



Sustainability Glossary

from A-Z

ocee & four
DESIGN

A

Anti-bribery, fraud, and corruption policy

DEFINITION

Policies and practices aimed at preventing and combatting bribery, fraud, and corruption within an organisation or its business activities.

OUR APPROACH

This policy is integrated into Our Responsibility Framework (company policies).

→ [Business Ethics](#)

Anti-harassment and bullying policy

Policies and practices aimed at preventing and combatting harassment and bullying within an organisation or its business activities.

This policy is integrated into Our Responsibility Framework (company policies).

→ [Business Ethics](#)

B

BREEAM

DEFINITION

Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method; a certification method for assessing the sustainability of buildings based on factors such as energy efficiency, water usage, and environmental impact.

OUR APPROACH

The environmental information we provide on our new fact sheets helps customers show compliance with green building standards.

→ [Green Building Standards](#)

Business ethics

Business ethics involves applying moral principles to corporate decision-making - emphasising integrity and responsibility for positive environmental and societal impact.

Our ethical approach is reflected in our company values and Our Responsibility Framework (company policies).

- [Anti-bribery, Fraud, and Corruption policy](#)
- [Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy](#)
- [Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy](#)
- [UN Global Compact](#)

C

Carbon footprint

DEFINITION

The total amount of greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide, that are emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, organisation, event, or product.

OUR APPROACH

We conduct *life cycle assessments* to calculate the carbon footprint for our best-selling product ranges and aim to have this information available across our whole portfolio. We publish this information in the “Environmental Data” section of our product fact sheets and on our website.

We also calculate our company’s carbon emissions to understand the environmental impact of our operations.

- [Environmental footprint / impact](#)
- [Life Cycle Assessment](#)
- [Product Environmental Footprints \(PEFs\)](#)

Circular economy

An economic system that promotes the continual use and recycling of resources to minimise waste and environmental impact.

Our first sustainability objective is *Transition to a Circular Economy*. At Ocee & Four Design, we aim to promote sustainable consumption and production practices by conducting life cycle assessments, designing products according to our *sustainable design principles*, assessing and redesigning products, and offering end-of-life solutions to customers. Have a look at our *Take Back Scheme* for your used furniture!

- [Closed-loop system](#)
- [Life Cycle Assessment](#)
- [Sustainable design](#)
- [Take Back Scheme](#)

Corporate social responsibility

The ethical and sustainable business practices that a company adopts to contribute positively to social, economic, and environmental goals.

Our Responsibility Framework (company policies) demonstrates accountability, establishes guidelines, ensures compliance and promotes consistency.

Our sustainability strategy, encompassing 4 sustainability objectives, guides our initiatives to positively contribute to the economy, society and environment.

- [Business ethics](#)

Closed-loop system

A system in which materials are recycled and reused, minimising waste, and reducing the need for new raw materials.

Our first objective is *Transition to a Circular Economy*. It aims to promote sustainable consumption and production practices by conducting life cycle assessments, designing products according to *sustainable design principles*, assessing and redesigning products, and offering end-of-life solutions to customers.

- [Circular economy](#)

C

Cradle to gate, Cradle to grave and Cradle to cradle

DEFINITION

Describes different stages in a product life cycle:

Cradle to Gate assesses a product's environmental impact from raw materials to manufacturing exit, excluding post-production.

Cradle to Grave considers the entire life cycle, including disposal.

Cradle to Cradle emphasises designing products for perpetual recycling or safe return to the environment, promoting sustainability and responsible consumption.

OUR APPROACH

We conduct *life cycle assessments* for our best-selling product ranges and are aiming to have this information available across the whole portfolio.

Our *Life Cycle Assessments* (LCAs) cover the full product life cycle, cradle to grave.

→ [Life Cycle Assessment](#)

Carbon sinks

Natural or artificial reservoirs, such as forests, oceans, or soil, that absorb and store carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide naturally fluctuates between the sinks (carbon cycle).

Increased human activity creates imbalances in the carbon cycle, as it releases carbon that was stored in the lithosphere into the atmosphere by using fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas).

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating GHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

→ [Climate change / Global warming](#)

CO₂ / CO₂e

CO₂ is carbon dioxide - a greenhouse gas responsible for contributing to climate change.

CO₂e is a unit of measurement expressing the total impact of various greenhouse gases in terms of the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide, facilitating the comparison and aggregation of their warming effects on the environment.

Both, our product *carbon footprint* as well as our company *carbon footprint*, consider all greenhouse gases and are expressed in CO₂e.

→ [Climate change / Global warming](#)

→ [Greenhouse gases](#)

C

Climate change / global warming

DEFINITION

Long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions. Often attributed to the increase of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere through human activities.

OUR APPROACH

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating GHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

→ [Greenhouse gases](#)

Carbon neutral

A condition where the net carbon dioxide emissions of an entity are zero, typically achieved through a combination of emission reductions and offsetting.

We don't have a specific carbon neutral target as our company carbon footprint considers all greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide. Once we have more detailed information on our Scope 3 emissions, we will set a Net Zero target.

→ [Climate change](#)

→ [Net Zero](#)

→ [Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions](#)

→ [Carbon offsetting](#)

Carbon offsetting

The practice of compensating for carbon emissions. An individual or organisation can invest in projects that either:

Avoid emissions (e.g., supporting conservation to stop deforestation)

Sequester emissions by capturing and storing them in natural or artificial reservoirs (e.g., planting trees)

We offset our 2019-20 Scope 1 and 2 emissions through a tree planting scheme (credits equivalent to 150 tonnes of CO₂e; 472 trees were planted in the UK).

We offset our 2020-21 Scope 1 and 2 emissions through an investment into a carbon avoidance scheme in the Amazon Rainforest to stop deforestation (credits equivalent to 300 tonnes of CO₂e; project is through Verified Carbon Standard).

→ [Carbon neutral](#)

→ [Climate change](#)

→ [Environmental footprint / impact](#)

→ [Net Zero](#)

→ [Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions](#)

D

Design for disassembly

DEFINITION

A design approach that facilitates the easy disassembly of products at the end of their life cycle for recycling or reuse of components.

OUR APPROACH

One of our *sustainable design principles* is *life cycle considerations*, which encompasses “design for disassembly” and allows for upgradability, reparability, and recyclability of our furniture.

→ [Sustainable design](#)

Durability

The ability of a product to withstand wear, pressure, or damage over time, contributing to its longer lifespan and therefore less waste.

One of our *sustainable design principles* is *made to last*, which aims to extend the lifetime of our products. For example our FourSure® 44 is tested for over 50 years!

Our furniture is tested to relevant EN and DIN standards to ensure strength, durability and stability.

→ [Sustainable design](#)

E

End-of-life management

DEFINITION

Strategies and practices for handling and disposing of products at the end of their useful life, including repurposing, recycling, or proper disposal.

OUR APPROACH

In the UK, we offer our customers and non-customers a *take back service*, to reuse, rework, rebate or recycle furniture that has reached its end-of-life with them. These don't have to be Ocee & Four Design items.

In our UK production site, we can refurbish some items to extend their lifespan. The proposal is currently in development, so keep your eyes peeled!

→ [Take Back Scheme](#)

→ [Refurbishment](#)

Environmental footprint / impact

The total impact, or footprint, of an individual, organisation, or product on the environment, including resource consumption and waste generation.

We conduct *life cycle assessments* for our best-selling products and aim to have this information available across our whole portfolio.

We also calculate our company's carbon emissions to understand the environmental impact of our operations.

→ [Carbon footprint](#)

→ [Life Cycle Assessment](#)

→ [Net Zero](#)

→ [Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions](#)

E

Environmental responsibility / stewardship

DEFINITION

Conscientious management of natural resources and ecosystems to ensure sustainability. This entails adopting practices that minimise environmental impacts, promote conservation, and contribute to the well-being of ecosystems and biodiversity.

OUR APPROACH

Our environmental management system (EMS) is ISO14001 certified, which provides the framework to establish, implement, maintain, and continually improve our environmental management processes.

Our sustainability strategy functions as a framework to lower the environmental impact of our products and operations.

→ [ISO14001](#)

Environmental product declaration (EPD)

Standardised report providing information about the environmental impact of a product, based on life cycle assessments.

Due to the static nature of EPDs, we calculate our products' environmental impact based on the PEF methodology. These calculations are more objective and comparable.

→ [Life Cycle Assessment](#)
→ [Product Environmental Footprints \(PEFs\)](#)

EU Ecolabel

A label awarded to products and services that meet specific environmental performance criteria set by the European Union.

Currently, three of our product ranges have EU Ecolabel certification (FourSure®, FourCast® and Share).

Going forward, we are treating the certification requirements as the gold standard for sustainable furniture and will consider them in all new product developments and add more EU Ecolabel certified products to our ranges.

→ [Environmental footprint / impact](#)
→ [Sustainable design](#)

Embodied carbon

The total greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, transportation, and construction of a building or product.

We conduct *life cycle assessments* for our best-selling product ranges and aim to have this information available across the whole portfolio.

→ [Environmental footprint / impact](#)
→ [Life Cycle Assessment](#)
→ [Product Environmental Footprints \(PEFs\)](#)

E

Equal opportunities and diversity policy

DEFINITION

Policies and practices aimed at promoting fairness, inclusivity, and diversity in the workplace, ensuring all employees are treated equitably.

OUR APPROACH

This policy is integrated into Our Responsibility Framework (company policies).

→ [Business ethics](#)

F

FSC®

DEFINITION

Forest Stewardship Council®, an international certification and labelling system for sustainable forestry and wood products.

OUR APPROACH

Ocee & Four Design is FSC® certified.

FISP

Furniture Industry Sustainability Program - a certification for sustainable practices in the UK furniture industry.

Ocee & Four Design UK has been certified since 2012.

F

Formaldehyde (CH₂O)

DEFINITION

A colourless gas that occurs in wood-based materials like particleboard, medium-density fibreboard (MDF), and plywood. The emission of formaldehyde from the resins used in these products can contribute to indoor air pollution and may cause health concerns, particularly in poorly ventilated spaces.

OUR APPROACH

We are committed to promoting healthy and safe indoor environments. We diligently avoid hazardous chemicals and substances of concern. This ensures that our products not only enhance your space, but also promote the well-being of those who interact with them.

During the design process, we choose materials and finishes that emit minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs). We never use materials that contain substances restricted by the REACH regulation and ensure that the TSCA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Title IV emission limits have been met.

We currently don't have low VOC certification for our product ranges.

- Indoor Air Quality Certification
- REACH
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

G

Green building standards

DEFINITION

Assess and promote environmentally friendly and energy-efficient construction practices.

Furniture contributes to various aspects of a building's environmental impact, including resource use, material selection, and indoor air quality.

OUR APPROACH

The environmental information we provide on our new fact sheets helps customers to show compliance with green building standards.

- BREEAM
- LEED
- SKA Rating
- WELL

G

Greenhouse gases

DEFINITION

Natural and industrial gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), that trap heat from the sun in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect and influencing the planet's temperature and climate.

OUR APPROACH

We calculate our company's carbon emissions to understand the environmental impact of our operations.

- Climate change / global warming
- Environmental footprint / impact

Greenwashing

The deceptive use of marketing to make a product or company appear environmentally friendly when it is not.

We aim to be as transparent as possible with our communication around our sustainability impacts and initiatives.

I

ISO14001

DEFINITION

An international standard for environmental management systems, providing a framework for organisations to minimise their environmental impact.

OUR APPROACH

Ocee & Four Design is certified.

- Environmental responsibility / stewardship

ISO9001

An international standard for quality management systems, ensuring that organisations meet customer and regulatory requirements.

Ocee & Four Design is certified.



Indoor air quality certification

DEFINITION

Recognises buildings or products that meet specified standards and guidelines ensuring a healthy and pollutant-free indoor environment for occupants.

OUR APPROACH

We are committed to promoting healthy and safe indoor environments. We diligently avoid hazardous chemicals and substances of concern. This ensures that our products not only enhance your space but also promote the well-being of those who interact with them.

During the design process, we choose materials and finishes that emit minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs). We never use materials that contain substances restricted by *REACH* regulation and ensure that the TSCA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Title IV emission limits have been met.

We currently don't have indoor air quality certification for our product ranges.

- Formaldehyde (CH₂O)
- REACH
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)



LEED

DEFINITION

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; a green building certification program that focuses on sustainable construction and operation.

OUR APPROACH

The environmental information we provide on our new fact sheets helps customers show compliance with green building standards.

- Green Building Standards

Life cycle assessment (LCA)

A comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts of a product or process throughout its entire life cycle.

We conduct *life cycle assessments* for our best-selling product ranges and aim to have this information available across our whole portfolio.

- Carbon footprint
- Environmental footprint / impact
- Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- Product Environmental Footprints (PEFs)

M

Material efficiency

DEFINITION

The optimisation of material used to minimise waste and resource consumption in the production of goods.

OUR APPROACH

One of our sustainable design principles is material- and transport-efficiency, which aims to minimise resource consumption in our products and during transportation.

Our environmental management system (EMS) is ISO14001 certified, which provides a framework for organisations to establish, implement, maintain, and continually improve an effective EMS. This allows us to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste in our operations.

→ [ISO14001](#)

→ [Sustainable design](#)

Material transparency

The disclosure of information regarding the composition and environmental impact of materials used in products.

We conduct *life cycle assessments* for our best-selling product ranges, providing insights into the full product life cycle, including material composition and origin.

We are aiming to have this information available across the whole portfolio.

→ [Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\)](#)

Modern slavery & human trafficking policy

Formal statement adopted by an organisation outlining its commitment to preventing and addressing modern slavery and human trafficking within its operations and supply chains, including measures to identify, mitigate, and report such practices, aligning with legal requirements and ethical standards.

This policy is integrated into Our Responsibility Framework (company policies).

→ [Business ethics](#)

N

Net zero

DEFINITION

A balance between the greenhouse gas emissions produced and those removed or offset, resulting in no overall increase in the atmosphere. Crucial target in climate action.

OUR APPROACH

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating GHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

Once we have more detailed information on our Scope 3 emissions, we will set a Net Zero target and create a roadmap on how to achieve this.

- Climate change
- Environmental footprint / impact
- Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions
- Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTI)

O

Oeko-Tex

DEFINITION

An international certification system for textiles, ensuring that products are free from harmful substances.

OUR APPROACH

Most of our fabric suppliers offer fabrics with Oeko-Tex certification.

P

Paris agreement

DEFINITION

International treaty aiming to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Countries commit to individual climate action plans (Nationally Determined Contributions) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, with regular reviews and a global stocktake to assess progress every five years.

OUR APPROACH

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating GHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

Once we have more detailed information on our Scope 3 emissions, we will set a Net Zero target and create a roadmap on how to achieve this.

- Climate change / global warming
- Greenhouse gases

PEFC

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, an international non-profit organisation promoting sustainable forest management.

We don't have PEFC certification, but we have a FSC® certification which has a higher recognition and market presence.

- FSC®

P

Product environmental footprints (PEFs)

DEFINITION

Product Environmental Footprints, a standardised method for calculating and communicating the environmental impact of products. A more objective alternative to EPDs.

OUR APPROACH

Due to the static nature of EPDs, we calculate our products' environmental impact based on the PEF methodology. These calculations are more objective and comparable.

- Carbon footprint
- Environmental footprint / impact
- Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

Pre-consumer, post-consumer and post-industrial recycled materials

Pre-consumer recycled materials are derived from manufacturing or industrial waste before reaching the consumer, while post-consumer recycled materials have completed their life cycle as consumer products and are recycled for reuse. Additionally, post-industrial recycled materials come from reclaimed industrial or manufacturing processes before consumer use.

One of our sustainable design principles is *low impact materials*, which aims to integrate natural, renewable, recycled, and recyclable materials where possible.

- Circular economy
- Cradle to Gate, Cradle to Grave and Cradle to Cradle
- Recycled content
- Sustainable design

R

REACH

DEFINITION

Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals, a European Union regulation addressing the production and use of chemical substances.

OUR APPROACH

One of our *sustainable design principles* is safer chemistry, which aims to promote healthy and safe indoor environments.

We are committed to promoting healthy and safe indoor environments. We diligently avoid hazardous chemicals and substances of concern. This ensures that our products not only enhance your space but also promote the well-being of those who interact with them.

During the design process, we choose materials and finishes that emit minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs). We never use materials that contain substances restricted by *REACH* regulation and ensure that the TSCA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Title IV emission limits have been met.

- Formaldehyde (CH₂O)
- Indoor air quality certification
- Sustainable design
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Refurbishment

Renovating, repairing, or restoring a building, structure, or product to improve its condition, functionality, or aesthetic appeal, often involving the replacement, or upgrading of components to extend its useful life or meet contemporary standards.

In the UK, we can refurbish some items to extend their lifespan. The proposal is currently in development, so keep your eyes peeled!

- End-of-life management

Renewable energy

Energy derived from sources that are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, and geothermal heat.

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating GHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

- Climate change / global warming

R

Reusable packaging

DEFINITION

Packaging designed for multiple uses, reducing waste generated by single-use packaging.

OUR APPROACH

Our first objective is *Transition to a Circular Economy*. It aims to promote sustainable consumption and production practices by conducting *life cycle assessments*, designing products according to *sustainable design principles*, assessing and redesigning products, and offering end-of-life solutions to customers.

We have reduced the use of virgin materials and source recyclable packaging where possible. We continue to investigate and explore the feasibility of other recycled and reusable options to lower the impact on the environment.

To incorporate sustainability into our organisation, we use the UN SDGs as an overarching framework to guide our sustainability efforts. This also aligns them with global priorities to ensure contribution towards a more sustainable world.

- Circular economy
- Closed-loop system
- Material efficiency

Recycled content

The proportion of recycled materials in a product, indicating a reduction in the demand for virgin resources.

One of our sustainable design principles is *low impact materials*, which aims to integrate natural, renewable, recycled, and recyclable materials where possible.

We publish the recycled content for our best-selling product ranges in the “Environmental Data” section of our product fact sheets as well as on the website.

- Circular economy
- Pre-consumer, post-consumer and post-industrial recycled materials
- Recyclability
- Sustainable design

R

Recyclability

DEFINITION

The ability of a product or material to be collected, processed, and reused in the manufacturing of new products.

OUR APPROACH

One of our *sustainable design principles is low impact materials*, which aims to integrate natural, renewable, recycled, and recyclable materials where possible.

We publish a recyclability percentage for our best-selling product ranges in the “Environmental Data” section of our product fact sheets as well as on the website.

We calculate this figure by aggregating the “designed for disassembly” percentage of each component onto product level.

- Circular economy
- Pre-consumer, post-consumer and post-industrial recycled materials
- Recycled content
- Sustainable design

Responsible procurement/ sustainable purchasing

The practice of making purchasing decisions based on ethical, social, and environmental considerations throughout the supply chain.

Our third objective is *Ensure a Responsible Supply Chain*. It aims to promote ethical and sustainable practices in sourcing by monitoring suppliers for ethical conduct and reducing the environmental footprint of the supply chain overall.

We are currently in the process of developing our supplier code of conduct and develop an audit process with our supply chain.

- Supplier Code of Conduct
- Supplier audit
- Supply chain transparency

S

Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions

DEFINITION

Categories of greenhouse gas emissions.

Scope 1 includes direct emissions (purchased electricity for own use);

Scope 2 includes indirect emissions (refrigerant fugitive emissions, gas combustion);

Scope 3 includes indirect emissions from the entire value chain (for example, water, waste, business travel and employee commute).

OUR APPROACH

We calculate our company's carbon emissions to understand the environmental impact of our products and operations.

We calculated our 2019-20 Scope 1 and 2 emissions and 2020-21 Scope 1 and 2 emissions internally. We are signed up as a member with Planet Mark, who will calculate and certify our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions going forward. To remain certified, we need to reduce our emissions annually by 2.5% each year.

- Carbon offsetting
- Climate change / global warming
- Carbon footprint
- Environmental footprint / impact
- Net Zero

Science-based targets Initiative (SBTi)

An organisation that helps companies set and achieve scientifically grounded greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Our second objective is *Achieve Net Zero Emissions*. It aims to combat climate change by creating CHG inventories, transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy and water efficiency, minimising and appropriately managing waste, and optimising transportation routes for efficiency.

Once we have more detailed information on our Scope 3 emissions, we will set a Net Zero target and create a roadmap on how to achieve this.

- Climate change / global warming
- Carbon footprint
- Environmental footprint / impact
- Greenhouse gases
- Net Zero
- Paris Agreement

Sustainable design

The process of designing products with environmental considerations in mind, aiming to minimise negative impacts throughout the product's life cycle.

Our *sustainable design principles* direct the product development process with respect for the environment and each other.

The principles focus on environmental impact reduction, circularity, and overall health and well-being considerations for both people and the planet.

- Circular economy
- Design for disassembly
- Durability
- REACH

S

Sustainability / sustainable development

DEFINITION

Overarching principle of ensuring that current actions and practices do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (definition from Brundtland Report 1987).

Sustainability is a foundational principle guiding responsible decision-making across various domains, while sustainable development specifically addresses how societies can progress and grow in a balanced and responsible manner over time.

OUR APPROACH

We are using the UN SDGs as an overarching framework to guide our sustainability efforts and align them with global priorities to ensure contribution towards a more sustainable world. Our sustainability strategy is framed against four SDGs where our products and business can have the greatest impact.

We are working on developing an action plan as part of our sustainability strategy to highlight our contribution to each goal.

→ [UN sustainable development goals \(SDGs\)](#)

Supplier code of conduct

A Supplier Code of Conduct is a set of ethical and operational guidelines established by a company for its suppliers. It outlines the expectations regarding social, environmental, and ethical practices to ensure responsible and sustainable business relationships.

Our third objective is *Ensure a Responsible Supply Chain*. It aims to promote ethical and sustainable practices in sourcing by monitoring suppliers for ethical conduct and reducing the environmental footprint of the supply chain overall.

We are currently in the process of developing our Supplier Code of Conduct and develop an audit process with our supply chain.

→ [Responsible procurement / sustainable purchasing](#)
→ [Supplier audit](#)
→ [Supply chain transparency](#)

Supplier audit

A systematic examination of a supplier's processes, practices, and performance conducted on a regular basis to ensure compliance with specific standards, regulations, or contractual requirements.

Our third objective is *Ensure a Responsible Supply Chain*. It aims to promote ethical and sustainable practices in sourcing by monitoring suppliers for ethical conduct and reducing the environmental footprint of the supply chain overall.

We are currently in the process of developing our Supplier Code of Conduct and develop an audit process with our supply chain.

→ [Responsible procurement / sustainable purchasing](#)
→ [Supplier Code of Conduct](#)
→ [Supply chain transparency](#)

S

Supply chain transparency

DEFINITION

Providing clear and accessible information about the processes, practices, and impacts within a product's supply chain. It aims to enhance accountability and enable consumers and stakeholders to make informed choices based on ethical and sustainable considerations.

OUR APPROACH

Our third objective is *Ensure a Responsible Supply Chain*. It aims to promote ethical and sustainable practices in sourcing by monitoring suppliers for ethical conduct and reducing the environmental footprint of the supply chain overall.

We are currently in the process of developing our Supplier Code of Conduct and develop an audit process with our supply chain.

- Responsible procurement / sustainable purchasing
- Supplier audit
- Supplier Code of Conduct

SKA rating

A sustainability assessment and certification system for commercial fitouts and refurbishments, evaluating the environmental performance of interior spaces, considering factors such as energy efficiency, waste management, and occupant well-being.

The environmental information we provide on our new fact sheets helps customers show compliance with green building standards.

- [Green Building Standards](#)

T

Take back scheme

DEFINITION

A service which involves the collection and redistribution for reuse or responsible disposal of products at the end of their life cycle. This promotes circular economy principles by reducing waste and encouraging the reuse of materials.

OUR APPROACH

In the UK, we offer our customers and non-customers a take back service, to reuse, rework, rebate or recycle furniture that has reached end of service with them. These don't have to be Ocee & Four Design items.

- [Circular economy](#)
- [End-of-life management](#)
- [Go to our website to learn more about our Take Back Scheme](#)

U

UN sustainable development goals (SDGs)

DEFINITION

The UN SDGs are a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges. They provide a framework for international cooperation and action to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030.

OUR APPROACH

Companies are increasingly using the SDGs as an overarching framework to guide their sustainability efforts and align them with global priorities to ensure contribution towards a more sustainable world.

Our sustainability strategy is framed against four SDGs where our products and business can have the greatest impact.:

- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13 Climate Action
- 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

We are working on developing an action plan as part of our sustainability strategy to highlight our contribution to each goal.

UN global compact

The world's largest voluntary sustainability initiative that encourages businesses and organisations to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies. Participants commit to ten principles related to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

We base our policies on the UN Global Compact but haven't signed up as a participatory yet.

→ [Business ethics](#)

V

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

DEFINITION

Organic chemicals that can evaporate into the air at room temperature. In the context of sustainability, VOCs are often associated with indoor air pollution and are a concern in products such as paints, adhesives, and cleaning agents.

OUR APPROACH

We are committed to promoting healthy and safe indoor environments. We diligently avoid hazardous chemicals and substances of concern. This ensures that our products not only enhance your space but also promote the well-being of those who interact with them.

During the design process, we choose materials and finishes that emit minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs). We never use materials that contain substances restricted by *REACH* regulation and ensure that the TSCA Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Title IV emission limits have been met.

We currently don't have low VOC certification for our products.

- Formaldehyde (CH₂O)
- Indoor air quality certification
- REACH

W

Waste to energy

DEFINITION

The generation of energy through the burning of waste materials, often used as an alternative to traditional landfill disposal.

OUR APPROACH

We have a zero waste to landfill policy. We aim to redistribute waste from our production that is still of use to others where possible. For example, we have donated fabric cut offs to local schools and community groups. We collect recyclable materials in separate bins to contribute to more sustainable resource management. Our general waste follows the Waste to Energy routes.

- Closed-loop system

WELL

WELL is a performance-based system for measuring, certifying, and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and well-being. It focuses on aspects such as air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, and comfort in buildings.

The environmental information we provide on our new fact sheets helps customers show compliance with green building standards.

- Green Building Standards

Z

Zero waste

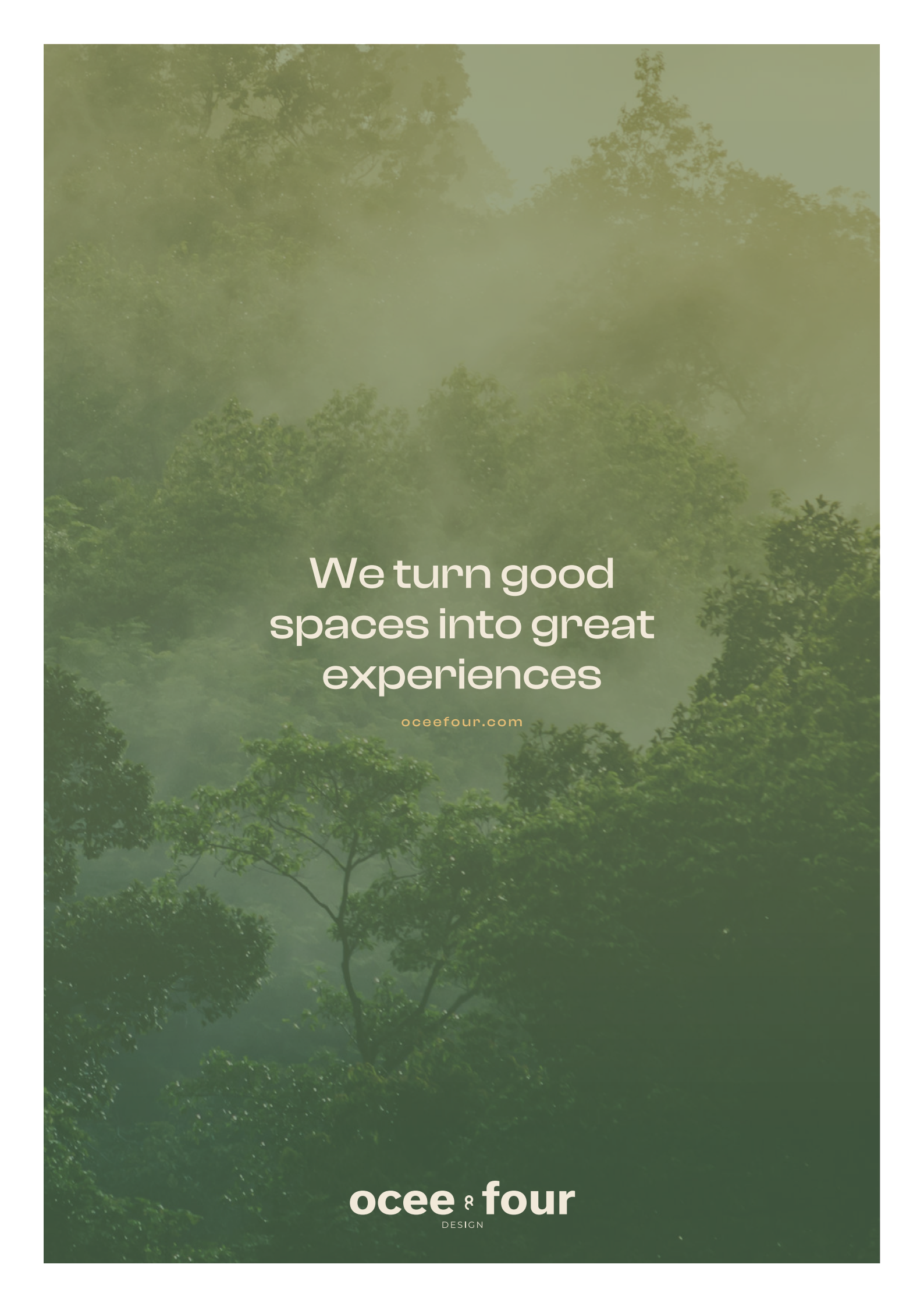
DEFINITION

A lifestyle or philosophy that aims to minimise the generation of waste by reusing, recycling, and composting. It promotes a circular economy approach to resource management.

OUR APPROACH

We currently don't have a zero waste target. However, we consider the waste hierarchy when handling our waste. None of our waste goes to landfill and we separate it out for recycling.

→ [Circular Economy](#)



We turn good
spaces into great
experiences

oceedesign.com

ocee & four
DESIGN