

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ZM Architecture recognises that as an employer and provider of services to the community, it can have an impact on the environment. ZM strives towards achieving a more sustainable future by seeking to minimise any adverse environmental impact in the way it operates/discharges its responsibilities.

This statement applies to all aspects of our operations. This includes management and utilisation of environmental impacts, water, waste, energy, estates, goods and services. This will extend wherever possible to work undertaken with partners and other agencies (including contractors and service providers).

Scope

The scope of this policy is to assist ZM to:

- Comply with environmental legislation
- Minimise adverse impact on the environment in the way it operates
- Consider opportunities to improve the environment
- Increase employee awareness of environmental policies and responsibilities
- Encourage partnership working.

Additionally, ZM will, wherever possible

- Utilise 'eco-friendly' alternative products (within financial constraints)
- Improve cost effectiveness, productivity and working conditions.

Aims

The main aims which ZM seek to achieve, encompassing the scope are

1. To ensure that ZM complies with environmental legislation, in particular regarding waste disposal.
2. To minimise any adverse impact on the environment, in particular through the
 - Reduction of pollutants/CO2 emissions
 - Conservation of energy and water
 - Use of sustainable resources
 - Adopting methods to ensure the efficient and economic use of fuels
 - Use of recycling
3. To seek to identify ways in which the environment can be enhanced, particularly when planning new building developments.
4. To explore measures to enhance employee environmental awareness.
5. To promote partnership working to improve the quality of the environment wherever possible.

Principles

- 1 ZM will continue to monitor environmental legislation developments in relation to waste disposal, with a view to adopt/amend internal practices wherever practicable.
- 2 ZM will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to minimise the release of pollutants into the environment, including effluence.
- 3 Steps will be taken to ensure that energy and water consumption is monitored and that measures are in place to aim to reduce consumption.
- 4 ZM aim to make use of sustainable resources, especially in relation to two areas, being (1) use of paper and (2) building design.
- 5 ZM aims to buy fuels at the most economic cost (not necessarily renewable energy sources), to ensure they are used as efficiently as practicable. The aim is to reduce, wherever possible, dependence on fossil fuels though the use of ambient and renewable energy.
- 6 ZM, wherever possible, will make use of recycled products and will seek opportunities for recycling waste.
- 7 ZM will continue to identify environmental improvements in relation to building developments with a view to encompassing new methods wherever practicable.
- 8 Employee awareness of environmental issues and their impact in the workplace will be enhanced via the availability of a dedicated intranet environmental page, awareness training during induction sessions, and the publication of policy and associated procedures.
- 9 ZM will encourage partnership working and endeavour to ensure that those partners are environmentally friendly.
- 10 Wherever possible, ZM will seek to support others, such as the Environmental Agency and local authorities, by reporting instances that have, or might have, a detrimental impact of the environment.

Monitoring

Peter Richardson (H & S advisor) will monitor energy consumption and environmental reports submitted to ensure that progress and good practice can be identified and shared.

ZM will endeavour to attend forums where environmental best practice issues and legislation developments are shared amongst similar experienced professionals.

ZM will produce periodic reports reflecting progress against its objectives and targets, as published in the environmental plan.