



Climate Charter

Every year we influence dozens of development projects, train hundreds of people and engage with local authorities and communities across the South East of England. We commit to using our unique position to champion climate action, and support clients and the wider industry to deliver positive outcomes for places, communities and nature.

We recognise the interconnected climate, biodiversity and health crises and the essential role that design plays in addressing them. This charter focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation within the built environment, recognising that sustainability is a broad topic. The sections below set out Design South East's commitment to action on these crises through our operations, services and advocacy.

Our Operations

- We will designate a Climate Champion within Design South East to drive the charter forward and support staff in its delivery.
- We will assess the carbon footprint and environmental impact of our own operations and set clear targets and timescales for minimising it.

Design Review

- We will ensure that climate change, biodiversity and sustainable design are discussed at all design reviews and that panel members have the tools and training they need to provide appropriate and constructive advice.
- We will proactively improve the sustainability of schemes coming to design review by providing free guidance to clients and communicating clear expectations.
- We will monitor and measure the sustainability improvements of schemes that we review and share learnings.

Training

- We will integrate sustainability into the curriculum of all our training events and learning programmes.
- We will influence the wider built environment sector by providing accessible training events on sustainability and related topics.
- We will positively influence our network by sharing sustainability resources and exemplary developments via social media, our website and newsletter.

Other Services

- We will integrate sustainability considerations into our range of services (including facilitation, community engagement and other bespoke services) to ensure that every project is an opportunity to take meaningful action on climate change, biodiversity and health.

This Charter is accompanied by a detailed Action Plan, which sets clear actions and targets to measure our success so we can ensure our positive impact grows. The Charter and Action Plan will evolve and update as we continue our sustainability journey.