



# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

YOUR FRAMEWORK FOR A  
MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE





## Sustainability Policy

Sustainability is at the core of our company's ethos and operation. Buildings should not only be inherently safe but should also be constructed to stand the test of time and therefore be inherently sustainable. Buildings are responsible for almost half of the UK's carbon emissions and around a third of its landfill waste. This means that the UK's sustainable development targets cannot be met without a major change to the way in which buildings are designed, constructed and operated.

National targets for carbon emission reductions and the drive for buildings that are 'low carbon' in operation present a huge challenge to the construction industry – a challenge which the steel construction sector is playing a major part in addressing.



Our approach to working towards a more sustainable future is focused on four key areas:



## 1. PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

People are at the heart of everything we do. We consider everyone involved at every stage of the construction journey as each individual plays a vital role in our sustainable development. People are the originators, drivers, producers and end users of our products, making them an integral part of EOS values.

We are fully committed to meeting our clients' needs, developing our staff and engaging with our supply chain to ultimately make a positive impact on the wider community.



## 2. NET ZERO CARBON FUTURE

Reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency in both our own operations and the built environment is vital to helping tackle the impact of global climate change.

Operations continuously strive to lessen our impact on the environment through a reduction in our emissions that affect climate change. This involves promoting and developing design solutions that minimise energy use in operation and are climate change resilient. By controlling and influencing our direct and indirect impact through ongoing strategies, measures and changes across all of our own activities, we aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2025.



## 3. EMBRACING NATURAL RESOURCES

The global consumption of natural resources is sending us into an environmental crisis that is directly affecting our worldwide economies. Through our work, we continue to make better use of our resources by participating in ongoing research and smart thinking. Taking into consideration technology, materials and waste minimisation; our projects have a positive impact on the natural environment.

There are various actions that we take in order to create a sustainable future, these include: designing to achieve the best outcomes for recycling, reusing and reducing the amount of materials we use and controlling the amount of waste we generate while constantly looking for ways to improve our performance.



## 4. BUSINESS THAT CARES

As a prominent business within the built environment sector, we recognise that we have a key role to play in influencing the whole of our industry and the wider community - including Government and business in general - to adopt more sustainable policies, working practices and technologies. Our organisation embraces and applies best practice principles in all of our activities to meet and even exceed legislative requirements. We do this by setting clear strategies and ensuring accessible and transparent reporting structures. We continue to collaborate with external organisations to ensure that together we address the key areas of sustainability. Our aim is to help contribute as much as we can to assist in sustainable development, both within the manufacturing and construction sectors and beyond.



## Sustainable Steel Construction

Manufactured from the most abundant component on earth, steel can be recycled or reused endlessly without detriment to its properties. This unique characteristic gives steel a high value at all stages of its life cycle. The recovery infrastructure for steel recycling is highly developed and extremely efficient and has been in place for decades. Current recovery rates from demolition sites in the UK are 99% for structural steelwork and 96% for all steel construction products – figures that far exceed those of any other construction material.

Steel's material properties make it the ultimate sustainable construction material both in terms of its longevity, material properties and enhancing the safety credentials of steel-framed buildings. Its superior strength-to-weight ratio means a little steel goes a long way, giving architects complete flexibility to innovate and create new and exciting buildings. Low and zero carbon buildings and buildings with high BREEAM ratings are readily achievable using steel construction.



Making a positive contribution to the environmental credentials of our projects, EOS embrace advanced offsite methods of construction and apply design for manufacture and assembly (DfMA) protocols to value engineer every light steel frame structural system. The strength and adaptability of steel offers flexibility of use throughout a building's lifecycle and at the end of its useful life – after water, steel is the most recycled product on our planet – making it an extremely sustainable construction material.

There are many environmental advantages of using steel in construction including:

- **Greater Recycled Content** - steel is 100% recyclable and over 90% of steel is recycled at the end of its life
- **Improving Productivity** - when compared to traditional building methods, speed of construction is increased by over 30% by offsite fabrication technology
- **Reducing Vehicle Impact & Emissions** - a single delivery of light steel frame is typically sufficient for three houses – vastly reducing site transportation
- **Superior Energy Efficiency** - insulation values are easily achieved and enhanced performance can be readily increased at minimal cost
- **Lowering Carbon Emissions** - by achieving a highly airtight building envelope, the use of light steel frame reduces emissions and energy consumption throughout the lifecycle of the building

- **Enhancing Materials and Efficiency** - all EOS products are designed for manufacture and assembly to achieve the optimum performance through value engineering activity
- **Greater Adaptability** - EOS structures are extremely versatile and adaptable - offering ease of modification across the lifetime of the building
- **Reducing Waste in Construction** - offsite construction ensures minimal or even no wastage on-site – all surplus steel is factory recycled
- **Offering End-of-Life Options** - such as refurbishments, dismantling and re-use or recycling
- **Reducing Foundation Requirements** - as a lightweight yet robust solution, foundations can be reduced by up to one third reducing concrete in the ground
- **Improving Health & Safety** - according to HSE statistics, site safety is improved by a factor of five due to the offsite construction process
- **Considerate Construction** - offsite manufacture reduces site construction time – delivering clean, dust free fabrication and erection with minimal disturbance onsite – reducing the environmental impact of on-site construction activities



In the long term, embodied energy in steel is exceeded by operational energy after approximately seven years post construction. If advantage is taken of the ease in which insulation can be upgraded – this timeframe can be vastly decreased.



EOS is committed to promoting sustainability within construction.

We are developing increasingly sustainable solutions in line with ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.

For detailed up to date information, to book a CPD session or to arrange a meeting please contact:

*Front cover image courtesy of Nicholas Hare Architects*

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