



CIVICUS Environmental Policy

1. Introduction

Recognising the critical connection between environmental sustainability, societal well-being, and long-term development, this policy commits to reducing the environmental footprint of all operations, fostering resilience, and promoting sustainable practices within the organisation and its broader network of stakeholders. Climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation are global challenges, and we aim to lead by example in addressing them.

This policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with the CIVICUS Travel Policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all of CIVICUS's work and must be upheld by the entire CIVICUS alliance, including the CIVICUS Secretariat, members, affiliated entities, and any registered offices or units operating under CIVICUS's mandate, such as regional hubs, national focal points, and advocacy or programme offices; wherever CIVICUS engages or implements activities. All CIVICUS entities share the responsibility of preventing environmental degradation, guided by our principles. CIVICUS staff are expected to act in accordance with this policy and to remain mindful of their daily activities to minimise and mitigate the organisation's environmental and climate impact.

While this policy does not directly apply to CIVICUS's external partners (such as consultants, donors, private sector partners, suppliers, and service providers), it is expected that they are aware of this policy and act in alignment with it when involved in any activities under CIVICUS's responsibility.

All partners, including the communities we serve, will be informed of CIVICUS's environmental policy, as well as our commitment to prevent, reduce, and mitigate our negative impacts on the environment and climate systems.

3. Objectives

The environmental policy seeks to:

- Minimise environmental impacts from organisational operations.
- Promote sustainable resource use and waste management.
- Align with global standards, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.
- Educate and engage employees and partners on environmental responsibility.
- Monitor and continually improve environmental performance.

4. Policy Principles

4.1 Environmental Stewardship

- Integrate environmental considerations into all planning, decision-making, and operational processes.
- Prioritise the protection and restoration of ecosystems.
- Encourage the use of renewable resources and energy-efficient technologies.

4.2 Sustainable Resource Use

- Implement sustainable procurement practices, prioritising environmentally responsible suppliers where possible.
- Commit to reducing single-use plastics and other non-biodegradable materials.

4.3 Waste Management

- Reduce, reuse, recycle and proper disposal wherever feasible.

4.4 Transportation and Travel

- Justify all air travel, considering alternatives like virtual meetings.
- When in-person meetings are necessary, prioritise well-planned and consolidated sessions—even if they require a longer duration—to minimise the need for multiple trips within a short period, thereby reducing travel-related environmental impact and operational strain.
- Prioritise rail over air travel where possible.
- Consider direct flights over multi-leg flights where possible, taking into consideration cost/budget, distance and carbon emissions.

5. Implementation Strategies

5.1 Training and Awareness

- Provide regular training to employees on environmental best practices.
- Incorporate environmental awareness into onboarding processes.
- Engage stakeholders, including partners and contractors, to adopt similar practices.

5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

- Develop a framework for tracking environmental performance, including carbon emissions.
- Conduct periodic environmental audits.
- Set measurable targets and adjust strategies based on evaluation outcomes.

6. Reporting and Transparency

Transparency is integral to this policy. Progress updates will be shared with all stakeholders through:

- Annual sustainability reports.
- Quarterly updates to the Operational Management Forum.

7. Review and Revision

The policy will undergo a comprehensive review every two years to ensure alignment with evolving environmental standards, stakeholder expectations, and relevant technological advancements.

8. Conclusion

This environmental policy reflects our commitment to sustainability and our responsibility as a global citizen. Together, we can contribute to a healthier planet for current and future generations. Adherence to this policy is expected from all employees and partners, as we collectively work towards a sustainable future.

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