

Sustainability Action Plan

Our Commitment

Clements Architecture is committed to designing buildings that respond intelligently to climate, place, and long-term environmental responsibility. Sustainability is embedded in our design thinking — from early site analysis through to construction and ongoing building performance.

As a small practice, we recognise that meaningful change comes through **intentional design decisions, advocacy, and continuous improvement**, rather than volume alone.

1. Design Leadership & Low-Carbon Architecture

Objectives

- Reduce operational and embodied carbon in all projects
- Prioritise passive design and long-term performance over short-term gains

Actions

- Embed passive design principles as a baseline for all projects, including orientation, shading, thermal mass, airtightness, and natural ventilation.
 - Actively minimise operational energy demand before considering mechanical systems.
 - Prioritise all-electric buildings and avoid fossil fuel systems wherever feasible.
 - Advocate for net-zero operational outcomes on suitable residential and small-scale projects.
 - Design for durability, adaptability, and longevity to reduce lifecycle impacts.
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2. Material Responsibility & Embodied Carbon

Objectives

- Reduce embodied carbon and material waste
- Support responsible sourcing and local supply chains

Actions

- Prefer low-embodied-carbon materials such as responsibly sourced timber, recycled-content steel, and low-carbon concrete alternatives where appropriate.
 - Minimise material palettes and detail for efficiency, durability, and ease of construction.
 - Design with standard material sizes to reduce offcuts and waste.
 - Prioritise locally sourced materials and manufacturers where available.
 - Engage early with builders and consultants to align sustainability goals with construction realities.
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3. Climate Resilience & Site Responsiveness

Objectives

- Design buildings that are resilient to climate extremes and site-specific risks
- Respond to bushfire, heat, water scarcity, and extreme weather

Actions

- Integrate bushfire-resilient design strategies in applicable locations, exceeding minimum compliance where possible.
 - Design for increased heat events through shading, insulation, and passive cooling.
 - Support water-sensitive design, including rainwater harvesting, water-efficient fixtures, and landscape integration.
 - Respect natural site conditions, minimising unnecessary cut and fill and protecting existing vegetation where feasible.
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4. Practice Operations & Studio Impact

Objectives

- Reduce the environmental footprint of practice operations
- Lead by example within the profession

Actions

- Operate as a largely paperless studio, using digital workflows for documentation and coordination.
 - Choose suppliers and consultants aligned with sustainable practices where possible.
 - Monitor and reduce office energy use, prioritising renewable energy sources where available.
 - Limit unnecessary travel and prioritise virtual meetings when appropriate.
 - Regularly review studio practices to identify further reductions in resource use.
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5. Advocacy, Education & Client Engagement

Objectives

- Empower clients to make informed, sustainable decisions
- Contribute positively to industry knowledge

Actions

- Actively educate clients on the long-term benefits of sustainable design, including operational cost savings and improved comfort.
 - Clearly communicate sustainability strategies during early design stages.
 - Share built outcomes, research, and lessons learned through the practice website, publications, and professional networks.
 - Continue professional development in sustainable design, construction systems, and evolving environmental standards.
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6. Continuous Improvement & Accountability

Objectives

- Ensure sustainability remains an evolving, accountable part of the practice

Actions

- Review and update this Sustainability Action Plan every two years.
- Reflect on completed projects to assess performance outcomes and lessons learned.
- Stay informed on emerging materials, technologies, and regulatory changes.
- Where feasible, document and benchmark sustainability outcomes for future improvement.

Looking Forward

Clements Architecture believes that well-considered, site-responsive architecture can meaningfully reduce environmental impact while creating buildings of clarity, resilience, and lasting value. This Sustainability Action Plan reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible practice and continuous improvement.