

## Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment Case Study – Space Architects

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### **Space Architects**

Space Architects is a long-established architectural practice in the North-East of England, working on projects across the UK and Europe. The practice works across multiple sectors including education, culture, retail and residential and specialise in three main areas: creative reuse, circular decarbonisation, design optimisation. [www.spacearchitects.co.uk](http://www.spacearchitects.co.uk)

### ***Why did you sign up to the Code and what benefits did it bring?***

Space Architects is keen to raise the profile of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by the construction sector. As architects, the organisation has a significant part to play in the immediate need for action to achieve the targets set in the Paris Agreement.

By signing up, the hope is to increase awareness and build momentum encouraging others to make similar commitments. The organisation is also keen to share best practices and learn from others. Space Architects has set the target of being a carbon-neutral business by 2023 and achieving net zero by 2030 using Science Based Targets <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/>.

The practice is on track to be carbon neutral and is working with [Forest Carbon](#) on appropriate offset projects which will include social value. Space Architects recognises that being carbon neutral is a significant challenge and has already started working with its supply chain to reduce scope three emissions and is also looking at on-site renewable energy generation.

### ***What challenges did you face in signing up to the Code? How did you address/overcome them?***

The company faces no specific challenges in signing up to the Code, beyond achieving its own existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. However, the team acknowledges the difficulties in achieving true net zero by 2030 – there are currently few carbon removal technologies and working with third-party organisations to make the necessary commitments will be challenging. Another factor to consider is that clients may not share the same priorities which could significantly restrict influencing the embodied and operational aspects of the buildings designed.

### ***What are a few key areas in your organisation where you are actively pursuing continuous improvement in carbon reduction?***

- We will increase the proportion of renewable energy consumed in their offices and vehicles.
- We will review our purchasing practices to reduce consumption and waste.

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- We will develop collaborative relationships with our clients to deliver sustainable buildings and invest in partnerships that enable innovation and amplify our contribution.
  - We will invest in learning and research to increase continually our people's knowledge and skills to deliver sustainable buildings.
  - We will integrate sustainable design in our projects by applying our Group policies and management systems, certified to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001.
  - We will communicate progress to our clients and stakeholders.

***How do you see the Code evolving to enable industry transformation?***

For the Code to have greater impact, it needs a more significant profile. Companies across the sector need to promote their involvement so that others can make similar commitments. Furthermore, clients should also be encouraged to share their commitment to highlighting the importance of carbon reduction within their organisations.

For more information please contact [carboncode-enquiries@eng.cam.ac.uk](mailto:carboncode-enquiries@eng.cam.ac.uk).