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chapmanbdsp

2020

environmental
impact charter

Earth Day
April 2020

Introduction

Welcome to our environmental impact charter, which sets out our sustainable, social and wellbeing commitments.

In the UK we are legally committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and the construction and operation of buildings contributes to nearly 40% of those emissions. We are designing and delivering the 2050 building stock now, so this is the time to act.

Accordingly, as an organisation responsible for delivering a more sustainable built environment, we have declared a climate emergency and ingrained this ethos into our core values.

We are committed to a design for performance philosophy, prioritising sustainable outcomes over compliance and box-ticking on all of our projects. This charter commits us to pushing further and focusing on how far we have to go.

Every year, on Earth Day, we will publish an updated version of this document, reiterating our commitments, celebrating our achievements and setting new targets for the coming year.

The charter sits alongside our social value and environmental impact policies, and complements our ISO14001 compliance process, which provides greater detail on our internal environmental initiatives.

This is a hugely important document for us, one which sets out our high-level vision and trajectory towards net zero emissions, as part of our ongoing commitment to tackling the climate emergency and delivering a sustainable future.



Ray Upjohn
Chief Executive

What's in our charter?

we measure and manage our impact in these three ways:



our footprint

the direct impact we have on the planet through the daily operation of our business



our work

delivering a built environment that aligns to net zero emissions targets



our voice

providing education, increasing awareness, inspiring innovation and advocating change

across these seven areas:



energy



carbon



wellbeing



materials



transport



communication




society

At chapmanbdsp we commit to:

Monitor and display energy use in our offices, with year-on-year reduction targeted



Procure 100% renewable energy supply to all our offices



Adopt WELL v2 and fitwel principles in our offices

Internal wellness initiatives



Reduce printing with a target of paperless offices

Provide waste and food recycling stations in kitchens, no bins at desk



No taxi use in central London

Flexible working opportunities for all

Carbon offset all unavoidable flights



Internal knowledge sharing and events on personal environmental impact and wellbeing



Support charities and volunteering opportunities that are aligned to our values and which can benefit from our expertise



Advocate Design for Performance with all clients and embed DfP in our project delivery

Provide compliance Services for MEES and ESOS



Deliver life-cycle carbon assessments and facilitation of the circular economy




Provide WELL AP and fitwel ambassador support to projects through certification and/or bespoke input



A move towards digital markups on all drawings and models

No physical publication of stage deliverables




Offer virtual attendance alternative for all external meetings



Client reviews and lessons learned workshops



Adopt fee structures and pro-bono initiatives to enable us to work with organisations that share our values



Push for the adoption of Paris proof energy targets into government targets and policy




Supporting initiatives such as Retrofirst in prioritising keeping buildings in-use over demolition and redevelopment



Deliver external seminars on wellbeing in office design



Enable staff to avoid single-use plastics, providing tote-bags, cutlery and water bottles



Encourage true mixed-use development and designing for home working in new residential development




Publish our annual commitments and report performance against our targets

Lead the conversation through advocacy groups like the UKGBC



Continued STEM and NextGen sustainable design focussed training, to maximise the "Greta effect"




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Since Earth Day 2019 we have:

Relocated our Kent and UAE teams to more energy efficient premises


Signed up as delivery partners with the BBP for Design for Performance



Given all staff the tools to work and collaborate remotely



Held an internal Wellness Week to support staff wellbeing, increased our fruit deliveries and introduced healthier alternatives in vending Machines



Reduced printing by 40% compared to the previous 12 months

Introduced food waste recycling and switched to biodegradable tea-bags



Switched all event and catering refreshments sourcing to local suppliers



Hosted a series of climate emergency response seminars internally, including a workshop which led to the production of this charter




Selected and supported St Mungo's as our charity of the year



Delivered the first major planning application under the updated energy guidance within the new London Plan



Completed the LSE's centre building, with natural ventilation and a bespoke embodied carbon reduction solution



Delivered bespoke base-build wellbeing assessments as part of our advisory service


Trained new WELL APs



Completed concept designs for a fully timber construction factory for manufacturing modular homes




Moved all meetings and presentations online in response to the COVID-19 lockdown, creating a blueprint for future ways of working



Won the CTBUH's global award for MEP Engineering on Britam Tower in Nairobi, Kenya's greenest tall building



Seen our collaboration project with Doctors of the World exhibited at the Wellcome Trust



Contributed to consultations on building regulations and future homes standard and hosted events around the GLA energy strategy guidance



Supported the Architects' Journal Retrofirst campaign

Signed up to #constructiondeclares



Delivered wellbeing "lunch and learn" sessions at architects and project managers



Facilitated circular economy workshops and hosted internal and external seminars on designing out waste and embodied carbon



Hosted industry focus groups looking at "beds and sheds" concepts to minimise last-mile delivery and transportation impacts



Launched the first version of this annual sustainability charter on Earth Day, April 22nd, as part of a week of events



Hosted a roundtable event on fuel poverty to raise awareness and inform our response to the consultation on building regulations




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By Earth Day 2021 we intend to:

Reduce our overall energy use by 15% over 2018 levels




Achieve our commitment to source 100% renewable energy supply to all our UK offices




Complete WELL v2 certification process for 40 Gracechurch street

Repeat our internal Wellness Week initiative




Eradicate single-use plastics from our hosted events


Move all expenses claims to electronic submissions



Evaluate new flexible working policies built on our learning under the coronavirus lockdown, to reduce commuting impacts



Introduce a company style guide and internal training on delivering our net zero messaging




Host a sustainability festival and workshops, engaging with local businesses and initiatives to raise awareness of environmental issues




Employ energy-in-use metrics and targets within all energy strategies and feasibility studies as standard




Ensure net zero carbon technical reviews occur on all projects at each RIBA stage as part of our TAG review process



Expand our service offering through increased numbers of fitwel ambassadors and WELL APs



Achieve 100% target of technical staff fully trained and equipped in digital markup and reviewing tools



Continue to host video conferences and promote the virtual meeting space as the first option for collaboration on all projects



Evaluate all projects and opportunities to ensure alignment with our commitment to our climate emergency declaration




Work with local authorities to provide energy retrofit advice to existing social housing sites



Actively participate in the consultations and development of the next round of building regulations on the conservation of fuel and power



Prioritise retrofit solutions as the first option on every redevelopment opportunity



Contribute to research on implementation of wellbeing initiatives across social housing schemes and student accommodation projects



Share our experiences and research and development initiatives around modern methods of construction



Launch an internal travel survey to understand current behaviours and needs so that we can provide education and support around low-carbon options



Be in Glasgow for COP26, providing commentary and contributing to events around the vital climate talks taking place there



Internally publicise our volunteering support policies and seek external partners to maximise benefits from volunteer days




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Our roadmap

this charter is just a part of our journey



Provide a publicly accessible charter of our commitments to sustainability, define measurable targets and report our progress, celebrate when we succeed and learn when we fail

Explore science-based targets to align the business and our supply chain to net zero

Embed sustainable thinking and behaviours into the company culture through the chapmanbdsp way

Maintain an audit of our environmental performance to identify risks and opportunities, using labs to research and develop new solutions where these don't currently exist

Actively seek new partnerships and forums that share our goals to extend our sphere of influence and advocacy powers

Always prioritise using our creativity and design abilities to reduce carbon rather than offsetting

Ultimately align all of our operations with the UN sustainable development goals

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