Sustainability Policy 2019

Mission

Our mission is to connect and support environmental practitioners to promote a sustainable future.

Values

Excellence: We establish and encourage high standards of science, policy and practice
Ethics: We are accountable and share a commitment to ethical professional practice
Engagement: We are actively engaged in our profession and advocate constructively for evidence-based environmental management

Principles

Our approach to sustainability is guided by the following principles:

- Leadership, ethical and evidence-based professional practice
- The integrity of human health and resilience of biological systems, and collaboration across domains and between stakeholders
- In circumstances where scientific information is inconclusive, or incomplete, the precautionary principle and risk management practices should be applied to ensure irreversible negative consequences are avoided and not passed as a liability to future generations.
- The use of resources should not exceed the limits of regeneration. The use of non-renewable resources should be optimised to establish an enduring asset value (everlasting and/or fully recyclable) and be limited to applications where substitution with renewable resources is not practical.
- Understand and assess the viability of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies needed to make the difference and have the practical know-how to implement these strategies.

Important Issues

The Institute faces many opportunities and challenges. Due to their direct impact on us and our stakeholders, we have prioritised the following issues that need to be addressed:

- climate change
- biodiversity loss

- use of non-renewables
- waste management
- water consumption
- finance/ economics
- workplace environment

Our Scope

- This policy will apply to workplace activities, work-related travel and events/conferences hosted by the Institute. This is assumed to include events and travels we host and pay for. All the staff, members, volunteers and stakeholders are expected to uphold objectives under this policy and to inform management of financial and other barriers to achieving goals.

- We acknowledge we have limited influence over third parties. However, we commit to educate any third parties involved in the work of our policy and encourage them to align operating practices with policy objectives.

- Our attention to environmental, social and economic responsibility includes working within the law and voluntarily exceeding legal requirements to be innovative and demonstrate leadership on the issues that are important to us, our members and stakeholders. As we design experiences, execute events and evaluate our success, we can choose how our actions and words build a better quality of life for our employees, volunteers, members, event participants and the Institute overall.

Our commitments

We commit to:

1. **Minimising environmental impacts in the areas of energy, waste and water**

ENERGY

1. Promote sustainable travel and encourage the use of telephone and video conferencing where practicable.
2. Collection of emissions data - Establishment of a GHG reporting and monitoring methodology.
   a. Audit GHG emissions coming from Institute-related travel (e.g. employee commuting, volunteer travel, Board flights etc.), energy consumption on-premises (electricity, heating & cooling, computers), deliveries (mail & airfreight), catering, resource use and infrastructure development, and waste management.
3. Selection of projects and purchasing offsets.
   a. Collection of offset funds.
4. Reduce energy use.
5. Select environmentally efficient venues for conferences and events.

WASTE

1. Eliminating waste should be a primary consideration. Unavoidable waste from any one process should be examined for recycling potential as input to another productive process.
2. Minimise waste at events through following applicable guidelines and standards.
3. Storage of recyclables and waste materials for the purpose of transfer, sale, sorting, reuse, recycling, reprocessing or energy recovery.

WATER

1. Report leaking taps and toilets.
2. Select water efficient venues for conferences and events.

2. Promoting workplace sustainability

1. Support the professional development of our employees and volunteers and ensure that they all receive training appropriate to their role in implementing our sustainability policy.
2. Support our volunteers and recognise the importance and value of the work they undertake.
3. Ensure the wellbeing of our employees and members.
4. Train staff to work within the environment management system (EMS) framework to reduce their work and personal lifestyle impacts.
5. Maintain records of our sustainability performance.
6. Advocate sustainability initiatives raised in this sustainability policy to and with our partners at our events and through our communications.
7. Avoid financial, business or other relationships which may compromise the sustainable performance of the Institute and its duties.

Reporting

We will develop a set of quantitative measures to evaluate our sustainability progress and report to the Board annually.

This policy will be reviewed by the EIANZ Board and updated once every two years.

Version 1.0
Approved by EIANZ Board December 2019