



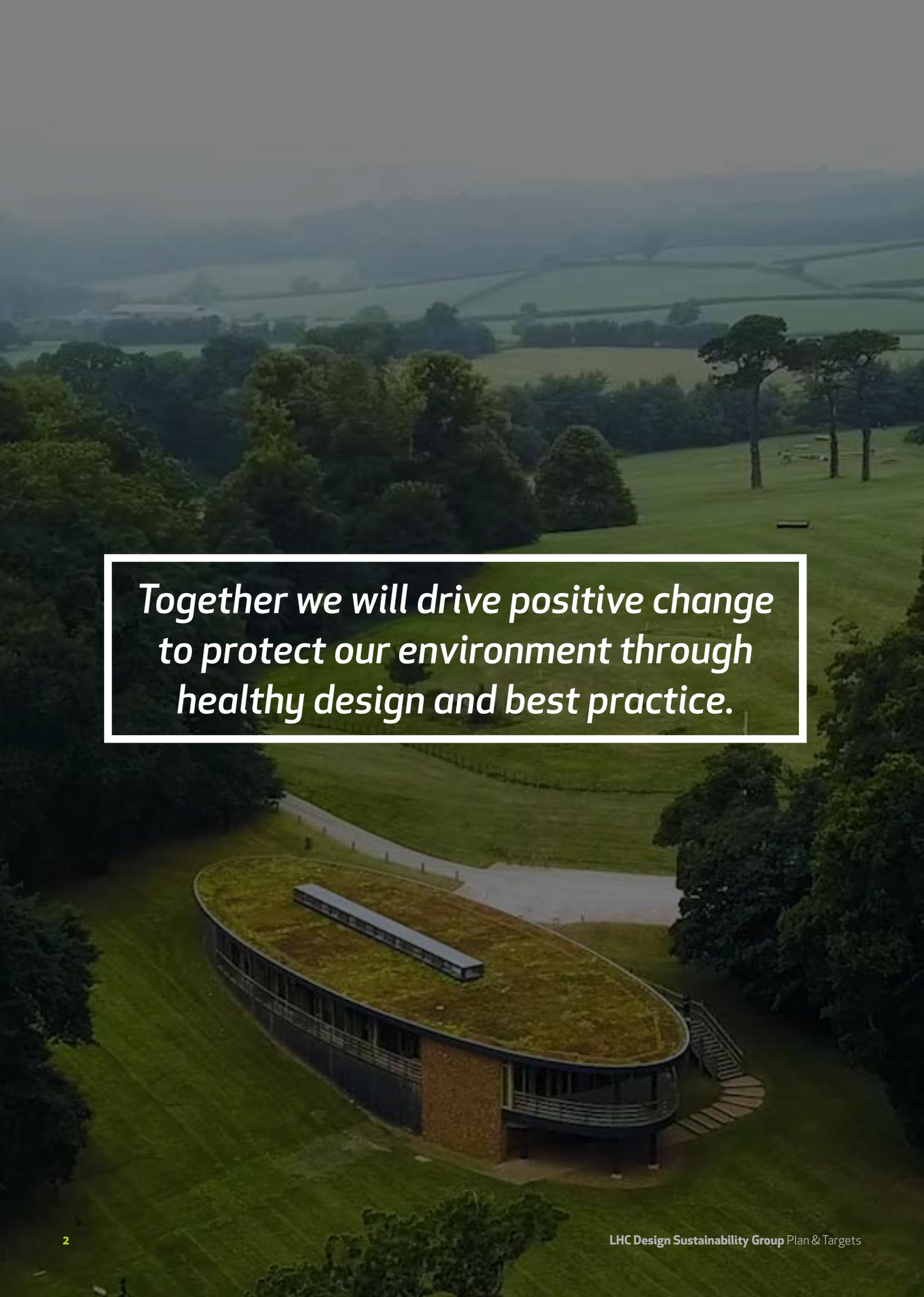
lhc design

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# LHC Design Sustainability Group Clean Growth Strategy – Plan & Targets

November 2021



An aerial photograph of a modern, curved building with a green roof, situated in a lush, green landscape. The building has a prominent brick section and a long, narrow structure on its roof. A pond is visible in the background, surrounded by trees and rolling hills. The overall scene is serene and natural.

*Together we will drive positive change  
to protect our environment through  
healthy design and best practice.*

# LHC Statement of Intent

LHC design is committed to reducing our impact on the planet.

We recognize that our work in the built and natural environment has an impact and we are concentrating our efforts on ensuring our approach to business, design and people responds positively to the climate and environmental crisis we collectively face.

LHC's Clean Growth Strategy sets a number of policies and targets that seek to reduce our environmental footprint and operate in a sustainable way.

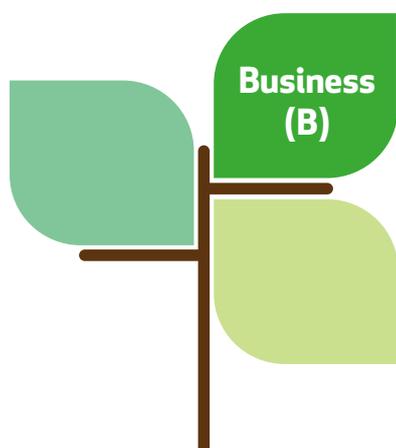
Much of this report aligns, and has been informed by, global initiatives such as the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)**, the **RIBA Climate Challenge**, **UK Architecture and Landscape Climate and Biodiversity Emergency**, **Plymouth Resurgam**, **Devon Climate Emergency** and **Exeter City Future Net Zero Plans**. In doing so we have set out our own targets for improvement and plan to report on these in the future.

Collectively we look forward to the future journey we have mapped out.





# Business Policies



## **B1: Energy Usage**

**Targets:** LHC to commit to undertake energy usage evaluation of each studio, and to suggest strategies to reduce operational energy use year on year to 2030 and beyond.

## **B2: Clean Energy and Heating.**

**Targets:** LHC will continue to procure all Exeter Studio electricity from 100% renewable sources and will continue to review options for reducing dependence upon fossil fuels and gas central heating within all studios.

## **B3: Business Travel Emissions**

**Targets:** LHC will commit to reducing business travel emissions on a year on year basis from a 2019 baseline, whilst maintaining business activities through support of sustainable modes of transport, EV Car / Cycle Hire, and remote meeting attendance.

## **B4: Carbon Neutral Target**

We commit to reducing our carbon footprint and target a 50% reduction in our emissions by 2030 from a 2019 baseline. We will start to offset our residual carbon footprint annually from 2023 to become operationally carbon neutral.

## **B5: Industry Action**

**Targets:** We commit to support research and development within the sector and lobby in the field of sustainability, with a focus on climate change through to 2030 and beyond.

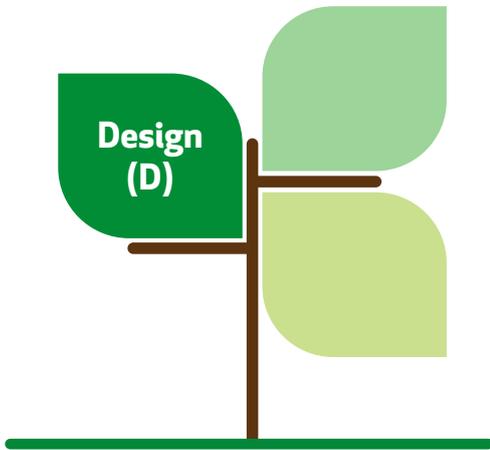
We are signatories of RIBA 2030 climate challenge, UK Architecture & Landscape Declare Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, Plymouth Resurgam, Devon Climate Emergency and Exeter City Futures Net Zero Plans and seek to continue to support those commitments.

Sustainability and sustainable design principles will be a part of our staff training and research and development budget on an annual basis.

## **B6: Plastic Free & Consumables**

**Targets:** LHC will work towards being a 'single-use plastic'-free office by 2023, Where possible consumables will be ethically, locally, naturally and sustainably sourced. LHC will set policies that work towards incorporating the circular economy within our business practices.

# Design Policies



## **D1: Ambition**

**Targets:** At LHC our aim is to reduce the construction and operational carbon impacts of the places we design towards net zero, We will also consider ways to encourage more ecological living, biodiversity, minimum resource use, and carbon positive lifestyles and consumption.

As a practice we're skilling up, training ourselves and others with the ambition that all projects designed today should aim for RIBA 2025 targets as a minimum and 2030 targets where ever possible.

The aim is that all of our projects are to be net zero in operation by 2030.

Our QA procedure will be updated in 2022 to make sure that all of our projects include a sustainable and environmental plan and set clear design target which will need to be demonstrated at each project stage, incorporated into specifications, delivered on site, and monitored in use.

## **D2: Going Beyond the Baseline**

**Targets:** On all new projects we aspire to go above and beyond baseline building standards and advocate progressive targets linked to the sustainability best practice and commitment to the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge Targets.

<https://www.architecture.com/-/media/files/Climate-action/RIBA-2030-Climate-Challenge.pdf>

We also have an ambition of using Biodiversity Net

Gain and Building with Nature design standards on masterplanning projects whenever possible to ensure that biodiversity and landscape are placed at the forefront of the masterplanning process.

## **D3: Briefing**

**Targets:** On all new projects we will undertake a sustainability briefing conversation with clients with the ambition of incorporating key sustainability outcomes and embed low energy and low carbon design principles in the project brief from the outset.

## **D4: Net Zero Service**

**Targets:** On all new projects we include a net zero carbon service at no additional fee. As part of this service we will:

- *Facilitate a workshop*
- *Set out a schedule of design specific targets*
- *Consider Passivhaus and low energy construction methods*

## **D5: Materials**

**Targets:** LHC will consider the ethical and environmental implications of the materials that we specify, including their impact on internal air quality. We will aim to use:

- *Low embodied carbon materials*
- *Policies on use of sustainably-sourced timber,*
- *Use the BRE Green Guide to specification when considering materials*

# Design Policies

## **D6: Analysis**

**Targets:** From 2022 all projects will undertake embodied and operational carbon analysis.

The expectation is that all staff members will have an understanding of how analysis tools can be used and that each project will set pre-agreed targets at the inception stage (either in house or within wider project teams) Baseline analysis will be carried out at RIBA work stages 0-1, 2-5, actual usage will be measured/recorded at work stages 5-7 as part of the post-occupancy evaluation.

The RIBA climate guide should be used to set industry baseline targets and RIBA data collection sheet used to file recording. We will aim to use the following tools.

### Operational Energy Analysis Tools

Revit - Autodesk Insight  
Sketch Up – Sefaira

### Embodied Carbon Analysis Tools

Excel – FCBS Carbon

## **Potable Water usage**

Designs must be optimised to minimise water demand, optimising building systems, and harvesting rainwater, as well as recycling and reusing water on-site, should all be considered.

## **D7: Tracking**

**Targets:** All projects from 2023 will include standardised key sustainability data within their RIBA Stage 1, 2 and 3 reports, and any subsequent specifications.

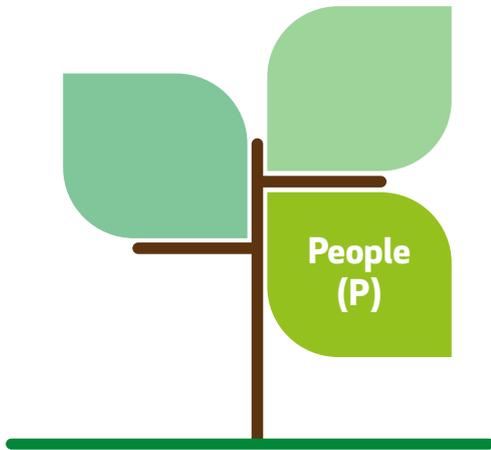
LHC QA procedures to be updated in 2022.

## **D8: Post Occupancy Evaluation.**

**Targets:** We will select 5 projects per year for Post-Occupancy Evaluations starting in 2022.



# People Policies



## **P1: Staff Footprints**

**Targets:** LHC will help staff produce personal carbon footprints, and provide recommendations on how they can reduce them. We will aim to reduce carbon emissions related to commuting to and from the studios on a yearly basis.

## **P2: Community**

**Targets:** LHC will continue to support or raise funds for at least one community & sustainability project/initiative every year.

## **P3: Physical & Mental Wellbeing**

**Targets:** From 2021 we will actively measure conditions that relate to physical and mental well-being and employee satisfaction across our studios and seek to improve our

workplace environment where possible. Actions such as vegan and vegetarian food options over meat based when catering etc.

## **P4: Education & Mentoring**

**Targets:** LHC will continue to provide work experience placements and support staff whom seek to be involved in education / teaching programmes

Training relating to sustainable design will be supported.

From 2022 LHC will pursue a mentoring programme and pair interested junior/ senior staff up to help support and coach new and existing staff members.



# Monitoring Process

The Clean Growth Strategy Plan & targets will be reviewed annually.

Monitoring of progress will be established by a review of the outcomes of each policy against the previous year and targets shall be adjusted accordingly.

A summary of the review findings will be produced for presentation and circulation to the LHC Board and wider company.

If any carbon offsetting for the previous year is required to offset our residual carbon emissions this should be agreed and processed prior to the end of the financial year.

The main headlines of the monitoring & review process will be published and made available on our website.

A number of review tasks shall take place as part of the annual review;

## Business Policies

- *Review carbon footprint analysis to monitor progress of reduction in carbon emissions and establish residual carbon offsetting amount. This will include the measurement of operational energy, business travel and commuting emissions resulting from our business activities.*
- *Review targets against current or new industry standards to ensure that policies align with up to date construction industry sustainability targets year on year*
- *Review our office energy strategy to establish best value renewable energy provider for electricity and review further potential options of integrating low energy heating systems to eliminate the use of gas.*
- *Review ways of further reducing the use of single-use plastic and consumables within day to day business operations.*

## Design Policies

- *Review our client briefing and Net-Zero Service documents to ensure they are up to date and establish the number of projects these have been deployed on.*
- *Review and agree operational and embodied carbon analysis tools and methodology to be used within projects.*
- *Review QA procedures to ensure key sustainable and environmental issues and targets are being incorporated at the proper RIBA stages.*
- *Review the specification and procurement of our projects to ensure low carbon buildings and sustainable projects can be delivered.*
- *Review post-occupancy results or carbon tracking on 5 completed projects to assess building performance to be undertaken.*
- *Undertake an annual presentation to staff members on best practice design and construction techniques required to deliver low-energy designs and to meet RIBA 2030 challenge design standards.*

## People Policies

- *Undertake an annual staff survey in Q1 to monitor staff satisfaction, well-being and travel patterns.*
- *Identify any sustainability training, courses or research areas required to be undertaken and agree personnel to undertake.*
- *Agree a community & Sustainability initiative and charities to support for the forth coming year.*
- *Trail a mentoring programme within the office which will pair interested junior / senior staff members up to help support new and existing talent.*



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