

Sustainability by Design



The market and delivering best practice in sustainability to our customers

Sustainability means maintaining the Earth’s limited resources and environmental systems while creating and sustaining quality of life for everyone, everywhere, now and in the future. In other words, we need to use resources in a responsible and efficient way to create resilient infrastructure, financial stability and strong communities both globally and locally, and for generations to come.

Sustainability is the overarching aim that drives all that we do in Grontmij: the essence of our business is to participate in creating sustainable living and working environments. Our ambition is to lead the industry in developing sustainable practices, for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

Sustainability is practiced within Grontmij by behaving responsibly in:

- **our marketplace** – in the delivery of best practice in sustainability to our customers;
- **our environment** – in our work to respond to climate change;
- **our society** – in our role as good citizens and neighbours;
- **our partnerships** – in ensuring integrity in business and in our supply chain;
- **our workplace** – in the ethical employment and the safety and wellbeing of our staff.

Grontmij’s most tangible way of contributing to a sustainable society is by addressing sustainability aspects in the projects that we deliver. Among the aspects that we consider in our designs and services, are the following key areas:

- embodied carbon and efficiency in energy use;
- materials use and efficient waste management;
- impacts on the local and wider environment;
- the effects of climate change;
- the overall lifetime cost of a project;
- improving the resilience of infrastructure, systems and the built environment.

Ultimately, working for sustainability is “the right thing to do”, and necessary in order to help societies adapt to a changing global environment. It is also expected of us by our shareholders and required by our clients, who rely on our services to improve their performance in relation to sustainability. By delivering sustainability by design, we expect to meet and exceed these expectations. In living up to these principles in our project delivery and project management, we will enhance our current high reputation in the marketplace, which is fundamental for our continued success in winning work and maintaining our talents and expertise.

The purpose of these guiding principles is both to ensure we place sustainability at the top of our design agenda and to embed behaviours in us all that capture current good practice and innovation. In many cases, sustainability by design is what we already do in our current work and in response to our client expectations. However, we need to do more and go further in order to demonstrate to our clients that we are leading our industries in sustainability.

Guiding Principles



Reduce costs by planning and designing the use of resources efficiently with a whole-life perspective. This means:

- reduce and minimise embodied and operational energy and maximise opportunities for sustainable energy management
- minimise the use and maximise the reuse and recycling of resources and materials
- reduce and minimise waste and manage actual wastes efficiently
- minimise transport of goods and people

Outcome – reduced whole life costs of a development or project



Manage risk by minimising both short and long term impacts to people and the environment. This means:

- reduce and minimise emissions to air, land and water (including noise and vibration)
- protect and enhance biodiversity
- maximise opportunities for sustainable water management
- take account of long term climate change impacts
- programme works to minimise disturbance to residents and site neighbours

Outcome – increased resilience of the built and natural environment



Do more than expected by going beyond compliance with legislation and codes whilst recognising financial constraints. This means:

- recognise opportunities to go beyond current codes
- be aware of future standards, regulations and emerging good practice and apply where practicable
- find opportunities to innovate
- use our expertise to improve internal company guidance and new standards and codes through professional bodies

Outcome – increased innovation and more progressive ways of working



Take a leadership role by finding opportunities throughout a project life-cycle for embedding sustainability aspects to our design and consultancy services.

This means:

- add sustainable options early and appropriately in design processes and project cycles
- seek advice on previous good practice
- educate your peers and clients, especially to the constraints and obstacles in delivering sustainability
- recognise good practice and innovation, share it widely and encourage others to follow your example

Outcome – increased reputation of Grontmij as consultants of choice



Engage with others to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to sustainability.

This means:

- look for more sustainable solutions from other areas of expertise
- ensure that conflicting sustainability aspects are recognised, assessed and prioritised
- engage in networks with peers from other disciplines and offices
- engage with professional bodies as sources of inspiration

Outcome – increased awareness of sustainability