

## PURPOSE

The policy aims to define the direction for Christensen & Co Architects' strategic work with environmental sustainability. We understand that our profession involves resource consumption, and therefore, with this policy, we aim to take responsibility for our practices. At Christensen & Co, we believe that architects with opinions and passion can make a positive difference. With this climate policy, we set ambitions and concrete activities on how we will act to minimize CO2 emissions and reduce resource consumption in our projects, while also strengthening green initiatives, regenerative practices, and having a focus on biodiversity.

This policy directs our work towards 2030, with two important milestones for activities in 2023: the introduction of new CO2 requirements for construction and the international architecture conference UIA with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals as its focal point, taking place in Copenhagen. In connection with this policy, we will establish working groups and develop plans of action on an annual basis. We work in two ways: our architectural practice and our business practice.

We believe that policies should foster conversation rather than close it. With this policy, we aim to open a dialogue about the relationship between culture and nature and share knowledge on how architecture can contribute to a new successful environmental building culture.

We always ask critical questions

do we??

## DEFINITION

Our approach to sustainability is based on the definition of sustainable development provided by the Brundtland Report:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of this generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Christensen & Co Architects was founded with the ambition to advance sustainable solutions in architecture, and we work every day to create exciting and inclusive physical spaces where sustainability and aesthetics are closely intertwined. To ensure that this focus is integrated into all our projects, we base our design process on the following three fundamental principles:

### Culture

The human context, local roots, demographic conditions, and the existing building culture are all part of our design. In our process, we start with the users' values and the identity-building communities that our buildings should be a part of and provide a framework for.

### Ressources

The physical conditions of the site, the processes involved, the materials (both existing and new), and the economics integrated into the project are all elements we work with to minimize the environmental resource demand.

### Function

For our buildings to function effectively and create value over time, our architecture must respond to the specific functional requirements of each project. We always assess how user needs and functional requirements can be incorporated into flexible solutions, as this future-proofs the building to accommodate shifts in needs or changes of user groups. To qualify our solutions, we start with users' own knowledge about their needs.

# climate policy

## AMBITIONS FOR A NEW CLIMATE-FRIENDLY BUILDING CULTURE

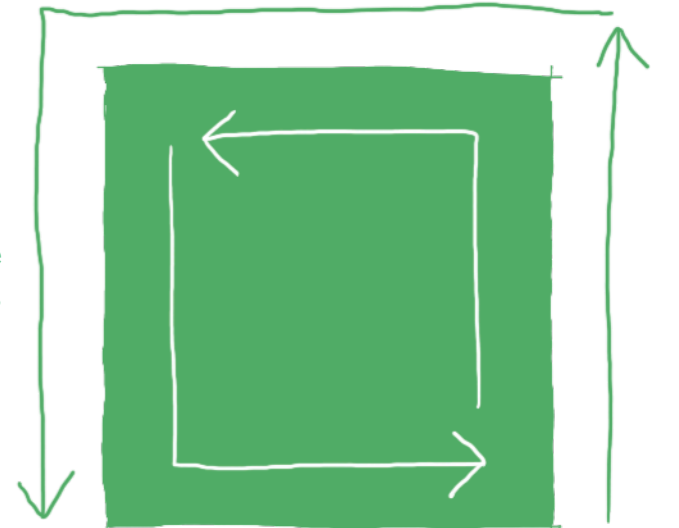
### Simple buildings for empowered individuals

We believe that as a society, we should have buildings where people can and will influence their surroundings. This means that people should be able to open a window, choose the lighting, or adjust the temperature without being controlled by complex technical systems and smart algorithms. Buildings should be able to grow, adapt and transform, after we have handed them over to the users.



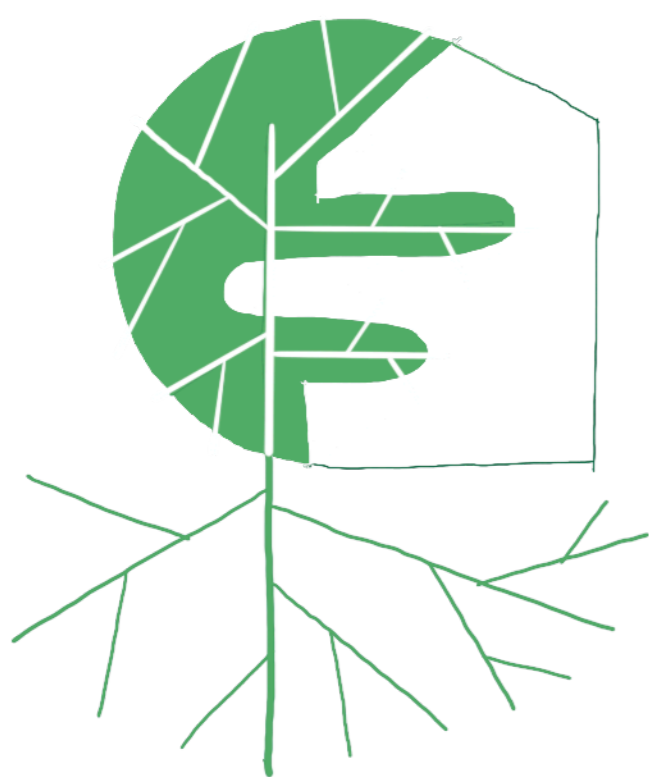
### Buildings are material repositories

We will work with circular principles and document the reduction, reuse, and recycling of non-renewable resources in both construction and operation. Therefore, we consider the possibility of reuse and recycling early in projects to preserve the value of materials for as long as possible. We explore opportunities for direct reuse related to a project site, the forwarding of dismantled materials, and are working on design solutions that can be disassembled and integrated into new material streams over time. We strive to maintain the value of materials at the highest possible level for the longest possible time and choose materials with a low carbon footprint, without unwanted chemicals.



### Balance and symbiosis between nature and culture

We are actively working to minimize the negative resource demands of our buildings and reduce CO2 emissions. At the same time, we aim to increase the positive impact of our buildings by creating and nurturing the potential in green environments which compensates for the CO2 emissions from the construction process and support local biodiversity. We balance our efforts for environmental sustainability by focusing on social sustainability because we know that our buildings will endure longer if people appreciate the physical spaces and if they serve more than one user group.



### Sustainability should be experienced

With this policy, we aim to take responsibility for the resources we consume and foster awareness among our users regarding sustainability and resource usage. This also means committing to creating exciting and experiential buildings where sustainable initiatives form the foundation of a new environmentally friendly culture. Through our architecture, we can reposition people and promote an increased awareness of the relationship between the built environment, consumption, and behavior. 75% of our projects are educational buildings, and as such, we see a unique role in designing architecture where future generations can learn about a sustainable lifestyle through the physical spaces provided.



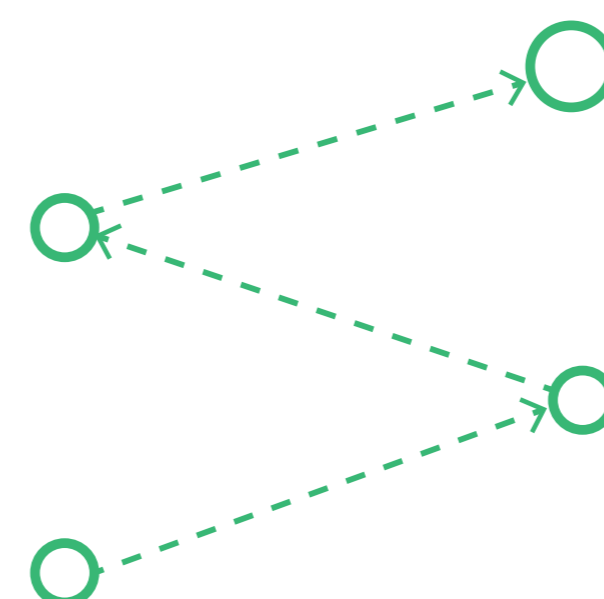
CO2 LCA  
SDG DGNB

## Activities at the design studio to meet the policy's ambitions

### We assess initiative effectiveness

We evaluate the users' experience of our buildings. We do this both in terms of whether project-specific qualities are functioning and in terms of how users perceive sustainability initiatives. We believe that these studies provide us with new knowledge and an increased awareness of our own practices. It opens for a deeper understanding of the culture in which our buildings foster. It also serves as a basis for adapting projects to user needs over time, thereby extending the lifespan of the buildings.

We evaluate our corporate behavior and, among other things, annually assess the total CO2 emissions related to our activities. This is included in our CSR report.



### Continuing education and tools

We work with industry-specific tools to optimize our designs to minimize CO2 emissions from our projects. LCA-build is the foundation of our work, but in addition, we also work with LCC (Life Cycle Cost analysis), daylight optimization, material reduction, and circular economy principles. We organize joint continuing education sessions that contribute to our colleagues' knowledge and experience in working with CO2 reduction and regenerative practices.

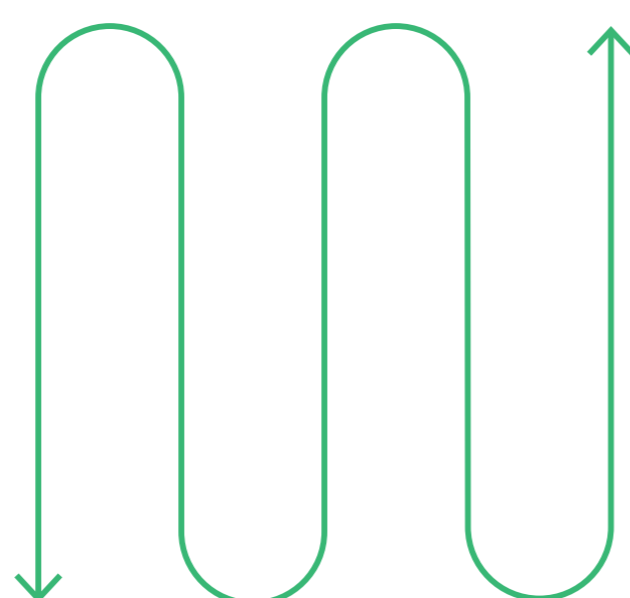
In our operations, we develop a comprehensive CSR action plan every three years. The studio has a continuing education plan that is linked to our employee development conversations, and based on this, we jointly identify relevant tools and training programs that can strengthen our work on climate and the environment.



### Knowledge sharing

We understand that minimizing our CO2 consumption and transitioning construction towards a more circular practice requires knowledge. We believe that we can contribute to developing this knowledge by sharing data and experiences both internally and externally. We engage in collaborations with actors in the construction industry, universities, and foundations to advance our understanding of how construction affects the climate and the environment. For transparency regarding our solutions, we make our LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) calculations publicly available on our website.

In our operations, we compile annual climate accounts, and these are accessible on our website and in our CSR report, which is uploaded to the UN Global Compact once a year.



### Goals and transparency

Based on the assumptions of each project, we establish CO2 goals. Early in our projects, we assess relevant scenarios for LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) evaluations and qualify design solutions with these. The assessments rely on LCA calculations of our existing buildings, scientific knowledge, and industry standards for various building components. In each project, we advise our clients on how to work systematically on CO2 savings within the project's parameters. The industry needs to make a big effort to reduce CO2. Therefore, it is important for us to engage in dialogue with each client and not just select flagship sustainability projects.

We set goals for our own operations, and these are publicly available in our CSR report. As a studio, we consider the carbon footprint in both material procurement and disposal, as well as the potential for reuse or recycling.

