This Declaration of Sustainability is a guideline developed within the "Phase Sustainability" initiative. Its aim is to enable different stakeholders to define sustainability goals during the early stages of projects in keeping with the concept of holistic planning. As a practical tool, this also makes it easier for all parties involved in the building process to gradually delve into the essentials of sustainability. By systematically guiding building owners and project clients through sustainability issues, it ensures focus is maintained on shared objectives.

This sustainability declaration cannot (and indeed should not) replace contractual arrangements. Instead, its aim is to offer input on the key sustainability goals that should be kept in mind in the planning process. These suggestions can thus be incorporated into considerations when drafting and planning contracts.

The Phase Sustainability initiative was launched by the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) in collaboration with the Federal Chamber of Architects (BAK). Its declared aim is to bring about a transformation in planning practice until sustainable building becomes the new normal! Architects specialised in all kinds of disciplines – as well as expert planners involved in any other related areas – are called upon to join forces and help foster this transformation together.

Why was this initiative started? Because we cannot afford to waste any more time when it comes to sustainable building, even though this is a highly complex issue. Because there are plenty of climate manifestos and non-binding lists of signatures – but in the building sector, nobody can solve this issue alone. Because we can all learn sustainable building step by step. Because with sustainability, we need to work together in acquiring, building and sharing know-how, experience and expertise. Because this requires strong people who are willing to take the initiative, form partnerships and provide support – plus many, many more committed people who want to join us on this journey.

Not joined us yet?

Become part of our network of like-minded people: www.phase-nachhaltigkeit.jetzt

DECLARATION OF SUSTAINABILITY

ARCHITECTURE



and the Federal Chamber of Architects (BAK)

Client	Important Very important	the importance of each sustainability goal
Date NEXT STEPS	* * *	
NEXT STEPS		
n initiative of: With the support of:		



vation, avoid demolition,

consider the context of

building projects

future-ready architecture

climate and culture; observe

regional building customs



Sufficiency					
Appropriateness	Simple construction	Low-tech	Resource conservation		
Ensure spaces, areas and materials are used appropriately	Clear concepts aimed at minimising material use	Prioritise low-tech over high-tech in keeping with the local climate	Prioritise resource protection and conservation when selecting materials		
Climate protection & climate change mitigation					
Carbon sinks	Buildings that generate energy	Grey emissions	Regional sourcing		
Plan to use materials that capture carbon and preserve carbon sinks	Integrate solutions that allow buildings to generate carbon-neutral energy	Avoid carbon emissions at all stages of the building life cycle	Make good use of locally sourced materials		
Environment					
Biodiversity	Resource extraction	Microclimate/macroclimate	Water resources		
Safeguard and promote biodiversity on site and in the supply chain	Use renewable building materials and high-quality products	Optimise surfaces by using appropriate materials and plants (greening) to exert a positive impact	Make conscious use of grey water, rainwater and local water supplies		
Circular design					
Durability	Deconstruction	Unmixed materials	Material resilience		
Plan buildings to be resilient, durable in operation and suit- able for future maintenance	Plan buildings to be suitable for conversion and decons- truction; use a building resource passport	Simplify deconstruction by avoiding mixed materials and ensuring materials can be separated	Ensure buildings are constru ted to be resilient and suitab for further development		
People focus					
Plan with people in mind	Inspiration and identity	Quality within urban areas	Project involvement		
Use non-polluting materials, sound insulation, natural light with building users in mind	Involve different stakeholders in the planning of private and public spaces	Support variety through adaptation to social and functional needs	Involve different stakeholder through digital planning (BIN and analogue collaboration		
Baukultur					
Existing buildings	Design quality	Local building culture			
Support huilding conser-	Create timeless and	Plan according to the local			