

IGS SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The International Geosynthetics Society believes that geosynthetics and associated technologies make a significant contribution to the achievement of sustainable development.

The IGS is committed to complying with applicable legislation and maximizing the positive sustainability contribution of geosynthetics, while minimizing the environmental impacts of our operations, including events organized or endorsed by the Society.

We will engage with, and communicate to, our employees, members, suppliers, and other stakeholders on the importance of sustainable practices. We will support them in improving their own sustainability performance.

In order to lead by example, we will regularly report on our environmental performance against the objectives and targets we set, and we will seek to continually improve.

OPERATIONS

We firmly believe in practising what we preach. Sustainability is at the heart of how we work. We have therefore committed to the following actions.

Office

We operate from the smallest practical office. We request that our office supplier runs this facility to the highest environmental standards, including energy efficiency, public health, employee comfort, water, and waste management.

We encourage homeworking wherever possible, to minimize the impact of daily travel.

Publishing

We will take steps to minimize the environmental footprint of our publications.

For example:

- printing with vegetable ink onto recycled paper
- limiting print runs to just what is needed and not what the best deal is
- where printing must be outsourced, we ensure that our printers have a comprehensive environmental policy
- publications are also being made increasingly available online and we are promoting the downloading of these files as opposed to physical copies.

Communications

We prefer email over post to reduce paper consumption and ink-use, while offering a more efficient service.

We only use digital documents for meetings.

We have established effective practices for remote meetings and make use of this option wherever possible.

Events

Through our specialist committees and Chapters, we have established effective practices for webinars, and online lectures and workshops. Our Educate the Educators program is now available online, and we have a built a catalogue of recorded events available through the IGS Digital Library.

Wherever possible remote events will continue to be the default option.

Where physical events are necessary, we will seek to include a remote attendance option.

In the case of physical events such as conferences and exhibitions, we will request organizers to commit to sustainable practices, for example:

- venues should be easily accessible by public transport
- venues should meet high environmental standards
- no use of single-use plastics
- recommended accommodation should meet high sustainability standards
- professional event organizers, caterers and other contractors must abide by local employment law.

MEMBERS

In making this statement the Society recognizes the vital role played by its members, through engineering, design, installation, manufacture, testing, research, and teaching. In fulfilling these roles members contribute to sustainable economic growth. This requires solutions that strike an informed balance in terms of cost, benefits, sustainability, and acceptability within the broader legislative framework, and involves an evaluation of whole life costs.

We encourage every member to understand, foster and promote the concepts of sustainable development and the need to deliver projects with an appropriate balance between environmental, social, and economic factors.

The IGS seeks to contribute to ongoing sustainability discussions and to expose our members to corresponding learning and networking.

We will conduct a periodic sustainability survey of our membership. We will act as a result of the survey findings and communicate the results and subsequent actions to the entire IGS membership, and to other stakeholders.

We will provide case histories of good practice.

COLLABORATION

In carrying out this activity IGS will engage with governments, public authorities, other institutions and societies, the public and other bodies, and organizations internationally.

We will further develop strategic alliances with other relevant organizations with the aim of promoting sustainable standards and practice.

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