

ENGINEERING COUNCIL

GUIDANCE ON SUSTAINABILITY
for the engineering profession

www.engr.org.uk/sustainability

This guidance describes the role of engineering professionals in enabling society to live sustainably. It lists six guiding principles to support and motivate them, at whatever stage of their careers, in working sustainably and is intended also to be of help to others working in engineering.

- 1 Contribute to building a sustainable society, present and future
- 2 Apply professional and responsible judgement and take a leadership role on sustainability
- 3 Do more than just comply with legislation and codes: be prepared to challenge the status quo
- 4 Use resources efficiently and effectively
- 5 Seek multiple views to solve sustainability challenges
- 6 Manage risk to minimise adverse impact and maximise benefit to people and the environment

The guidance is intended as an introduction to sustainable development and aims to encourage all those working in engineering to adopt sustainability thinking in their practice. It applies across all sectors of engineering, so sector-specific content and practical step-by-step guidance are not included. For that, users are encouraged to refer to material published by a range of sectoral organisations, including engineering bodies, governments and corporates. Some links are available on the Engineering Council's sustainability website www.engr.org.uk/sustainability.

The guidance is issued by the Engineering Council. It replaces and updates the previous guidance. It will be reviewed periodically and comments are welcome. Professional Engineering Institutions and Professional Associates are encouraged to use this to assist them in developing guidance for their members.

What is sustainable development?

According to the UN-commissioned Brundtland Report in 1987, sustainable development is development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The report is available at: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2997205-common-future.pdf

This recognises the rights of future generations – their right to achieve a sustainable level of development and the right to be able to utilise natural resources.

Sustainable development must also meet the challenge of the climate emergency by reducing energy and resource consumption to within the limits set out by science-based targets. Other crucial global challenges that require urgent action include the adverse effects of depletion of resources, environmental pollution, increased consumption, and damage to ecosystems including loss of biodiversity.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Adopted by all UN member states in 2015, the 17 Goals are all interconnected, and engineering professionals have a crucial role in helping to achieve these by the target date of 2030. www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/

The 17 Goals

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- Terms of engagement
- Redundancy
- Severance packages, including settlement agreements
- All types of discrimination claims
- Unfair, wrongful or constructive dismissal
- Employment tribunals (and representation at tribunal hearings)
- TUPE
- Exit strategy
- Professional misconduct hearings
- Disciplinary and grievance hearings
- ACAS

Wills & Administration of Estates

- Wills and trusts
- Inheritance tax planning
- Protecting assets from the cost of long term care
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of protection
- Administration of estates
- Disputes arising from wills, probate or trusts

Dispute Resolution

- Professional negligence
- Contractual disputes
- Defamation
- Residential landlord and tenant and property disputes

Family

- Divorce
- Pre-nuptial agreements
- Domestic violence
- Financial claims
- Children issues
- Co-habitee disputes

Residential Property

- Freehold and leasehold sale and purchase
- Re-mortgages
- Transfers of equity
- Equity release agreements
- Site acquisitions for property development
- Conditional contracts and option agreements

Notarial

- Preparation and execution of legal documents for use abroad
- Legalisation of documents

Personal Injury

- Accidents at work
- Road accidents
- Tripping accidents and accidents in public places
- Serious and fatal accidents
- Stress at work/assessment claims
- Travel litigation
- Wrongful imprisonment
- Product liability
- Industrial/occupational disease cases

Clinical Negligence

All types of medical and dental negligence claims including:

- Negligence associated with birth (including cerebral palsy cases)
- Misdiagnosis claims
- General surgery claims
- Gynaecological claims
- Urology and bowel related claims
- Accident and Emergency medicine claims
- GP claims

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- Business start-ups and advice on business structure
- Companies Act compliance and company secretary services
- Shareholders' agreements and joint ventures
- Reorganisations and restructuring
- Banking and security
- Insolvency procedures and transactions
- Advice to partnerships and LLPs
- Agency and distribution agreements
- Franchise agreements
- Terms and conditions of trade
- Technology agreements
- Intellectual property agreements
- Other commercial contracts

Commercial Litigation

- Disputes with customers
- Commercial landlord and tenant and property disputes
- Building disputes
- Insurance matters
- Boardroom/partnership disputes
- Professional negligence
- Debt recovery
- Intellectual property disputes

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