

Patagonia Building Principles

Overview

Patagonia's mission statement is to "Build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, and use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis." As prescribed in this mission statement and our corporate bylaws, Patagonia will design, build and operate its facilities in a manner that continually seeks to reduce the environmental footprint of its operations along the lines of water use, water quality, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, chemical use, toxicity and waste.

While we don't mandate the use of any specific standard or certification, we do require the integration of these building principles in all design, construction, use and end-of-use phases of any building, site and materials. We will continue to look at well-tested and cutting-edge technologies and seek to be aspirational in our decisions and actions. The following are guidelines designed to provide working parameters for all building demolition, construction and retrofit initiatives.

Location and Landscape

1. Site selection will take into consideration impacts on local bodies of water, wetlands, species habitat, open spaces and agricultural lands.
2. Site development will integrate opportunities for agriculture and outdoor respite appropriate to site use and neighborhood characteristics.
3. Building location should take into consideration opportunities for human-powered, public transportation and carpool opportunities.
4. On-site landscaping design must incorporate the functionality of native ecosystems and promote biodiversity.
5. Permeable paving, storm-water sequestration and other forms of water retention should be implemented through both system installation and natural land-cover functionality.
6. Patagonia will look to use existing buildings whenever possible.
7. Where applicable, vegetated roofs should be installed.

Energy

1. Patagonia's owned and operated facilities will strive to become net zero in terms of energy generation and use.
2. Building construction should include the maximization of on-site renewable energy generation with the goal of 100% renewable energy holding precedence.
3. Building design should maximize the use of natural and passive lighting and heating/cooling options.
4. All lighting features and design should incorporate energy-efficient fixtures (Energy Star® or equivalent), allow for segmented control options, maximize natural light, motion sensors, daylight harvesting and other cutting-edge efficiencies.
5. HVAC system should be optimized and designed for energy efficiency.
6. Each building should be metered separately and utilize sub-metering, building management systems or other efficiency-measuring technologies.

Water

1. Building and landscaping design will take into consideration all regional water-related issues including scarcity, drought, natural weather patterns and effects of climate change on water supply.
2. Consider rain capture, closed-loop water systems and water recycling options depending on the nature of the building and its use.
3. Water discharge and grey water should be treated and filtered for reuse whenever possible.
4. Install all water-efficient fixtures, including but not limited to low-flow faucets and shower heads, as well as dual-flush or low-flush toilets (look at products that have WaterSense or equivalent labeling).
5. Install water meters and monitoring systems for both indoor and outdoor water systems.
6. All landscape watering should integrate best practices for system installation and maintenance, including but not limited to drip-irrigation, xeriscape design principles and drought-resistant or low-water plants.

Waste

1. Project team must work to eliminate and minimize waste in the design, construction and end-of-life phase of all building projects; reduce the amount of all waste in sourcing materials and find locations other than the landfill for all other materials from demolition, packaging, etc.
2. Building scraps and waste from the construction phase should be reutilized on-site whenever possible.

Materials

1. No materials from the International Living Future Institute's Red List (<http://declareproducts.com/content/declare-and-living-building-challenge>) may be used in buildings.
2. All wood used in building construction should be from salvaged sources or certified to FSC 100% labeling standards whenever possible.
3. Design and building teams should source salvaged, recycled and upcycled materials to the greatest extent possible.
4. When new materials are sourced, preference should be given to those that have environmentally and socially preferable attributes.
5. All materials and labor should be sourced from local resources, suppliers and contractors whenever possible.

Occupant Health

1. Maximize comfort and well-being of building occupants through air quality insurance and ventilation, access to natural light, temperature regulation, effective acoustics management and outdoor access.