

Sustainability

Action

Plan

S|BL|NG

FEBRUARY 2025

Review, Extend
Amplify, Regenerate

Sibling Architecture acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

REVIEW is our first SAP and its publication marks our commitment to improve. Its intention is to clearly articulate how Sibling will begin to adapt the way we practice to better align our work and business operations with Architects Declare principles and a changing world.

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This

Sustainability

Action Plan

(SAP) is a document to outline the aspirations and actions that Sibling Architecture will take in addressing our impact on the environment.



Jessie French of Other Matter in her workshop at BETA, Southbank by Sibling, 2022



Other Matter workshop at BETA, Southbank by Sibling, 2022

(SAP) is a document to outline the aspirations and actions that Sibling Architecture will take in addressing our impact on the environment. The purpose of this document is to provide an overarching framework that sets out goals and targets. This will be a document that we can refer to, in order to keep our goals front of mind. This document will be reviewed regularly to hold ourselves accountable.

By setting clear objectives we aim to improve our own performance in both our internal operations and built work.

Sibling is an architecture practice that cares about making people's lives better. We do this by creating environments, experiences and strategies that respond to social needs and desires, making everyday life easier, more engaging, and more fun.

The Sibling team is split between our two offices in Melbourne and Sydney. Our interest in sustainability and doing better for the environment connects to and is reflected in all of our core values. As a practice we want to expand our own knowledge and work with like minded collaborators and clients who share a desire to do better.

Sibling Sustainability Values

Positive places¹
Beyond buildings²
Joyful and inquisitive³



Wangaratta District Specialist School, VIC 2023

1. Ecologically sustainable, socially engaged and culturally diverse
2. Engaging with ideas of architecture beyond the built form
3. Designing spaces that are fun to be in and make people happy

Sibling's Definition of Sustainability



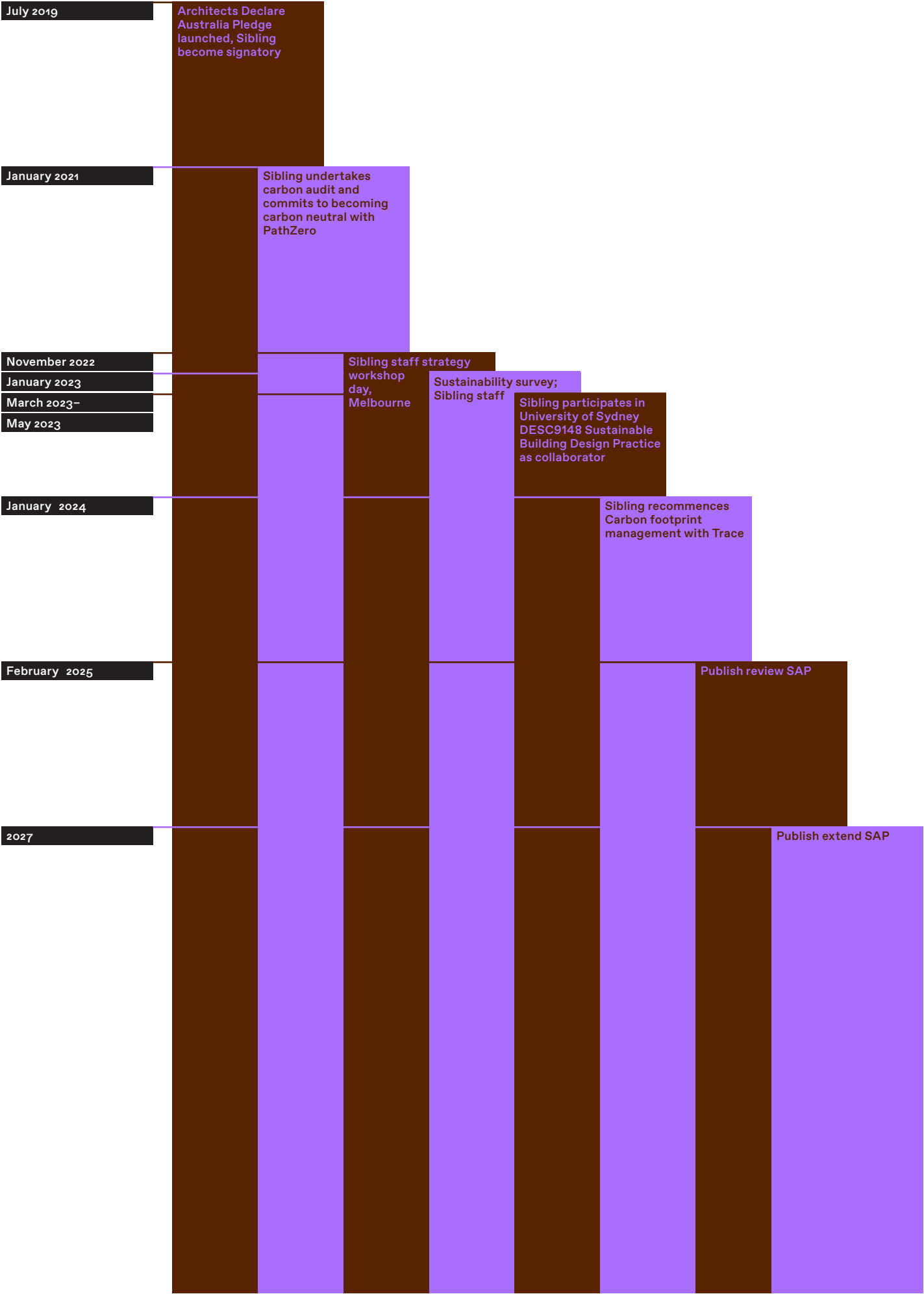
South East Centre For Contemporary Art (SECCA), NSW, 2023

Sustainability at Sibling is driven by an acknowledgment that the practice of architecture and the construction sector more broadly is responsible for a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions.

We have a desire to reduce the negative impacts that our profession has on the planet and practice architecture in a way that creatively contributes to the tactics, and methods architects can apply to produce healthier, and ecologically positive projects.

Sibling would like to approach sustainability as an ethos and practice that runs through all facets of the business. This should extend from our internal operations through to the design and implementation of architectural projects.

We want to embrace a fundamentally curious attitude towards sustainability that prioritises human experience along with actual carbon costs. Critical to this is ensuring the buildings and spaces we design are worth keeping, and designed for flexible and adaptable use.



Architects Declare Principles

Below are the guiding principles of the Architects Declare Movement; these form the basis for our own aspirations and specific goals set out by Sibling.

1. Raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action amongst our clients and supply chains.
2. Advocate for faster change in our industry towards regenerative design* practices and a higher Governmental funding priority to support this.
3. Establish climate and biodiversity mitigation principles as the key measure of our Industry's.
4. Success: Demonstrated through awards, prizes and listings.
5. Share knowledge and research to that end on an open source basis.
6. Evaluate all new projects against the aspiration to contribute positively to mitigating climate breakdown, and encourage our clients to adopt this approach.
7. Upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a more carbon efficient alternative to demolition and new build whenever there is a viable choice.
8. Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modeling and post occupancy evaluation as part of our scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use.
9. Adopt regenerative design principles* in our studios, with the aim of designing architecture and urbanism that goes beyond the standard of net zero carbon.
10. Collaborate with engineers, contractors and clients to further reduce construction waste.
11. Accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials in all our work.
12. Minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning, both in quantum and in detail.

Sibling Practice Goals

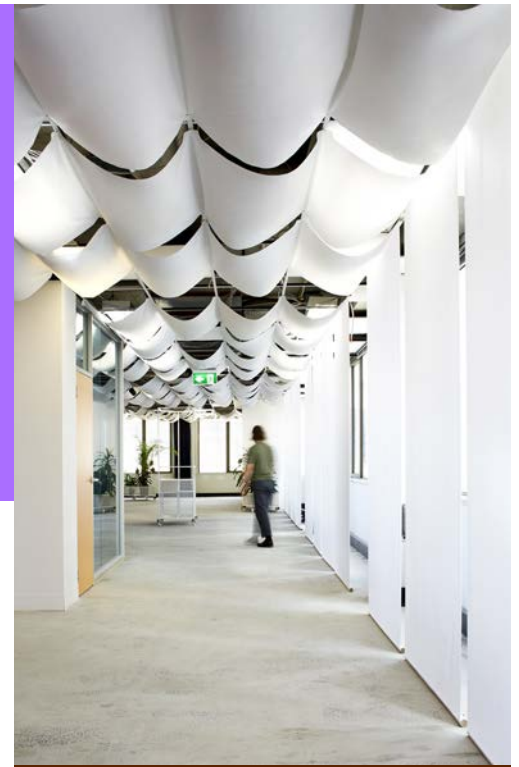
Below are our goals to improve as a team and company in how we operate across our Melbourne and Sydney offices, in our communities and our industry.

● HOLISTIC GOALS

- Weave actions of sustainability into all facets of the business and team.
- Foster a collaborative working environment where all members of the team feel supported to suggest and enact change.
- Build a culture of curiosity and knowledge sharing around sustainability, where all members of the team are active participants.
- Maintain an office space that adopts passive design principles including cross-ventilation and natural light to minimise the use of mechanical heating and cooling.
- Maintain office locations that are centrally located and close to public transport to ensure staff are encouraged to ride, walk or catch public transport to work.
- Become industry leaders in sustainability through continuous participation in forums and discussion beyond our own practice & projects.

● SHORT-TERM TARGETS (12 months from now)

- Publish this first repair SAP to our website and social media to ensure accountability.
- Enact new metrics and information collection to feed into our carbon certification to improve accuracy and foster improvement.
- Plan a discussion series where Sibling create a platform as hosts for friends & industry to share their knowledge, research and ideas on unique approaches to regenerative design.
- Work with material suppliers to ensure retrieval and recycling of material samples no longer needed.
- Improve our staff manual and induction process.
- Sibling team member participates in AIA (Australian Institute of Architects) Sustainability forum & reports to team on lessons learned.
- Sibling team member participates in ACAN (Architects Climate Action Network) Australia & reports to team on lessons learned.



BETA, Southbank by Sibling, 2022

● MEDIUM-TERM TARGETS (18-24 months from now)

- Publish EXTEND SAP
- Revise decarbonisation plan based on achieving neutrality with an overall reduction of carbon offsets.
- Determine actions to move the office from carbon neutral to climate positive.
- Transition to only accepting digital information/ brochures from material suppliers.
- Sibling Sustainability working group to establish monthly knowledge-sharing & training for wider team with a dedicated budget for up-skilling.
- Integrate the team goals in reviews & professional planning.

● LONG-TERM TARGETS (3+ years from now)

- Publish AMPLIFY SAP.
- Sibling to be well-versed in sustainability and a leader in the architecture community for projects and advocacy.
- Sibling Architecture to become a certified B Corp.
- Sibling team member to become PassivHaus certified.

Sibling Project Goals

Below are actions we want to take to better the way we work on projects, from procurement through design, documentation, delivery and post-occupancy.

● HOLISTIC GOALS

- Before accepting a commission, consider if the client and project vision and expectations are aligned with Sibling and our sustainable and regenerative goals as a practice.
- Encourage adaptive reuse over new buildings.
- Conduct thorough audit of existing conditions to identify any opportunities for reuse or recycling of materials and parts.
- Design architecture that embraces the historic and developed ecologies, beyond the human, of the sites they occupy.
- Clearly identify opportunities within a project early on, and make a base line of non-negotiable outcomes.
- Celebrate Sibling successes to reach this milestone while being conscious to define a clear path to holistic action across the business and projects, refining an integrated and meaningful definition of Sustainability.
- Generate Sibling's unique definition of sustainability specific to Sibling, based on our values workshop and staff survey undertaken in 2023.

● SHORT-TERM TARGETS (12 months from now)

- Make this REVIEW SAP public to our suppliers, network and collaborators as our commitment to be accountable for our goals.
- Test, develop and improve the *Sibling Sustainability Project Checklist*. Add current and new projects to the database to review how the checklist works over a project lifespan.
- Review and improve both our physical & digital materials libraries, sourcing better alternatives to products we regularly specify.
- Establish knowledge within our practice team on low embodied carbon materials & systems through internal training, with dedicated resources.
- Develop checklist to work with clients to communicate regenerative opportunities early on and agree on goals.
- Undertake review of key Sibling Projects, active and in development, as case studies to synthesise Sibling approach to sustainability, highlight key project tactics and identify strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop an archive of best practice architecture projects to learn from.



Stable House, Forest Lodge, NSW, 2023

● MEDIUM-TERM TARGETS (18-24 MONTHS FROM NOW)

- Publish EXTEND SAP.
- Established framework for energy performance targets and implement on all projects, including evaluation and reporting on energy and post-occupancy evaluations to improve in future projects.
- Develop a sustainability services brief that can be added as an option on our fee proposals to clients or as a supplement to tenders.
- Develop list of climate conscious sub-consultants for use in wider project team (make this part of our selection criteria).
- Partner with local collaborators and consultants where possible to minimise travel to regional sites.
- Request all clients and building users to opt for all-renewable energy with 100% certified Green Power, for both temporary and permanent power supply.
- Develop and publish known list of outlets for recycling project materials.

● LONG-TERM TARGETS (3+ years from now)

- Publish AMPLIFY SAP.
- Develop customised specification that forces contractors to divert waste from landfill and provide a waste minimisation plan.
- Develop handover manual for clients to explain intended passive design principles and end of life building materials.
- Create post- occupancy survey to understand actual vs intended use of building and assess effectiveness of sustainable measures.
- Be in the process of delivering a project to Passivhaus certification.
- Industry recognition through awards and publications for built projects.
- Implement a sustainable supplier policy.