

Built Environment Declares: How to Set Up a New Declaration

Functions of 'declare' sites:

- Record the declaration of climate and biodiversity emergency by professional clients, consultants, contractors, manufacturers, and educators in the construction and built environment sectors throughout the world
- Commit signatories to positive, far-reaching action and public scrutiny
- Are decentralised and non-hierarchical
- Place emphasis on individual accountability
- Rely on local networking and initiatives to connect signatories

Signatories are encouraged to:

- Take urgent and measurable action in response to the declared commitments
- Upload open source data and record actions on a dedicated section of their own websites
- Contact and collaborate with other signatories within their own networks

Please read the instructions below to find out how you can sign an existing declaration or set up a new declaration site:

1. How to sign an existing declaration for your own discipline in your own country
2. How to set up a declaration in a new country for a discipline already covered by Built Environment Declares
3. How to set up a declaration in your country for a new discipline not currently covered by Built Environment Declares

The text and format of the original UK architects declaration (at the end of this document) should be seen as a guide to all new declarations.

1. How to sign an existing declaration for your own discipline in your own country

- Find your country on www.builtenvironmentdeclares.com
- Click on the country and a drop-down menu will appear
- If you see your discipline on the list, click on it and you will be taken to the relevant declare site

2. How to set up a declaration in a new country for a discipline already covered by Built EnvironmentDeclares

If a declaration has already been set up for your discipline, launching a declaration site for your country is simple.

You will need to be able to commit your time to:

- Enabling the site
- Publicising the site
- Administering the site on a daily basis (approx 15 mins a day, in early stages)

If you are interested, please read the steps below:

- Assemble support from at least five practices in your country
- Gather the following information:
 - Name and address of practice/company who will be administering the site
 - Email Address
 - Professional Affiliations and Registrations
 - Names and email addresses of your initial signatories
- Send this information to the info@ email for your sector:
 - Architects: info@architectsdeclare.com
 - Building Service engineers: info@engineersdeclare.com
 - Civil engineers: info@engineersdeclare.com
 - Structural engineers: info@engineersdeclare.com

Uploading Content

If you are successful in your application, you will be provided with a unique log-in to your country page and the Content Management System (CMS) guidelines.

- You will then be able to use these guidelines to upload your text content. Please note, each declaration site has the same template, so you'll need to use the existing design and text fields. All text is customisable, so you can translate the declaration to the language of your choice.
- Once you're ready to go, you'll simply need to 'publish' the site. This is very simple — all you need to do is flick a switch in the CMS. There's no development needed. If you wish, you can buy the local version of the declares.com domain, and forward it the subdomain. For example: the Norway version of architectsdeclare.com lives at no.architectsdeclare.com. However, the Norwegians bought www.architectsdeclare.no and forwarded this domain to no.architectsdeclare.com, with the help of a developer. This means they can share www.architectsdeclare.no online. This is optional, not essential.

Administering the site

Once the site is live, as an administrator, you will then be responsible for verifying and publishing signatures.

Instructions for doing all of the above are found in the CMS guidelines. Essentially, this involves logging into the CMS on a daily basis and approving any new signatures.

The [UK structural engineers](#) list this disclosure:

To sign, practices must provide the email address for their CEO, Chairperson or appropriate Board Member. Approval will be sought via this email before the company name is added to the declaration.

When a new signature is added, they send an email to the contact, to confirm their practice name can be added to the list.

3. How to set up a declaration in your country for a new discipline not currently covered by Built Environment Declares

Setting up a declaration for a new sector is relatively easy, but requires commitment. You will need to:

- Raise a development budget to build the site (£800 - £1200)
- Set up the site with Lovers, the web developers
- Publicise the site
- Administer the site on a daily basis (approx 15 mins a day, in early stages).
- Set up and monitor an info@ email account for your sector
- Provide log-ins to global administrators

If you are interested, please follow the steps below:

- Assemble support from at least five practices in your country
- Gather the following information:
 - Name and address of practice/company who will be administering the site
 - Email Address
 - Professional Affiliations and Registrations
 - Names and email addresses of your initial signatories
- Send this information to both info@builtenvironmentdeclares.com & team@lovers.co

Set Up the site with Lovers Agency Limited:

If you are successful in your application, the next step will be to commission Lovers Agency Limited to “clone” the Declares site and link it to the relevant domain, e.g. surveyorsdeclare.com

Involved Costs:

Lovers costs: £600 - £1000.00 + VAT, depending on support hours.

Third-party costs (One-off): Craft license \$299

Third-party costs (Monthly): Hosting fees (minimal) / Domain name (minimal)

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When a new signature is added, they send an email to the contact, to confirm their practice name can be added to the list.

You will also be responsible for verifying and approving new global administrators — eg, the Italian version of your sector, and passing on the CMS guidelines for them to use.

Architects Declare Website Text

The twin crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss are the most serious issue of our time. Buildings and construction play a major part, accounting for nearly 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions whilst also having a significant impact on our natural habitats.

For everyone working in the construction industry, meeting the needs of our society without breaching the earth's ecological boundaries will demand a paradigm shift in our behaviour. Together with our clients, we will need to commission and design buildings, cities and infrastructures as indivisible components of a larger, constantly regenerating and self-sustaining system.

The research and technology exist for us to begin that transformation now, but what has been lacking is collective will. Recognising this, we are committing to strengthen our working practices to create architecture and urbanism that has a more positive impact on the world around us.

We will seek to:

- Raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action amongst our clients and supply chains.
- Advocate for faster change in our industry towards regenerative design practices and a higher Governmental funding priority to support this.
- Establish climate and biodiversity mitigation principles as the key measure of our industry's success: demonstrated through awards, prizes and listings.
- Share knowledge and research to that end on an open source basis.
- Evaluate all new projects against the aspiration to contribute positively to mitigating climate breakdown, and encourage our clients to adopt this approach.
- Upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a more carbon efficient alternative to demolition and new build whenever there is a viable choice.
- Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modelling and post occupancy evaluation as part of our basic scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use.
- Adopt more regenerative design principles in our studios, with the aim of designing architecture and urbanism that goes beyond the standard of net zero carbon in use.
- Collaborate with engineers, contractors and clients to further reduce construction waste.
- Accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials in all our work.
- Minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning, both in quantum and in detail.

NB: In 2021, Architects Declare UK added the following as a 12th declaration point:

- Support those who are working for climate justice and strive to ensure equity and an improved quality of life for all.