next Steps

## We are here

We seek to continue to progress as a practice towards achieving our goals and commit to annual reviews in line with the Architect's Declare Sustainability Action Plan Framework.

We will review the progress made on goals outlined in this Review SAP in July 2024 and publish an Extend SAP.

We advocate and encourage others to do the same.

### 2022-23

Review  
Sustainability Action Plan

### 2024

Extend  
Sustainability Action Plan

### 2025

Amplify  
Sustainability Action Plan

### 2026

Regenerate Action Plan  
RegAP

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