20 STEPS TO GREENING OUR INDUSTRY

It does not matter if you are a client, a designer, a manufacturer, contractor or an operator – each and every one of us has a part to play in making construction more efficient and sustainable. With that in mind, we have put together a list of 20 steps to green our industry. If you would like to know more, visit **www.greenconstructionboard.org**

ACT ON [CARBON]

1. SET CARBON TARGETS

Every project and company should set targets to reduce carbon emissions and monitor performance. You cannot manage what you do not measure.

2. DESIGN FOR LOW CARBON

Make carbon reduction a key objective in the design process. Take account of carbon over the whole life of the project from inception to end of life.

3. CUT CARBON EVERYWHERE

Prioritise how you will save energy at every stage of the construction process from manufacturing to powering the site. The result is likely to be a saving in cost.

4. PLAN FOR LONGEVITY

Build in durability and flexibility. Enable users to save energy and keep costs down, and remain adaptable to changes during the life of the asset.

ACT ON [WATER]

5. MEASURE IT, MANAGE IT

Know your water consumption. Set targets to minimise water usage, and measure progress both during construction and once the project is operational and in use.

6. USE WATER-SAVING TECHNOLOGY

Reduce mains water consumption by using appliances that save water or detect leaks, or tap into alternative water sources such as rainwater capture.

7. SAVE WATER DURING CONSTRUCTION

Keep track of your water use during the construction phase. Make sure your equipment is water efficient, and encourage everyone to report leaks and fix them fast.

8. KEEP IT CLEAN

Take care to prevent pollution, inspect drains regularly and keep them well maintained. Protect natural water courses and ground water sources.

ACT ON [MATERIALS]

9. TALK TO SUPPLIERS
Do not just go with what you know. At the start of a project, ask suppliers and advisors about new products that are more efficient or less harmful to the environment.

10. DO MORE WITH LESS
Make materials go further by designing your projects to be as compact, integrated and resource efficient as possible.

11. CHOOSE LOW-IMPACT PRODUCTS
Buy materials and products that have a low environmental impact over the life of the project, whilst maintaining or improving the performance of the project.

12. SOURCE RESPONSIBLY
Procure materials and products that are certified to recognised responsible sourcing certification schemes where they exist.

ACT ON [WASTE]

13. PLAN WORKS TO MINIMISE WASTE
Avoid late changes to design and plan all works to minimise waste from the start of the construction process. Poor coordination and late design changes are major contributors to waste on projects.

14. DESIGN OUT WASTE
Choose solutions that generate less waste and design assets that can be dismantled. Avoid over-ordering and enable reuse.

15. OPTIMISE PACKAGING
Only use as much packaging as is required to protect the product. Use materials that can be recycled and reuse pallets.

16. PUT WASTE TO GOOD USE
Re-think waste. Prioritise reuse and recycling and avoid landfill.

ACT ON [BIODIVERSITY]

17. CARRY OUT AN ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
Choose sites with low ecological and agricultural value and identify any sensitive natural habitats before work begins.

18. PROTECT AND ENHANCE
Assess and monitor animals and plants sensitive to change. Protect them, their food sources and breeding sites.

19. DESIGN WITH NATURE IN MIND
Incorporate features such as nest boxes and breeding sites, green roofs and walls, and use native plant species in planting schemes.

20. ASK THE EXPERTS
Consult with specialists to develop long-term management plans that meet the needs of people and wildlife.