

How Can We Make Construction More Sustainable?

One of the most significant trends in construction is the move towards solutions that work with nature, rather than against it. Nature-based construction comes in several forms, but it only makes complete sense if the construction process uses materials that are more in harmony with the environment.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS TO BUILD MORE SUSTAINABLY.

1 Re-use existing assets.

The decision to build in the first place should be scrutinised. Refurbishment may be a better option. In any event, the preferred option should be brownfield development and this is encouraged wherever possible.

2 Design for minimum waste.

The potential for waste can often be reduced at an early stage. This needs clear and accurate specification, which is often overlooked, as well as a design concept to maximise re-use and recycling of materials. Designers are often best placed to be aware of new ideas.

3 Lean construction.

The targets of supply chain integration; site management, best value, improved communications and user focus can all be achieved in a sustainable way.

4 Minimise energy use.

This should include energy in materials manufacture as well as considering one of the largest uses of energy – transport.



5 Energy in use.

Heating and cooling of buildings has one of the greatest impacts. Buildings consume huge amounts of energy during their lifespan. Relatively simple considerations such as position or orientation of buildings on a site can generate significant benefits.

The use of design solutions such as passive heating, natural light, air movement and thermal mass can contribute greatly, as can the use of energy from renewable sources such as solar or wind power. Innovaré's designers will be part of any project from the outset, maximising benefits while tailoring for minimal carbon production.

6 Pollution.

The four major sources of pollution from the construction industry; waste materials, emissions from vehicles, noise and releases to water, ground and the atmosphere, are all well known, but often not enough is done to combat them.



7 Biodiversity.

Look for opportunities throughout the construction process – from the extraction of raw materials, through the construction phase, to the use of buildings and their landscaping – to provide, protect and enhance natural habitats. As with many of the other issues, this is also best addressed at design stage.



INNOVARÉ HAS A PROUD RECORD OF USING NATURE-BASED METHODS AND MATERIALS.

For more information on our Offsite Solutions and how we could help your project please contact us on **0845 674 0020** or email **enquiries@innovaresystems.co.uk**

