

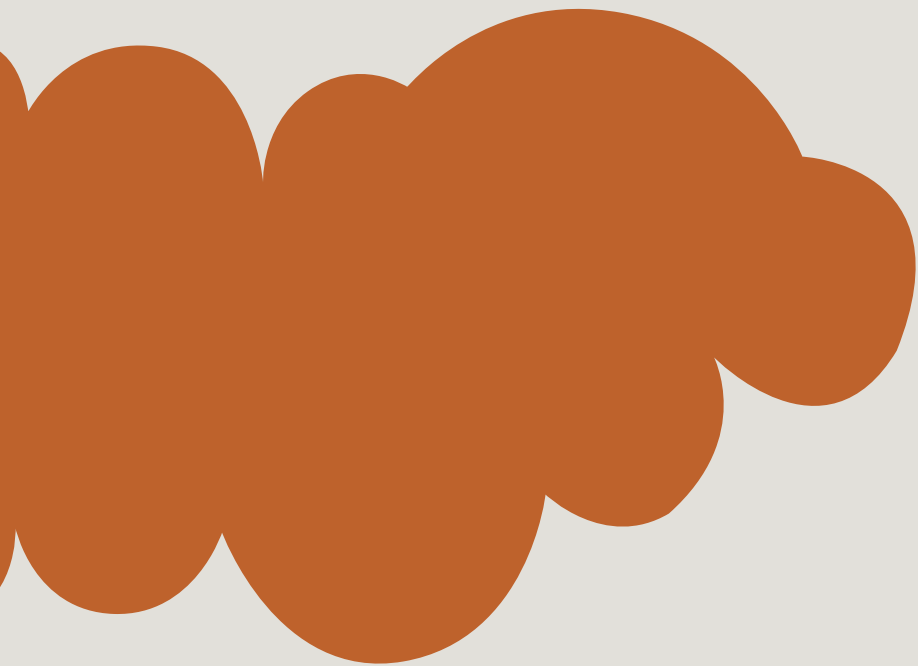


Sustainability Action Plan

BlighGrahamArchitects

May 2026





Sustainability is deeply embedded into Bligh Graham Architects practice and projects. We are committed to creating a built environment that uplifts people without undue harm to the environment.

We don't accept that quality architecture and spaces must come at a cost to the earth and future generations. It has never been more important that all stakeholders in the development of the built environment uphold sustainability as a priority.

This sustainability action plan captures how sustainability is entrenched in our practice and projects, and our strategies for continuing to do better.

Contents

Purpose	03
Commitment Summary	06
Environmental Operations	07
Social & Economic Operations	08
Design Standards	10
Project Processes	11
Accountability	14



Commitment Summary

Bligh Graham Architects is a small office operating out of the nationally awarded Live Work Share House. The studio space itself is designed for both passive thermal comfort through most of the year and to run entirely on solar energy.

We are operating very close to Carbon Neutral and intend to achieve this and other targets established in this report by 2028. This gives us time to action our transition, particularly where financial investment is required.

Being a small team, we're able to be nimble in our response to changes in technology, environment and society. Our ambitions as an office can be summarised by three core values:

- 1** Lead by example in our sustainable office operations.
- 2** Maintain high standards for sustainable outcomes in our work, and be uncompromising advocates for our clients and the planet.
- 3** Maintain skills and processes which allows us to advocate for and deliver on this responsibility.

Environmental Operations

	Now	2028
Energy	- The office runs on solar and battery energy only - There are no fossil fuel energies used on site - Located within walking distance of shops and cafes, encouraging active transport over driving	- Achieve Carbon Neutral operations - Provide an EV for office use - Offset staff travel for commutes Transition to a 4 day work week to reduce travel and energy use
Waste & Consumption	- Composting and recycling facilities are provided on site - Single use plastics are avoided where possible - Office supplies are plastic free, recyclable and carbon neutral wherever possible - Printing is minimised. Print cartridges are recycled - Advocate for less plastic use by suppliers, manufacturers - In office catering is vegetarian and fair trade. If possible it's organic or straight from the vegetable patch - Paper use is essential for the office, but all paper is carbon neutral and recycled - Stock only reusable cutlery and crockery	- Phase out remaining single used plastic - Transition to Carbon Neutral suppliers - Further reduce reliance on printing by providing in office training to digitise our workflow
Water	- Operate water efficient appliances and fixtures - Whole of home water filtration system utilised	
Health	- The office is naturally ventilated most except on very hot or cold days - Only health and environment conscious cleaning products are used - No VOC emitting products were used for the construction of the office	

Social & Economic Operations

	Now	2028
Education	- The office has developed and will maintain a Sustainable Materials Matrix for design reference - Staff attend Continuing Professional Development on sustainability topics - Staff attend hands-on workshops in alternative construction methods - The office remains up to date on new sustainable materials as they become available	- Enter sustainability competitions and challenges - Support staff in preparing personalised training programs annually
Team Wellbeing	- Allow staff 1 flexible day off per month, additional to leave entitlements - Have regular team lunches and outings - Team dog Tilly the Kelpie	- Transition to a 4 day work week for the whole team
Charity	- The office partakes in pro-bono work and remain open to opportunities - Leadership supports a local Landcare project - BGA is conscious of the affordability of housing and design services, and as such offer reduced services	- Offer mentoring to students and emerging practitioners
Advocacy	- We promote sustainable design through: Our website Social media Entering Award programs Community participation	- Develop a series of post occupancy case studies as exemplars for advocacy and further improvement - Encourage consultant contacts to strengthen their own sustainability acumen



Design Standards

Our design standard for sustainability is always evolving, but is informed by the following principles and targets.

We strive to ensure our buildings:

Meet their brief and are loved by their occupants. Buildings which **are valued by people** will be maintained, not replaced.

Allow for future adaptability, such as intergenerational living, multiple occupancy, age in place, and have the ability to be readily maintained and updated.

Minimise climate risk, such as exposure to fire and flood, and encourage preparedness for the unforeseen. Build in the capacity to **operate self sufficiently**, or be readily adapted to do so.

Optimise passive design strategies to **create year round comfort**. In South East Queensland, this means very few days with heating or cooling required.

Prioritise occupants health, promoting good air quality and access to light. We take the prevention of mould and vermin seriously.

Pursue biophilic outcomes with integrated gardens and landscaping.

Be considerate of neighbours and community, by not impeding on their amenity and access to greenery, light and air.

Project Processes

Bringing a project to life has multiple stages. The following table outlines our role in each, and the project processes used to execute our design standards.

	Now	2028
Project Understanding & Return Brief Developing our understanding of the project brief and site conditions.	- Explore feasibility of adaptive re-use if applicable - Critically analyse the site conditions for micro climate constraints and opportunities - Gain understanding about client lifestyle - what climatic comfort, social flexibility and health aspects should be considered. - Conduct a qualitative thermal comfort assessment for existing buildings - Advocate for climatically responsive design	- Widen our range of services to include climate comfort, recovery and preparedness assessments and solutions. - Develop education resources for clients - Establish a minimum threshold of sustainable practice which consultants should meet for our recommendation to clients
Schematic Design Explore design options and aim to resolve the site planning and building program.	- Projects to undergo rigorous conceptual design process which adheres to our minimum design standards - Advocate for no fossil fuel energy - Allow for the inclusion of solar, water capture etc. - Design options are communicated with clearly explained sustainability strategies - We aim to minimise the use of steel and concrete - Preliminary material selections meet a minimum sustainability threshold as captured in our internal Sustainable Materials Matrix. - Advocate for regular project costings	- Complete Embodied Carbon reviews at the schematic design stage.

Table continues on following page...

Project Processes

	Now	2028
Design Development Resolve the design detail and coordinate consultant input.	- Engage an energy efficiency consultant which can provide data for energy efficiency compliance - Develop highly detailed CAD models for testing/coordinating passing and high-tech systems - Ensure materials selections meet a minimum threshold as captured in our internal Sustainable Materials Matrix. - Seek advice from consultant teams on best practice sustainability within their domains. - Educate consultants on sustainability strategies within ours. - Design to maximise material efficiency and reduce demolition or material wastage - Promote recycling of products and re-use of suitable material on site	- Embodied Carbon calculations to be standard practice with the goal being to ensure all projects are carbon neutral or positive within a 40 year time frame.
Construction Documentation Detail the refined design for construction.	- Detail consistent with the strategies prepared in earlier stages - Finalise energy efficiency reporting and prepare detailed documentation which reflects compliance (or beyond) - Ensure design revisions maintain minimum design standards.	
Tender Negotiation of the contract price.	- When looking to reduce construction costs, avoid changes to design and specifications which reduce building performance.	
During Construction Managing the contract between owner and builder.	- Advocate for a clean site free of littering and buried waste and runoff - Advocate for suitable protection of local flora and fauna - Advocate for socially equitable construction practices	- Require all site waste to be sorted with landfill minimised
Occupancy	- Assist homeowners with optimising the passive performance of their home.	- Develop qualitative and quantitative measures for assessing the success of previous projects - Conduct post-occupancy interviews for recently completed projects going forward.



Accountability

Maintaining and sustaining our momentum with the Sustainability Action Plan is of great importance to us personally and professionally.

To action our goals, strategic plans and resources (eg. Additional quality assurance checklists) will be developed by office leadership in consultation with staff.

Our progress will be published in updates to this document annually, and informal updates will be provided through the office social media and website.

Bligh Graham Architects looks forward to continuing to contribute toward a more sustainable and equitable built environment.

