

Environmental Statement

As a non profit organisation dedicated to promoting local led development, we believe it is crucial for us to know and control the environmental implications of our own activities (and that of our suppliers), minimise our daily impact, and communicate about it to the wider world. We are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas and other emissions and are working towards making high environmental awareness and action standard practice within the organisation and with our members, partners and suppliers.

To ensure neutral third party control, we sought and were awarded with Eco-dynamic certification for our headquarters in Brussels, under the '[Label Entreprise Eco-dynamique](#)'

2017 was dedicated to the management of our energy consumption, and we increased internal environmental awareness and sustainable practice, according to the principles detailed below.

Objective

Our aim is to continually reduce the environmental footprint of our organisation, through choosing less impactful mobility, more intelligent resource consumption, minimising waste, and maximising reusing and recycling. We will make our best endeavour to extend these principles to our members, chain of suppliers and partners. We are committed to complying with all relevant environmental legislation.

Impact

We expect our most significant environmental impacts to be:

- Emissions into the atmosphere from the use of carbon-based energy in offices and fuel in transport for work-related travel;
- Consumption of resources by our use of raw materials, water, office supplies and furniture;
- Production of waste materials;
- Environmental policies of our suppliers, partners and members.

We will review all of our policies in the light of future data on the emissions associated with our daily activities.



Mobility

- We encourage the use of available low impact travel for daily home/work commuting, by reimbursing the cost of public transport fare, a 'no company car' policy, and soon a bicycle scheme;
- We have flexible working practices to reduce the need to travel to work and during work, including securing efficient remote access to our desktops;
- Train travel is strongly preferred over other modes of long distance transport and staff and experts are strongly encouraged to use it;
- We are committed to reducing the total amount of travel through the use of new technologies and through developing the practice of virtual meetings;

Energy use

We are committed to keeping energy use to a minimum by implementing the following:

- Efficient use of heating systems and proper insulation in the offices;
- Using natural light and ventilation where possible;
- Purchasing low-energy equipment, particularly for computers and lighting;
- Turning off all equipment when not in use;
- Potentially using renewable energy (study on solar panels);
- Encouraging staff to keep an eye on saving energy.

Water

We are committed to keeping water usage to a minimum by doing the following:

- Raising awareness on the importance of water and economic usage amongst our staff;
- Posting messages in key locations reminding users to check taps are closed, selecting the economic flush;
- Maintaining all water installations and equipment to detect and fix leaks and excessive consumption;
- Using tap water instead of bottled water, thanks to a water fountain connected to the city water supply.

Paper use

As a nonprofit organisation, much of AEIDL's work involves producing articles, news and publications or other potentially paper-based outputs. Recognising the material, energy and pollution impacts of paper creation and use, our policy is to:

- Minimise paper usage, primarily through the increasing sophistication of electronic document creation and co-creation, exchange, archiving and retrieving;
- Re-use paper wherever possible;
- Use FSC-recycled paper for all documents;
- Print double-side and two per page for internal or rough copies of documents;



- Print double-side whenever clients permit it;
- Recycle all paper when not reusable;
- Recycle paper waste;
- Stop unwanted material being delivered or sent to AEIDL.

Biodiversity

We are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity around our premises. When renovating its offices, AEIDL fitted the old flat roof with vegetation, developed with the help of a Brussels-based social economy enterprise. It represents a surface of +/- 308 m², with 8 different types of flowers and plants. It is maintained and improved regularly by the same enterprise. AEIDL also fitted a new terrace in Robinia, a European wood, from FSC Hungarian forests.

AEIDL policy is:

- To keep on improving the diversity of the flower beds and plants;
- Looks for other sustainable options to improve biodiversity;
- Install one or several insect hotels.

Office practices

As for the remaining office supplies and equipment we:

- Re-use office supplies (folders, envelopes, etc.) as long as they remain fit for use;
- Recycle materials, including toner cartridges, glass, etc.;
- Arrange regular servicing of machinery to ensure operation at maximum efficiency, and minimal adverse impact;
- Try to minimise the use of supplies;
- Favour purchasing environmentally friendly products;
- Maintain staff awareness and involvement with regular in-house debates on various environmental subjects (e.g. the environmental impacts of travel, how to avoid energy waste).

Environmental referee

- Designation of a staff member in charge of answering to questions related to the environment;
- Clear definition of the function communicated to all;
- Time spent on environmental issues;
- Setting procedures to ensure better flow of information;
- Budget associated with the function;
- Training needs foreseen in the annual work programme.

Future improvements

We are committed to doing the following:

- Keeping improving our environmental performance and measure our progress regularly;
- Actively communicating our commitment to our partners, suppliers and stakeholders;
- Informing and educating our staff regarding the environmental effects of their activities through regular communication and maintain involvement at every level of the organisation;
- Participating in the life of the community in a sustainable way;
- Complying with relevant environmental legislation and keep up-to-date with the developments in sustainable practices.

Márta Márczis

President of AEIDL

This Policy will be reviewed in January 2019