

CONSTRUCTING LANDSCAPES SUSTAINABLY

Key points

Construct landscapes using sustainable designs, in an appropriate sequence, for the long-term.

Protect the natural ecology and site assets (soil, indigenous vegetation, mature trees).

Reduce the impact of resource-use by using less, using low environmental impact materials (including re-used or recycled) and selecting quality materials that last.

Prepare soil for healthy plant growth and source high quality plants.

Install irrigation systems only where needed and that deliver water to plant roots efficiently.

Minimise waste and recycle where possible.

Monitor the performance of the new landscape.

Good design is an important precursor of attractive and more sustainable gardens. Construction can contribute to environmental problems, but it can also solve them. It is important to construct gardens in an appropriate sequence, protecting site assets, producing minimal waste and recycling where possible, and disposing of waste appropriately. Priority can be given during construction to using low environmental impact materials, installing low energy and low water equipment, and constructing for the long-term but with a view that materials can be easily recycled in the future.

Improving the sustainability of construction may involve changing currently accepted methods. This may mean using different equipment, altering the sequence of tasks, or sourcing alternative materials, sourcing supplies from companies that are managed more sustainably or are closer to the site. Sometimes we may already know the most sustainable approach, but other times we may need guidance or the information may not be available yet.

Choosing contractors who understand sustainability makes building a low impact