

This pack contains the
Life and Death toolkit.

The aim of the toolkit is to help
you reflect on the sustainability of
your design project and make
informed decisions throughout your
design process.

It is recommended that you use a
new worksheet each time as a
way to record changes, consider
what changes you could make to
improve sustainability, or how you
might balance negative factors by
improving on others.



WORKSHEET

The toolkit leads you through three steps from the top of the worksheet to the bottom.

Step One. Describe your design project in a few words or pictures and put them in the top bar.

Step Two. Use the project ecology cards to identify the 'ecosystem' of your design project, in other words, describe the timescale, space, stakeholders, process and theory, thinking about how they are dependent on each other. Write keywords in the middle bar to record the 'ecosystem'. You may not be able to identify keywords for all the categories when you first start but you should have at least three.

Step Three. Use the cards to assess the sustainability of your project in relation to different indicators in the bottom bar. Select and mark with a cross a colour from the three level rating system, from dark meaning bad or deteriorating, to light meaning good or improving. Consider how you might change or develop this to create an overall lighter palette.



It is recommended that you use the toolkit a number of times throughout your design process, at the start or research stage, as a baseline appraisal, during your design development stage, to evaluate different options and inform design decisions, and on completion to evaluate the project and consider what improvements might be needed in the future.

The toolkit consists of two sets of prompt cards and a worksheet.

The worksheet is where you evaluate the sustainability of your project. The prompt cards suggest topics to consider.



SET 1

INTRODUCTION

Project ecology, is a way of thinking about your project as part of a system. It is a holistic method to consider a project with a view to sustaining it and its environment. No project exists in isolation.

Project Ecology is a way to analyse the various factors affecting the life of a project. It helps provide an understanding of how a project can survive and thrive.

Using the metaphor of an organism in an ecological system, identify which of these 'forces' are lifesavers or threats.



PROJECT ECOLOGY

PROJECT
STAKEHOLDERS

PRIMARY
STAKEHOLDERS

SECONDARY
STAKEHOLDERS

PROJECT
PROCESSES

REGULATIONS

TECHNOLOGY

MANUFACTURING

PUBLICITY

FUNDING

PROJECT
SPACE

ECONOMY

ENVIRONMENT

SITE & SCALE

SOCIETY
& CULTURE

ETHICS

TIMESCALE

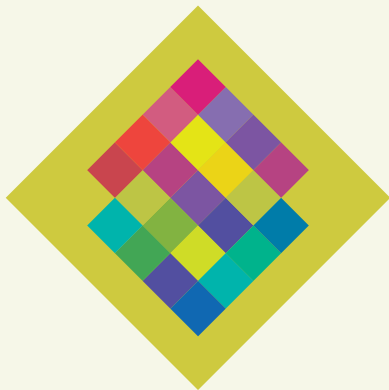
INSTRUCTIONS

Identify the 'ecosystem' of your design project. Use the space and categories provided in the worksheet to note down your project site, timescale, ethics, stakeholders and processes (i.e. under stakeholders, write the different stakeholders for your project, such as client, users, funders).

Considering your project as part of an ecology provides a succinct summary of the way various forces and their relationships influence it.

It can highlight potential threats and weaknesses that need to be addressed, or simply raise awareness of the 'bigger picture' that is the networked ecosystem in which a project exists.

A project can in turn be adapted to increase its survival chances and to allow it to flourish in its milieu.



SET 2



INTRODUCTION

The checklist does not require that you have in-depth knowledge.

The intention is to encourage you to consider the sustainability of your project holistically and help you make informed decisions.

You do not need to use every factor that is available and can add factors if necessary.



SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST

HEALTH &
WELLBEING

TRANSPORT &
ACCESSIBILITY

CULTURE

STAKEHOLDERS
ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY &
SOCIAL CAPITAL

SUSTAINABLE
BEHAVIOURS

SOIL & LAND

MATERIALS
& RESOURCE
CONSUMPTION

BIODIVERSITY

WASTE &
MATERIAL
CYCLE

ENERGY

WATER CYCLE

CLIMATE CHANGE

AIR QUALITY

EMPLOYABILITY
& SKILLS

RESEARCH &
INNOVATION

ECONOMIC IMPACT

GOVERNANCE
& PARTICIPATION

EQUALITY

INSTRUCTIONS

Now that you have an understanding of the ecosystem of your project and its 'bigger picture', use the checklist to qualitatively assess sustainability.

Consider the life of your project, its space, stakeholders and processes and indicate on the grid whether you think you are doing well, badly or satisfactorily (dark to light).

The sustainability checklist provides a holistic project evaluation and visualisation tool. The selected indicators are a simplified version of many accepted professional sustainability appraisal tools.

Their aim is to help you: reflect on the concept of sustainability as it relates to your project, understand possible impacts on 'big issues' such as climate change and make informed design decisions.



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