







The Health & Wellbeing Framework Checklist

Align your project or strategy to the World Green Building Council's principles for health in the built environment

Principle	Sub-principles	Alignment to SDG	Sub-Principle Outcome	Lifecycle Stage Consideration(s)	Stakeholder relevance
 Principle 1. Protect and Improve Health	1.1 Improve Air Quality	SDG 3.9, SDG 11.6	Building provides only clean air through the mitigation of air quality risks and incorporation of health-based strategies, whilst maintaining energy efficiency. Air quality should be enhanced at all stages of lifecycle, including construction workers, and protecting health of people within and outside, considering both building occupants and neighbouring people.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Engineers, Designers, Manufacturers
	1.2 Improve Water Quality	SDG 6.1-6.6	All buildings should provide occupants with adequate, safe, and sustainable access to clean water and sanitation, whilst maintaining efficient use of water and striving for circularity on-site.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Engineers, Designers, Building occupants, Manufacturers
	1.3 Improve Mental Health	SDG 3.4	The built environment is designed and operated to enhance occupant and neighbouring community mental health and wellbeing. Ensure design strategies are accessible and inclusive to support social health for people of all levels of physical, cognitive and mental ability.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	1.4 Reduce Infection Disease Transmission	SDG 3.3	The indoor and outdoor built environment actively mitigates risk of infectious disease transmission, including both strategic design measures and implementation of building policies to enhance health, whilst maintaining energy efficiency.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Engineers, Designers, Architects, Building occupants
 Principle 2. Prioritise Comfort for Building Users	2.1 Ensure Thermal Comfort	SDG 7.1, SDG 9.1, SDG 9.4	Design for user control of heating, cooling & humidity control in space to ensure optimal individual comfort in operational buildings, while maintaining energy efficiency with broad consideration of the environment. Sustainable master-planning mitigates community level thermal comfort issues, such as the (Urban) Heat Island effect.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects, Manufacturers
	2.2 Maintain Exemplary Lighting	SDG 7.1, SDG 9.1	Provision of adequate artificial lighting that is flicker free, meets minimum requirements for lighting colour, have little glare and ideally, have localised lighting controls and is appropriate for space use. All lighting should be energy efficient.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects
	2.3 Maintain Acoustic Comfort	SDG 9.1, SDG 9.4	Mitigation of steady state noise exposure: this is defined as noise, the level of which does not change by more than 5dB at a given place and during a given time period. Continuous background sound in offices is mostly generated by heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. External noise should be mitigated with building features as far as possible, as openable windows should be optimized for ventilation control and therefore not be relied upon as acoustic control.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects
	2.4 Ensure Olfactory, Ergonomic and Visual Comfort	SDG 9.1	A built environment that incorporates strategies to improve occupant visual, olfactory and ergonomic comfort, whilst actively mitigating wider wellbeing risk to people. Visual comfort and interior design for aesthetics should be designed in accordance with guidance on hazardous chemicals in Principle 6.4.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects
	2.5 Ensure Inclusive Design	SDG 9.4	Inclusive design must keep the diversity and uniqueness of each individual building occupant in mind, considering all people utilising a built environment, including those with mental and physical disabilities as well as vulnerable and ageing populations. An environment that is designed inclusively must apply to buildings, their surrounding open spaces, and local urban infrastructure and services.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects

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 Principle 3. Design for Harmony with Nature	3.1 Ensure Indoor Biophilic Design	SDG 12.8	Buildings to ensure occupant access to nature within the indoor environment, following principles of biophilic design to maximise mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits for occupant.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	3.2 Ensure Outdoor Nature Access and Biodiversity	SDG 11.7, SDG 12.8	Access to quality green space on building footprint, in addition to local community. Maximise biodiversity on site and encourage implementation of nature-based solutions at community level.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Engineers, Designers, Architects, Building occupants
 Principle 4. Facilitate Positive Behaviour & Health	4.1 Promote Activity & Physical Health in Design	SDG 11.7	Buildings and local community play a supportive role in the healthy lifestyle of occupants, including the reduction of obesity, by designing the space to encourage regular physical activity, reducing barriers to accessibility, availability and affordability.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	4.2 Encourage Good Nutrition Hydration & Social Connectivity	SDG 2.1, SDG 11.A	The built environment actively contributes to the improvement of nutrition, hydration and social connectivity of building occupants and people in the local community, where possible, by supporting healthy food choices and hydration practices, and providing infrastructure for positive social engagement.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
 Principle 5. Create positive social value with buildings & communities	5.1 Protect Human Rights	SDG 4.7, SDG 16.3	The ethical management of human rights relating to the construction industry and built environment should be considered and enhanced at each stage of the building lifecycle. Strategies should be incorporated by all relevant stakeholders in the value chain, with emphasis on both employment rights and quality for supply chain and construction workers, and rights and quality of buildings for the occupants.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	5.2 Commit to Construction Workers Health & Wellbeing	SDG 8.7-8.8	Health-focused construction principles implemented, and practices standardised, particularly minimising worker exposure to hazardous materials, chemicals, and carcinogenic substances.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	5.3 Improve Quality of Life	SDG 1.5, SDG 4.7, SDG 11.1	The health and wellbeing of all people impacted by a building in operation should be considered, and consciously enhanced where possible, incorporating environmental, social and economic indicators of health. The creation of positive social impact should be universal, with principles of equity and fairness underpinning design and operational decisions that would impact local community. Resilience-focused design and master-planning of cities, communities and built environment should also be sought.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
 Principle 6. Take climate action	6.1 Commit to Climate Change Mitigation	SDG 12.4, SDG 13.3	All new and existing buildings demonstrate improvements in lifecycle energy efficiency, targeting net zero operational carbon emissions in all new buildings by 2030, and net zero embodied carbon in all new buildings by 2050 (including emissions from equivalent greenhouse gases, specifically HFCs).	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	6.2 Design for Resilience and Adaptation action	SDG 1.5, SDG 9.4, SDG 13.1	The design and operation of buildings and urban areas should incorporate strategies to enhance community resilience to the climate crisis. Strategies must not exacerbate societal inequalities and should account for the needs of vulnerable populations locally.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Building occupants
	6.3 Ensure Water Efficiency	SDG 6.3-6.6	Reduce demand, enhance water efficiency, & ensure sustainable drainage & water management through the design, construction, and operation of built environment to reduce stress on water bodies and related ecosystems. Explore utilisation of other sources of water, such as treated greywater, on-site and at community level where feasible.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Engineers
	6.4 Ensure Resource Efficiency	SDG 7.1 - 7.3, SDG 12.1-12.2	Building projects consciously avoid the use of hazardous materials & chemicals during construction projects (including retrofit & deconstruction), facilitating the extraction from existing materials and projects to avoid contamination & further circulation in industry. All projects support the built environment sector's transition to a circular economy with minimal waste leakage into the natural environment.	Design, Construction, Building, In-use, Deconstruction	Designers, Architects, Engineers, Contractors