



**UNGC Communication on Progress
May 2022**

Certified



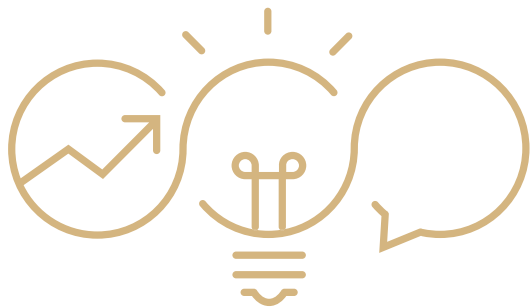
Corporation™

**We exist to help
our clients create
value from tackling
one of the world's
most fundamental
challenges.**

Who we are

Established in 2008, Edge is a specialist sustainability advisory company focused on Asia-Pacific and the Americas. Our teams are based in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Chile.

We exist to help our clients create value from tackling one of world's most fundamental challenges: creating truly sustainable economies and societies. We do this by combining science, strategy and storytelling in a way that gives our clients the confidence to take ambitious action, and do well by doing good.



Science. Strategy. Storytelling.

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Executive Statement

I am pleased to present Edge Environment's first Communication on Progress (COP) covering our 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 reporting period. We continue to support the United Nations Global Compact by renewing our ongoing commitment to the initiative and support the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact on environment, human rights, labour, and anti-corruption.

We are committed to making the UN Global Compact and its principles part of our strategy, culture and day-to-day operations of our company, and to engage in collaborative projects which advance the broader development goals of the United Nations, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals. Edge Environment has already made a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public and with this report, we outline our current and future plans to implement the Ten Principles. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on our progress annually, with this being our first report. Moving forward, our annual disclosures against the UNGC Principles will be integrated into our broader Group-wide communications with the release of our inaugural Impact Report in late 2022.

Sincerely,
Mr Jonas Bengtsson



CEO and Co-Founder





Our memberships, partnerships and accreditations

As an organisation, we put great emphasis on playing an active role in the sustainability community by supporting industry initiatives; contributing technical expertise; and operating within recognised frameworks.

Memberships



Accreditations



Partnerships



Environment

Objectives:

In terms of our client work:

Edge is a sustainability consultancy that delivers advisory services across a range of sectors. In short, we live and breathe sustainability each day. As such, our main environmental and social impacts result from the positive action we catalyse through our clients. We demonstrate best practice to our clients, peers and wider stakeholders, and inspire them to implement change in their own organisations. We support our clients by working across seven areas:

1. Sustainability leadership and communications
2. ESG and sustainability strategy
3. Carbon and climate resilience
4. Circular economy and lifecycle thinking
5. Sustainable and ethical procurement
6. Sustainable delivery
7. Edge Technology

Internally

Our mission is to catalyse change by combining science, strategy and storytelling. To do this, we're delivering on a suite of ambitious environmental objectives including our Science Based Target (SBT) for carbon reduction and B-Corp certification. We recognise that our own operations and supply chains have the potential to create negative impacts that need to be measured and mitigated. We ensure that potential impacts are considered in all business decision-making and procurement. Our values are rooted in supporting a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, undertaking initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies. Our values are shared across the organisation, partners and sub-contractors.



Environment

Implementation:

- We provide six different service areas to support full spectrum sustainability expertise and services.
- We ensure our values and ethical considerations are embedded in each client project we undertake through conducting a Go/No-go process.
- We contribute to activities, organisations and causes which advance both a public purpose of our local and global community and a business purpose.
- We contribute to education for sustainability, by committing staff time to hosting events, developing training for the wider community and lecturing in environmental education programs.
- We work with certifications and help organisations reach them.
- We implement purpose-driven procurement and contributions, through initiatives such as disaster-responsive thought leadership, charity donations, low carbon and B Corp-preferential procurement.
- We minimise interstate and international travel by use of online meetings and other means of communication.

Measurement of outcomes:

- 256 clients and 374 projects over the last financial year.
- Grew to a team of 71 sustainability professionals.
- We set up offices in North America and New Zealand to provide sustainability services there.
- We started measuring the impact of each project delivered with clients annually, and will release our first impact report July 2022.



CLIENTS

256



PROJECTS

374



PEOPLE

71

2021

North America and
New Zealand offices opened

GROWTH



Best Green Building Material

Client Product Named
Best of the Best at the 2021
Sustainability Awards

Graphic Design (Publication)

RECOGNITION



Launched Tree Planting
Predictor Tool

PRODUCT



INTEGRATION

Human Rights

Objectives:

In terms of our client work:

At Edge, we recognise the need to support organisations implement responsible and ethical sourcing practices. We focus on social procurement, supplier inclusion and diversity; right through to risk and governance, anti-bribery and corruption, particularly as it impacts human rights.

Through our sustainable and ethical procurement service offerings, we help our clients address human rights in their supply chain. These service offerings include conducting supply chain environmental and social risk assessments, supply chain engagement strategies, modern slavery and human rights risk assessment and prioritisation, risk mitigation roadmaps and implementation support, remediation, grievance mechanisms, modern slavery statements and more.

Internally:

Our approach to people engagement ensures we treat people equitably. We practice equality of opportunity and employment regardless of gender, religion, political opinion, disability, family or carer's responsibilities, ethnicity, sexual orientation and identity, age or criminal record. We commit to respecting and promoting human rights by setting an expectation of professional, responsible and respectful behaviour to ensure a productive workplace environment.

We encourage reporting of wrongdoing by providing a convenient and safe reporting mechanism, and protection for people who make serious wrongdoing disclosures. We uphold our legal and moral responsibility to ensure that workers and visitors are not subjected to behaviours or practices that may constitute discrimination, bullying or harassment.



Human Rights

Implementation:

- Employees are encouraged to report or disclose concerns or issues to their people leader or our Global People & Culture Lead through the whistleblower policy.
- We help our clients address human rights through our sustainable and ethical procurement service offerings.
- We ensure our ethical considerations, such as human rights values, are evaluated through client projects we agree to support via our Go/No-go process.
- We take part in the growing dialogue on human rights issues globally by sharing our insights.
- We ensure people are treated equitably across all teams and levels of the organisation and during recruiting, performance evaluation and promoting as outlined in our diversity, equality and inclusion policy.
- Our anti-discrimination, bullying and harassment policy ensures we uphold our legal and moral responsibility to ensure that workers and visitors are not subjected to behaviours or practices that may constitute discrimination, bullying or harassment.
- Our ethics policy helps us find the appropriate balance between growing our reach and resources, balanced with working on the most impactful and mission-aligned projects and clients that align to our values.

Measurement of outcomes:

- We've commenced measuring the impact of each project delivered with clients annually, and will release our first impact report July 2022.
- We have worked with at least ten clients across topics of sustainable and ethical procurement this financial year.



Labour practices

Objectives:

We've established our business to operate as 'One Edge' and work as a co-ordinated team. We respect human dignity, personal integrity and ensure fair treatment and inclusion. We review each of our suppliers to ensure they hold similar sustainability values to those of Edge and help our clients understand and improve labour practices across their own supply chains.

Our hiring processes are open, transparent, competitive and based on merit. We ensure biases don't impact the decisions made when recruiting by evaluating performance and remuneration, providing development opportunities, identifying talent, succession planning and promoting.

As a growing organisation, we've made changes to ensure our team feels valued. We've appointed a Global Lead - People and Culture, who, through direct team engagement spoke to nearly each employee to learn what is important to the team. As a result and to support work/life balance of our teams, Edge's employees have access to Uprise Employee assistance, an app that offers wellbeing support. We also promote and champion flexible and remote working. We are excited to continue growing as a team, nurturing our people to be the best sustainability professionals so they can help clients create positive impact.



Labour practices

Implementation:

- Understanding what is important to our team and refining our Employee Value Proposition (EVP).
- We adhere to the relevant labour and employment requirements in effect in each of our operating jurisdictions across Chile, New Zealand, the USA and Australia.
- Through a buddy system, we ensure each team member is supported by another.
- We encourage employees, partners or managers to report or disclose instances of suspected reportable conduct involving Edge's business through our whistle-blower policy.
- Awareness-raising and training for employees on labour rights and policies.
- We've established an Employee Assistance Program to provide our teams with confidential and free support.
- We ensure our policies are up to date, correct and there for employees to refer to. These include:
 - Edge Anti-discrimination, Bullying & Harassment Policy
 - Edge Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Edge Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy
 - Edge Human Resources Policy
 - Edge Leave Policy and Procedure Guide
 - Edge Parental Leave Policy
 - Edge Relocation Policy and Procedure Guide
 - Edge Wellbeing, Health and Safety Policy
 - Edge Occupational Health and Safety Policy

Measurement of outcomes:

- Appointed a People & Culture staff member to help grow our EVP.



“AT EDGE, WE ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO RESPECTING THE BEAUTY AND VALUE OF DIVERSITY THROUGHOUT OUR TEAM, AS WELL AS TO ENSURING THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF ALL OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS. WE STRIVE TO NOT ONLY HELP OUR CLIENTS DO THIS IN THEIR ORGANISATIONS, BUT ALSO TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IN OUR OWN PRACTICES.”

Bryan Sheehan | Managing Director, North America

Anti-corruption

Objectives:

In terms of our client work:

Recognising the intersectionality between human rights, environmental degradation and corruption, we help clients through our service offerings to develop sustainable procurement guidelines for their own organisations which factor in anti-corruption considerations within their supply chains.

These services include conducting ISO20400 gap and opportunity analyses to understand how to integrate sustainability with procurement. With a strong focus on due diligence and establishment of risk and governance frameworks, we support clients in identifying relevant areas of concern and adopting practices to mitigate these risks.

Internally:

At Edge we maintain a mechanism through which potential ethical concerns can be openly and honestly raised without fear of negative consequences. Our financial policy outlines the review process every new supplier must go through to ensure that the supplier's service is aligned with our business objectives and ethical expectations.



Anti-corruption

Implementation:

- Our ethical policy supports our goal to balance growth by working on those initiatives that generate positive and meaningful impact, with projects that are mission and values aligned.
- We encourage employees, partners or managers to report or disclose instances of suspected reportable conduct involving Edge's business through our whistle-blower policy.
- We ensure our values are embedded in each client project we undertake through our Go/No-go process.

Measurement of outcomes:

- Introduced a Conflicts of Interest disclosure process for employees that also have outside interests that might present a conflict to Edge.
- Appointed a General Counsel to manage legal risk and advance our in-house approaches.



CASE STUDY: CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORPORATION

Opportunities for Cutting Embodied Carbon

Overview:

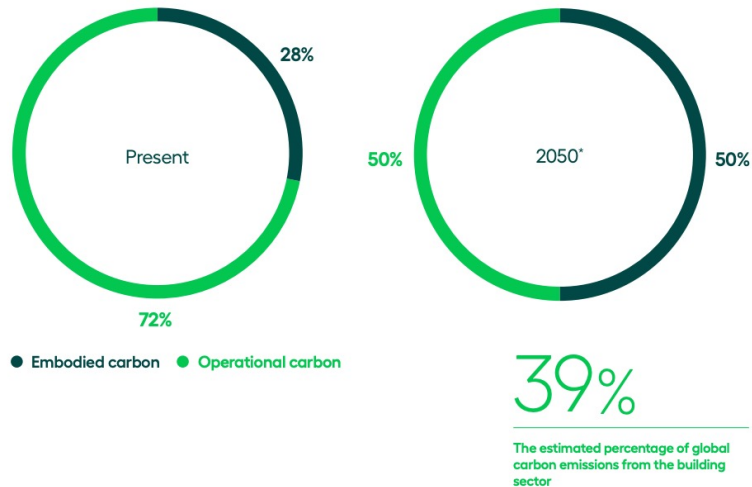
We developed an industry report for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation in collaboration with the Green Building Council of Australia and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council. We utilised our specialisation in third party life cycle assessment, carbon and sustainable building and infrastructure and drew on project data from the GBCA Green Star and ISC Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Schemes, complemented by extensive modelling and industry discussions.

Outcome:

The report is publicly available and provides practical guidance and cost analysis on potential options for reducing embodied carbon, to support asset owners, investors and developers in understanding how embodied carbon can contribute to the achievement of their emissions reduction ambitions. We identified great potential in the building sector to cut emissions, finding that on average, sustainability rated infrastructure projects achieve a reduction of up to 33% in embodied carbon compared to similar designs with no such measures.



Figure 2: Potential change in embodied vs operational carbon by 2050



CASE STUDY: CANBERRA REGION JOINT ORGANISATION

Bushfire Resilient Homes Toolkit

Overview:

We worked in collaboration with several partners to create and deploy the Climate Resilient Housing Toolkit. The toolkit's purpose is to inform, educate and inspire residents, councils and industry to act on bushfire risk. The project determined the current and future natural hazard adaptive capacity of the Canberra Region and captured qualitative and quantitative insights which guided the Toolkit development to accelerate the adoption of climate resilience.

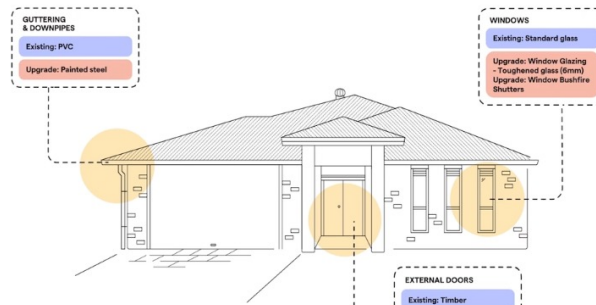
Outcome:

The insights of this work proved that structural upgrades had to be quantified, simple and accessible to most people and housing types. The work also proved that retrofitting housing with bushfire resilient upgrades is practical and affordable but requires incentives. The toolkits developed include templates and step by step guides to help council and industry use and apply the project in regions across Australia. Applying a regional focus to this project allowed insights to emerge, e.g., the commonality between housing archetypes and the partnership model meant we had a diverse audience through which to share findings and act.



Image source: EDGE Environment

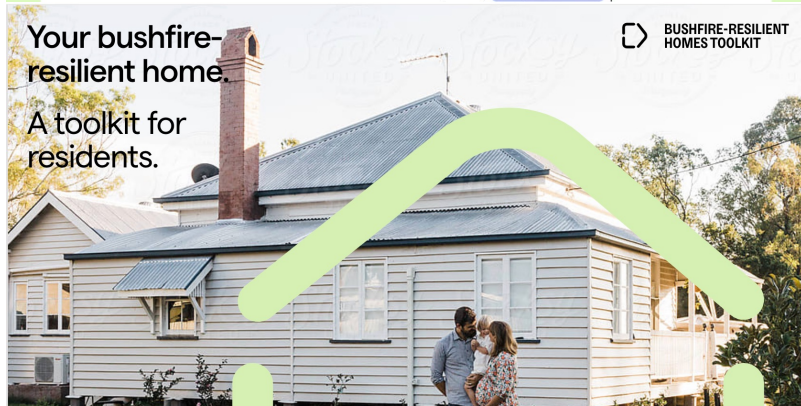
Australia has experienced a number of devastating bushfires.



Your bushfire-resilient home.

A toolkit for residents.

BUSHFIRE-RESILIENT HOMES TOOLKIT



CASE STUDY: BINGO

Ensuring human rights through decision-making

Overview:

Edge supported BINGO develop and implement BINGO's Responsible Sourcing Strategy, aligned to ISO20400. To commence the project Edge reviewed documents and conducted company wide stakeholder interviews to establish current practice against ISO20400.

Outcome:


The outcome of this work included a final report including a heatmap and score against ISO20400, recommendations for improvement and a Responsible Sourcing Action Plan. To support the implementation of the Action Plan, Edge developed a supplier survey on sustainability and modern slavery issues, and a due diligence framework which provided a comprehensive summary of modern slavery and carbon impact risks, prioritising the key issues for key procurement categories and suppliers.

The due diligence framework provided detail on the salient risks and the appropriate risk management approach such as specific SAQs for onboarding, and contract requirements. Edge also developed a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to plan for the ongoing engagement, education and partnerships required with various stakeholders on the key issues for responsible sourcing.





Thank you

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