1 NO POVERTY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY

APPROVED | 10 | 2023

13 ACTION

4 EDUCATION

10 INEQUALITIES
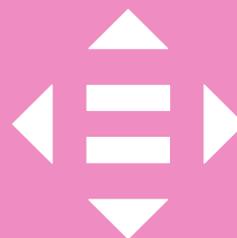
2 ZERO HUNGER

15 LIFE ON LAND

14 LIFE BELOW WATER
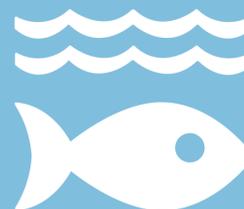
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

5 GENDER EQUALITY
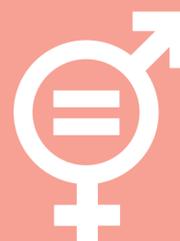
ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy

Climate change is experienced by an increasing number of people and communities around the world. Many ICO-MOS members are personally already directly or indirectly affected. Our personal lives and professional practice are also challenged by climate change.

That climate change is linked to human behaviour is now beyond doubt. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global average temperatures are already 1.1 degree higher than 150 years ago and increasing mainly due to emissions from our massive use of fossil energy. To halt global warming and avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change, signatories to the Paris Agreement (2015) have agreed to reduce global emissions by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 (UN Net Zero Coalition) . The necessary scale of carbon reduction can only be achieved through global, consolidated and immediate efforts.

We need to responsibly reduce the carbon footprint of ICOMOS travel, organisation, technology and administration- both internationally, and at national and scientific committee levels and locally in members' diverse communities. The consequent benefits of an approach focused on inclusion and diversity are both immense and fundamental to the delivery of Just Transition.

ICOMOS is already acting by :

- Declaring a climate emergency (2020),
- Adopting a 'Net Zero' vision and goal (AdCom 3 November 2021 *Item 3-2 Sustainability and Communications Task Force - SCTF*),
- Developing the Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Justice and Equity Toolkits[1]
- The ICOMOS International Cultural Heritage Tourism Charter [2] (2022) Principle 7 [3]
- The ICOMOS International Cultural Heritage Tourism Charter [4] (2022) Principle 7 [5]
- Focusing the Triennial Scientific Plans 2020-23 & 2025-27 on Climate Change: 2025-27: Safeguarding Heritage, Preparedness, Response, Recovery (GA 23 AdCom 3-2)

This ***ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy*** is specifically set out to operationalise the Net Zero ambition.

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1   ICOMOS Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit Climate Action Working Group - Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit - International Council on Monuments and Sites
2   ICTC Charter 2022 eng-franc Draft ICHT Charter ADCOMSC 202110 4.1 A.pdf

3   ICTC Charter Principle 7: Integrate climate action and sustainability measures in the management of cultural tourism and cultural heritage
4   ICTC Charter 2022 eng-franc Draft ICHT Charter ADCOMSC 202110 4.1 A.pdf
5   ICTC Charter Principle 7: Integrate climate action and sustainability measures in the management of cultural tourism and cultural heritage

This *ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy* is specifically set out to operationalise the Net Zero ambition.

Draft ICOMOS 'Net Zero' vision statement

ICOMOS is aspiring to become a net-zero organisation by 2030. We will do this by estimating our greenhouse gas emissions, developing and implementing plans adapted to context and economic reality to avoid or reduce emissions related to our organisational activities and neutralising non-avoided emissions, wherever possible.

What is a 'Net-Zero Carbon organisation'?

Net-zero carbon footprint is ..."t*he status where the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to an organization, company, product or service are estimated, plans are developed and implemented to reduce or avoid them, and finally any non-avoided emissions are "neutralized" through carbon capture or removal technologies* [1].

Net Zero vs Carbon Neutrality

Carbon neutrality introduces the possibility of "offsetting" emissions through the use of carbon credits. Hence, carbon neutrality can be a step towards Net Zero, but will not get us to the goals of the Paris Agreement as the options for offsetting at some point are exhausted. Carbon capture and removal technologies are needed to achieve Net Zero and the goals of the Paris Agreement. To contribute to an awareness of this distinction, to support transparency about actual emissions and encourage national development and use of carbon capture and removal technologies the ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy applies the Net Zero ambition [2].

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1   SDG 12 Hub (2022) UNFCCC-aligned lexicon in Glasgow Declaration https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-tourism/glasgow-declaration/faq
2   Ibid.

1   Goals and Actions of ICOMOS as a Net Zero organisation

To operationalise its Net Zero vision by 2023, ICOMOS will:

1. Make efforts to reduce carbon emissions related to all its activities including meetings and events (organised at all levels of the organisation), acknowledging the different economic capabilities of countries;

2. Help individual members reduce carbon emissions related to ICOMOS by organising meetings also in hybrid / blended or online format and redesigning meeting models;

by:
I.   estimating greenhouse gas emissions associated with ICOMOS activities
II.   developing and implementing plans to reduce or avoid these emissions, and
III.   "neutralising" unavoided emissions (through carbon capture or removal technologies).

In this endeavour **ICOMOS** will:

1. Draft an organisational definition of Net Zero for consultation and adoption, drawing on international precedents (see draft vision statement above);

Empower climate action (through carbon reduction) across the global membership (including Board, Secretariat, National Committees, ISCs, WGs and individuals) in efforts to reduce and minimise carbon emissions by:

     a.   Promoting use of the Responsible Meetings and Events Checklists and Carbon Calculators through templates and methods for measuring and tracking performance (for example through the Annual Reporting);

     b.   Developing and disseminating recommendations that help minimise carbon emissions; and

     c.   Incentivising and showcasing good practice

     For example establishing an:

- ICOMOS Climate Action Performance Award
- ICOMOS Carbon Fund to capture and ring fence travel offsetting for Climate Action such as the cost of delivering hybrid meetings

     d.   Aligning with relevant initiatives and resources by ICOMOS and other relevant organisations/initiatives, for which ICOMOS is currently the Secretariat

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DID YOU ALREADY KNOW...

....that keeping your camera on during a one hour Zoom meeting emits 1,000 grams of CO2 and requires up to three gallons of water, but shutting it off cuts the footprints by 96 percent [1]

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1   https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9153243/Keeping-camera-one-hour-Zoom-meeting-emits-1-000-grams-CO2-study-reveals.html

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# 2 Proposed recommendations to reduce carbon emissions

To become a net zero organisation, all parts of ICOMOS must take action. Carbon emission reduction is an imperative and not optional. There are many ways to go about it, including the following recommendations for organisational implementation. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome and innovative and progressive ideas encouraged.

Board

- Endorse the ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy
- Support the development of an ICOMOS Carbon calculator to estimate and minimise carbon emissions from all travel and activities and promote and utilise this calculator for ICOMOS activities.
- Working with the SCTF, establish a simple methodology for collecting baseline and performance data via ICOMOS Secretariat for previously in-person only and hybrid meetings.
- Revise the existing Terms of Reference (ToR) to remove the requirement that the organisation of statutory meetings should be carried out through professional assistance, and allow competent ICOMOS members or entities to deliver this service with suitable remuneration as possible. Extend requirements of hybrid meetings to scientific symposia.
- Review and amend ICOMOS Carbon Reduction performance and targets on a triennial basis
- Explore the establishment of an ICOMOS Carbon Fund to capture and ring fence travel offsetting for Climate Action such as the cost of delivering hybrid meetings particularly to equalise opportunities and participation between countries.

DID YOU ALREADY KNOW.....
....that Carbon emissions of in-person conferences are estimated to be 55 times higher than virtual conferenes[1]
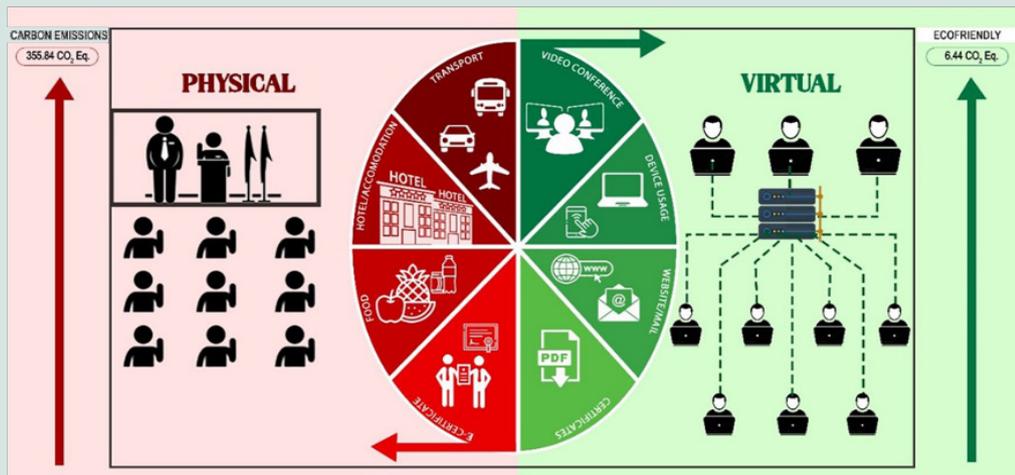
1   https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/11786221221093298#:~:text=The%20liberal%20estimate%20in%20our,6.44%20MT%20CO2%20Eq).

Secretariat

- Promote the use of the ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy and its associated tools.
- Use the future Board-endorsed ICOMOS Carbon calculators/ methodologies to estimate and minimise carbon emissions from all Secretariat travel and activities.

National Committees

- Implement the Carbon Reduction Strategy to the best ability of your committee
- Promote the use of the ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy and its associated tools.
- Use the future Board-endorsed ICOMOS Carbon calculators/ methodologies to estimate and minimise carbon emissions from all committee travel and activities
- Review travel practices and sponsorship with a view to encouraging alternative forms of members' participation.

ISCs and WGs

- Implement the Carbon Reduction Strategy to the best ability of your committee.
- Promote the use of the ICOMOS Carbon Reduction Strategy and its associated tools
- Use the future Board-endorsed ICOMOS Carbon calculators/ methodologies to estimate and minimise carbon emissions from all committee travel and activities
- Continue to synchronise meetings with other ISCs to minimise travel

Individual members

- Use the future Board-endorsed ICOMOS Carbon calculators to estimate and minimise carbon emissions from all ICOMOS travel and activities, local and international
- Use the future Board-endorsed ICOMOS Carbon calculators/ methodologies to inform decisions and identify travel options for attending meetings

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DID YOU ALREADY KNOW...

.... that the average person creates 2 tons of carbon footprint every single month?[1]

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1   https://8billiontrees.com/carbon-offsets-credits/carbon-ecological-footprint-calculators/

3 Appendices (as hyperlinks only)

Annex 1: ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit (Under modification in line with the Board comments for adoption by the Board in March 2024)

Annex 2: Tools under consideration and development (Under development)

Annex 3: Sustainability & Communications Task Force Terms of Reference

Annex 4: Resources & References

4 The Toolkit - a contribution by SCTF -1: Sustainability

Main contributors:

Deirdre McDermott ICOMOS Ireland, AdCom Officer / Adcom SCTF and Assisting AdCom Volunteer programme coordinator / RBAWG / CAWG / SDGWG CIAV ICORP

Kerime Danis Australia ICOMOS / Assisting AdCom Volunteer / SCTF / ISCES+CC / ISCSBH / Secretary General ICIP / AdCom Officer

Renate Bornberg ICOMOS Austria Board / Assisting AdCom Volunteer / SCTF

Cecilie Smith-Christensen ICOMOS Norway / Assisting AdCom Volunteer / SCTF / ICTC / RBAWG / SDGWG / CAWG

Members:

Sheridan Burke Australia ICOMOS / AdCom Officer / ISC20C
Lorenza Stanziano ICOMOS ITALY / Assisting AdCom Volunteer / SCTF
Laure Marique ICOMOS Belgium (IWB) / EPWG / RBAWG
Riin Alatalu ICOMOS Estonia / Board

Design:

Renate Bornberg

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