

DECLARATION OF SUSTAINABILITY

STRUCTURAL PLANNING

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?

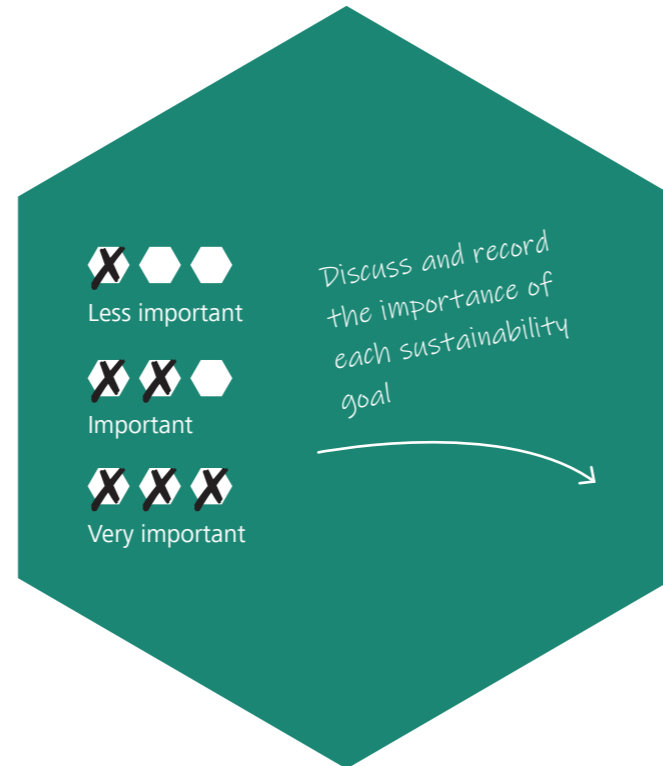
Become part of our network of like-minded people:
www.phase-nachhaltigkeit.jetzt

Project _____

Structural planning firm _____

Client _____

Place _____ Date _____



NEXT STEPS

A large grid of dotted lines for writing next steps.

An initiative of:



With the support of:

OUR ENVISAGED SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Sufficiency

Simple construction ○○○	Resource conservation ○○○	Further use ○○○	Anticipating the future ○○○
Design clear structural elements aimed at minimising material use	Prioritise resource protection and the reduction of building materials	Plan ways to continue using and reusing spaces efficiently	Plan with future requirements in mind

Climate protection & climate change mitigation

Buildings that generate energy ○○○	Carbon sinks ○○○	Grey emissions ○○○	Regional sourcing ○○○
Integrate solutions that enable buildings to generate carbon-neutral energy	Plan to use materials that capture carbon and preserve carbon sinks	Avoid carbon emissions at all stages of the building life cycle	Make good use of locally sourced materials; consider short transportation routes

Environment

Biodiversity ○○○	Resource extraction ○○○	Microclimate/macrocclimate ○○○	Water resources ○○○
Safeguard and promote biodiversity both on site and in the supply chain	Use renewable building materials and high-quality products	Optimise surface materials and plantlife to exert a positive impact	Make conscious use of grey water, rainwater and local water supplies

Circular design

Durability ○○○	Deconstruction ○○○	Single-origin/unmixed materials ○○○	Reused materials ○○○
Plan buildings to be resilient; ensure buildings are adaptable and future-ready	Simple maintenance; plan buildings to be suitable for conversion and deconstruction	Simplify deconstruction by avoiding mixed materials and ensuring materials can be separated	Reuse and repurpose existing buildings, materials and fittings

People focus

Promote acceptance ○○○	Decision transparency ○○○	Plan with people in mind ○○○	Project involvement ○○○
Enable participation, involve stakeholders and knowledgeable parties at an early stage	Be open about processes and decision-making criteria	Select non-toxic materials and construction methods according to the needs of users	Involve different specialists through digital planning (BIM) and analogue collaboration

Baukultur

Existing buildings ○○○	Design quality ○○○	Local building culture ○○○
Support building conservation, avoid demolition, consider the context of building projects	Create timeless and future-ready buildings	Plan according to the local climate and culture; observe regional building customs