

Climate Action Plan (2026–2031)

Our Commitment

At Chalk Architects, we believe the most sustainable building is often the one that already exists.

Our work is founded on the principle that good architecture should respect people, place and the environment. Whether we are adapting historic buildings, extending family homes or creating new spaces, we seek to make thoughtful design decisions that reduce environmental impact while creating buildings that are durable, adaptable and valued for generations.

As a small practice, our direct environmental footprint is modest. However, we recognise the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C and are committed to supporting the global ambition to achieve this through the actions we can take as an architectural practice, both through our own operations and through the projects and advice we deliver for our clients.

Responsibility for implementing this plan sits with the Directors but all staff have a responsibility when it comes to climate action. Where appropriate, the practice will allocate budget for sustainability training, energy efficiency measures and other climate related actions identified through our annual review.

Our Climate Principles

1. Reuse Before Replacement

- ▶ We believe that retaining and adapting existing buildings should be considered before demolition and rebuild wherever practical.
- ▶ By extending the life of existing buildings, we can preserve embodied carbon, retain local character and reduce waste.

2. Design for Longevity

- ▶ We aim to create buildings that are robust, adaptable and capable of evolving over time. Good design should minimise the need for future replacement and encourage long-term stewardship of buildings.

3. Reduce Environmental Impact

- ▶ We seek opportunities throughout the design process to reduce operational energy demand, minimise material use and encourage responsible specification.
- ▶ Where appropriate we will:
 - Specify responsibly sourced materials
 - Encourage repair over replacement
 - Reduce unnecessary material consumption
 - Consider whole-life environmental impacts
 - Promote low-maintenance design solutions

4. Support responsible Procurement

- ▶ We recognise that our purchasing decisions also have an environmental impact.



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- ▶ Where practical we will:
 - Purchase from local suppliers where appropriate
 - Support businesses with strong environmental and social credentials
 - Reuse existing equipment before purchasing new
 - Reduce reliance on online marketplaces by considering more sustainable alternatives
 - Consider environmental performance alongside cost and quality

5. Keep Improving

- ▶ Climate action is an ongoing process rather than a fixed destination. We are committed to reviewing our performance regularly and identifying realistic opportunities for improvement.

Our Operational Footprint

As a small architectural practice, we aim to minimise the environmental impact of our day-to-day operations.

Office

Our office is leased and heated using electric Herschel infrared heaters. Our electricity is supplied through Octopus Energy.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▶ Continue to use renewable electricity where available through our energy supplier.
- ▶ Monitor energy consumption where practical.
- ▶ Continue to improve energy efficiency through responsible use of heating, lighting and equipment.

Travel

We recognise that travel is one of our most significant operational impacts.

One member of staff walks to work, while the remaining team members currently rely on private vehicles due to the location of the office and project sites.

Where practical we will:

- ▶ Continue to use video conferencing to reduce unnecessary travel.
- ▶ Combine site visits where possible.
- ▶ Encourage walking, car sharing and public transport where practical.
- ▶ Review opportunities to reduce travel emissions as vehicle technology improves.

Office Resources

We already:

- ▶ Recycle office waste and recycle printer cartridges.
- ▶ Purchase responsibly sourced Xerox paper.
- ▶ Operate with relatively low levels of physical purchasing, with most expenditure relating to digital services and IT.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▶ Continue to reduce unnecessary printing.
- ▶ Purchase recycled or responsibly sourced office products where practical.
- ▶ Extend the life of IT equipment wherever possible before replacement.



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- ▶ Recycle electronic equipment responsibly at the end of its life.

Designing Better Buildings

The greatest contribution we can make to tackling climate change comes through our projects. Where appropriate to each commission, we will:

- ▶ Encourage the reuse and adaptation of existing buildings.
- ▶ Consider retrofit before replacement.
- ▶ Promote fabric-first design principles.
- ▶ Improve building performance through thoughtful design.
- ▶ Encourage durable, repairable and adaptable construction.
- ▶ Consider the environmental impact of materials during specification.
- ▶ Seek opportunities to reduce waste during construction.
- ▶ Discuss sustainability openly with clients from the earliest design stages.

We recognise that every project is unique, and our recommendations will always balance environmental performance with heritage, budget, client aspirations and long-term value.

Working with Others – Creating more sustainable buildings relies on collaboration.

We will continue to work with clients, consultants, contractors and suppliers who share our commitment to responsible design and continuous improvement.

Through our Sustainable Procurement Policy and Supplier Questionnaire, we will encourage suppliers to demonstrate good environmental, ethical and social practices.

Our Targets (2026–2031)

Target:	Target Date:
Signing up to the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge	January 2027
Sign up to Governments' Bike2Work scheme	November 2026
Include sustainability discussions in 100% projects	January 2027
Assess all of our key suppliers via a supplier sustainability questionnaire	March 2027
Reduce unnecessary printing and ensure 100% of paper purchased is recycled	January 2027
Record annual office electricity consumption and aim to reduce by 10% from the 2026 baseline	January 2028
Have an electric company pool car	January 2029
Integrate adaptive design strategies (such as passive cooling, flood mitigation, and native landscaping) into 100% of project briefs to account for future climate risks.	January 2030



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