

# WWF LIVING PLANET CENTRE - WILLMOTT DIXON



Waste



Construction

## A CASE STUDY

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Wilmott Dixon Construction was awarded the Sustainable Building category at the 2015 Sustainable City Awards for their creation of the WWF's Living Planet Centre. The facility works both as an office and an education centre for the WWF charity. The building is a feat of sustainability-centric engineering with a natural ventilation system working on fresh air to keep the building cool and ventilated. All materials used during the construction of the building were assessed according to their embodied carbon, enabling the building to reduce its carbon footprint by 42%. Solar panels, rainwater harvesting and ground-source heat pumps demonstrate the company's commitment to low and zero carbon technologies. The building also provides a source of wellbeing for employees with working spaces that include unique details, such as bird-song played into the environment.

Some key highlights of the project include:

- Building materials were chosen according to their carbon footprint – traditional materials were substituted reducing the carbon footprint of the building by 42%. The operational carbon footprint was also decreased by the use of solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems and ground source heat pumps
- The building was designed around promoting the wellbeing of employees using it. Some of these features include:
- Bike stores, showers and drying-room to encourage employees to cycle to work.

- An Oasis room for quiet reflection. A meet and eat area – 72% of employees now take regular breaks.
- Thought was put into the workspace layout and the design of less conventional work stations design e.g.: standing desks and quiet booths.
- Natural ventilation system using fresh air.
- Building flooded with natural light, brise-soleil and automatic blinds reduce glare and temperature, while task lights on workstations give individuals control over their immediate surroundings.
- Bird song is played through the open plan office but alongside quiet areas should employees need it.
- Low and zero emission carpets were used and finished and adhesives chosen helped reduce pollutants at source.
- Plants used inside also function to reduce stress.