

ISU Sustainability Policy

Preamble

Climate change is a major challenge of this century that affects all humankind. Its consequences are becoming increasingly important in our daily lives and a threat to our well-being. At ISU, as pioneers in space education for the future leaders in the international space community, we see teaching and research on space technologies that can help solve global problems and monitor climate change as a key component of the curriculum. In addition, we thrive to be an example of environmentally friendly practices on a day-to-day basis, both at our Central Campus in Strasbourg and at other program locations.

In line with the vision of the ISU Founders, expressed in the university's Credo, we deem this policy as essential for our mission and for the image, reputation and attractiveness of ISU worldwide. This policy is addressed to all staff, lecturers, students, and participants, with recommendations on how to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; consume less energy on campus; increase the use of sustainable transportation means; use sustainable procurement; develop recycling; and move towards zero waste.

This policy was drafted during the 2019-2020 academic year by a group of ISU students, faculty and staff who met during regular "Climate Lunch" sessions. The text was then reviewed and approved by the ISU President in March 2021.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to introduce the ISU community to a set of sustainability guidelines to help reducing ISU's carbon footprint and raising awareness of the impact each person can have in the fight against climate change. The policy encourages responsible behaviors in the community and beyond, regarding waste recycling and sustainable transportation, and introduces more high-level actions that ISU will take as an institution to ensure that we are doing our part to help save our environment.

It must help ISU to become ISO 14001 certified.

2. Scope

This policy applies to ISU employees and staff, ISU students and participants of all programs, the ISU global faculty and visiting lecturers, in all their actions related to their ISU contribution.

This policy covers all programs in which ISU is engaged, both on Central Campus and off-campus.

It applies to all ISU community members when they engage in ISU activities: governance, teaching and learning, research, and outreach.

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While the staff and governance bodies must teach by example, ISU recognizes that its most significant impact on the society comes from the capabilities and convictions of its alumni.

ISU accomplishes its mission through close cooperation with its stakeholders, its partner universities, companies, and public entities, as well as business partners and contractors. In their collaborative and commercial activities, ISU promotes this policy and incites its partners to adhere to the principles herein.

3. Areas for action

The policy goals are presented in six different categories of recommended and sustainable practice.

GREEN BUILDINGS

- Improve energy efficiency, and reduce overall energy use,
- Create and maintain green areas,
- Develop a hydroponic system to sustain green areas and support students' research projects.

CLEAN ENERGY

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by switching to clean energy sources.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

- Quantify the carbon footprint of the private and public transportation of students, staff, and external guests, as they come to ISU on daily or annual basis,
- Plan incentives for using sustainable means of transport (e.g., incentives for staff members who use bikes to go to work),
- Promote sustainable transport practices (e.g., public transportation or if unavailable, car-sharing).

ZERO WASTE

- Promote practices of reducing single-use items, reusing, and recycling,
- Avoid the distribution of plastic or non-recyclable materials,
- Implement recycling and verify the existence of all the necessary tools (i.e., separate bins, online flyers indicating the items to be differentiated and how to classify them),
- Monitor the supplies of food and drinks purchased for or used at conferences and events, check the advance quantities, and create statistics for planning future events.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

- Consider the sustainability of products and services when making procurement decisions,
- Verify the sustainability of the food service(*) both on and off campus (including, but not limited to, catering services, vending and coffee machines).

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TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- Organize periodic meetings to promote commitment to, and implementation of this Policy,
- Enrich the academic curriculum with appropriate and up to date content on the sustainability of space activities,
- Implement interdisciplinary team activities and projects related to sustainability of the Earth system and climate change.

4. Compliance and Responsibilities

An ad hoc Sustainability Committee will verify compliance with the activities indicated in the Policy. The Committee will be set up based on the "Climate Lunch" working group, will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy, the evolution of the ISU global greenhouse gas footprint, and will communicate with the ISU internal and external administrative bodies for the advancement of recommended practices.

The Committee will identify performance indicators and prepare an annual report on the achievement of the goals indicated herein.

The report will be submitted annually to the Academic Council and to the Board of Trustees, to help with their deliberations on the implementation of sustainability practices.

The Committee will also monitor compliance with laws and regulations applicable to ISU's activities in the domain of environmental practices and impact.

Definitions

- Sustainability: the quality of causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time (Cambridge)
- Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN, 1987)

Reference documents

- French National law on employees' incentives for biking
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management certification
- Instructions for recycling (cf. Schroll recycling company).

* Food: locally grown, fair trade certified, animal welfare approved, and other certifications.
