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Sustainability is one of the core elements of Gardner & Co.'s overall business strategy, delivering benefits equally for both our clients and our people alike. Our aim is to improve the impact on the environment and on society where ever we can. We are now certified as Net Zero Carbon by Achilles carbon reduce programme and are certified to ISO 14001: 2015

The issue of sustainability is one of growing concern for the construction industry. The construction industry contributes approximately three times the amount of waste than all of the households put together, and buildings account for nearly half of all our energy use.

Both clients and delivery teams need a better understanding how we design, deliver and use buildings we can mitigate the impact that we have on the lives of future generations, by considering not only financial considerations, but also social and environmental impacts.

Our work has a significant impact on the quality of people's lives, not only here and now, but in the future. By acknowledging this responsibility, we can hopefully measure up to both our client's expectations and those of future generations.

Social and corporate responsibilities are far reaching and encompass everything we produce as a business, what we buy and, effectively sell, how our business effects the environment and, how it must respect the rights of people and how it strives to put something into the community.

We are committed to improving the quality of life for our employees and their families, working hard to provide and maintain the right 'work life balance' for them. We provide equal opportunities for all offering and providing a wide range of academic and vocation training at all levels.

The real worth of sustainable solutions are not just seen as commercial and immediate but rather as long term investments for the future. With this at the forefront of our business outlook and approach we are firmly focused on tackling a wide range of problems such as pollution and our carbon footprint, energy usage and effective waste management in ways that deliver real tangible 'best value' to our clients and treat the environment we live and work in with the respects it rightly deserves.

Sustainable Construction

The aim of sustainability is to improve the resource efficiency, overall effectiveness and social responsibility of the country's businesses, which are involved in creating our built environment. Through this we can all have a better quality of life and ensure that sufficient resources remain for future generations.

Sustainable Construction should not be seen as something that is exclusive to expensive projects, as it has the potential to be applied to any project. If even small aspects of a project are switched to more sustainable materials or design this should be seen as a step forward.

We have invested heavily in machinery such as Pasma and wizard machines at our factory which minimize wastage in the cutting of sheet metal for our ductwork sections and spiral pipe.

We look to embrace a sustainable construction approach encompassing current and contemporary legislation and guidelines including:

- The Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004
- The Code for Sustainable Buildings
- UK Sustainable Construction Strategy

Key elements for consideration we review include:

- Material selection
- Procurement chain
- Water & waste water management

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- Heating
- Environmental legislation & policy
- Ventilation & cooling strategies
- Renewable energy
- The construction process & site issues
- Low impact construction
- Cost considerations
- Urban ecology

Ecological Materials & Technologies

We fully understand, appreciate and actively embrace the use of ‘green’ materials and technologies in building construction.

Ventilation systems, energy efficient heating systems, thermally efficient insulation materials are just a number of examples we have experience of.

We work closely with the design team to evaluate and incorporate all such materials and technologies wherever possible and practical in an effort to conserve and protect the environment striving to achieve recognised goals such as a low ‘carbon footprint’ and beyond.

Local Labour

Gardner’s support the use of local labour wherever feasible, and the training of people for the construction industry. It improves the local community, addresses the skills shortages within the industry and most importantly, gives people assistance in finding meaningful employment.

Local Training Initiatives

Gardner’s seek to provide the opportunity of practical training to people wishing to pursue a career in construction and has implemented and training policy with embraces a variety of construction training initiatives including onsite training for locally sourced labour, work placement for trainees, and in-house management training.

Effective Protection of the Environment

During Construction

Gardner’s are committed to protecting the environment in its entire construction works. For example, noise from construction operations and all other sources is to be kept to a minimum at all times and consideration is given in selection and use of local resources wherever possible.

Particular attention is paid to waste management, the avoidance of pollution, the recycling of surplus materials, the avoidance of noise, and the protection of trees and vegetation.

The working site is kept clean and in good order at all times with temporary safety barriers, light and warning signs maintained in a clean and safe condition. Surplus materials are not allowed to accumulate on the site or spill over onto the surrounding environment and dust from construction operations shall be kept to a minimum.

By Design Awareness

It is an integral part of our involvement in any project to actively investigate sustainable construction opportunities on each project.

As sustainability and the ecological impact of construction and usage of buildings has become of greater concern, Gardner’s have taken on board and embraced not only the principles of sustainable and energy efficient construction.

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We have, and are currently implementing and constructing schemes that incorporate the following areas of environmentally sound construction principles.

- Sustainable/managed forest timber,
- Supply Insulation using CFC free insulation.
- Recycling bins with segregated waste within each project.

Many of the above options do carry a cost premium, and in this regard, the Client dictates as to whether the options provided are actually incorporated into the constructed scheme.

Waste Management

In certain instances where the segregation of skips is not possible i.e. in city Centre redevelopments here the site cannot accommodate a number of separate skips we have adopted the following:

We seek to recycle via our supply chain as our major preferred skip supplier actually segregate skip content at their works.

We have therefore considered and implemented waste reduction into our installation from the start, which is a best practice principle in all circumstances by for example, ordering the correct material quantities and by producing a correct cutting plan.

Within our own organisation we constantly revisit our waste management strategies via best practice route, within the constant aim of reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and for the future in general.

Prudent Use of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection forms an integral part of planning and procurement methods in undertaking construction projects.

On a continual basis we endeavour to minimise the environmental damage of our works be that the selection of working methods and materials that assess the use of natural resources and the potential environmental impact.

We endeavour only to use environmentally friendly building and finishing materials and to ensure that any timber products are procured from sustainable forests.

Maintenance of Economic Growth and Employment

Gardner's are committed to the principles of Best Value, the benefits of which contribute to the growth of the economy and thus increase opportunities within the construction industry.

The economic benefits include:

- More predictable workload and profit levels.
- Repeat business opportunities.
- Cost Savings.
- Improved predictability and cost certainty.
- Phased, overlapped programmes within strategic agreements.

Gardner & Co recognises the importance of, and is committed to, inward investment and the promotion of a career in the construction industry either at trade or professional level.

We support the use of local labour and training of an experienced workforce for the construction industry.

Gardner & Co take a pivotal role in providing employment opportunities both during training and providing permanent employment thereafter, either directly or through our approved register of specialist labour sub-contractors.

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Gardner & Co are committed to continual improvement.



Richard J Legge
Managing Director
1st Dec 2023

Sustainable Steel

Key environmental messages for steel & metal packaging

Autumn 07

Metal messages

Metal is one of the easiest and cheapest materials to recover.

Metal recycling offsets primary production processes and their associated environmental impacts and energy consumption.

Metal recycling has environmental, economic and social value.

The recycled metal market is well established.

Metal is a renewable material which is too precious to waste.¹

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Steel specific messages

Recyclability

Steel recycling is a closed loop process - steel can be recycled over and over again without loss of quality or properties.

Steel is one of the world's most recycled materials.

Steel is 100% recyclable, which is reflected in its high recycling rates.

Steel recycling has grown in parallel with increased steel consumption.

All end-of-life steel products can be recycled into new steel products.

The recycling rate of steel packaging is very high: in 2006, it was 66% in the EU.

Steel's magnetic qualities enable recycling opportunities not available to other materials.

Recycled Content

Steel production routes use steel scrap as a secondary raw material, substituting primary raw material i.e. iron ore, and saving energy.

All 'new' steel products contain recycled steel.

In 2005, the average recycled content of steel in the EU was 54%. (The average recycled content of steel is defined as the annual tonnage of steel scrap consumed divided by the tonnage of steel produced).

Environmental

Although the food and beverage can market has grown by 57% during the last two decades, the European metal packaging industry's net energy consumption has gone down by almost the same percentage.

Today, the European metal packaging industry uses less metal than 20 years ago. A good example of this is the soft drinks can – nowadays the average weight of a soft drinks can is only 21.4g. In 1980, it was 31.2g.

The European metal packaging industry has managed to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 50% in the last twenty years.²

Recycling one tonne of steel cans saves 1.5 tonnes of iron ore, 0.5 tonnes of coal and 40% water usage.

Recycling one tonne of steel scrap saves 80% of the CO₂ emissions produced when making steel from iron ore.

Notes

1. Source: MPMA (Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association)
2. Source: Empac (European Metal Packaging)