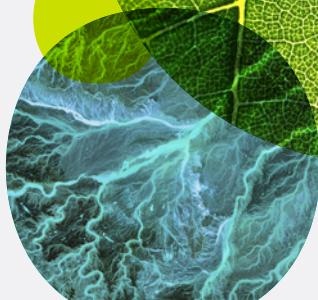
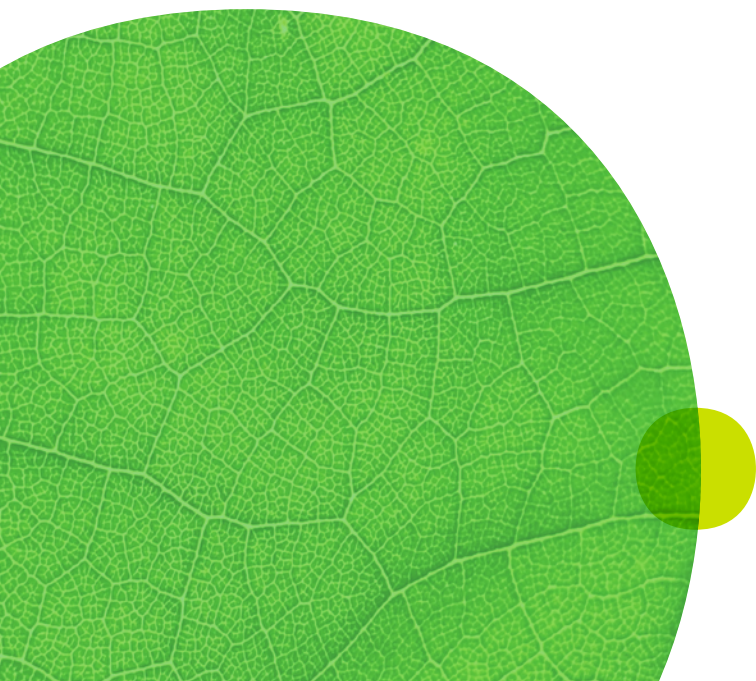


WIPO High-Level Policy on Environmental Responsibility



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Foreword

Climate change continues to be one of our most pressing challenges. Every day, the world learns more about the urgent need to do things differently if we are to move towards a green, sustainable future. Efforts are required on all levels: as individuals, as organizations and on a systemic level. As a member of the United Nations family, it is our responsibility to “live the goals” by demonstrating the principles that frame the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This includes better resource management to reduce our organizational footprint, replacing polluting technologies on the WIPO campus with those that are “green,” and favoring organizational policies that encourage staff to adopt a low-carbon approach both at work and at home.

At WIPO, we are making practical and actionable contributions to the myriad of environmental challenges facing the world today. The intellectual property system is a powerful enabler of innovation. That innovation must be used if it is to lead to better environmental outcomes. That is why WIPO developed WIPO GREEN, an online platform for green technology exchange that supports global efforts to address climate change by connecting providers and seekers of environmentally friendly technologies. Organizations seeking eco-friendly technology solutions can use the WIPO GREEN database to publicize their needs and find a match.

Daren Tang
Director General

Introduction

Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution continue to be three of the planet's most pressing environmental challenges. Every day, the world learns more about the urgent need to do things differently if we are to address these interlinked challenges. The establishment of this high-level policy relates to the protection of the environment and the promotion of environmental responsibility throughout WIPO. To do so, efforts are required at all levels: as organizations, on a systemic level, and as individuals.

This document sets out the [High-Level Policy on Environmental Responsibility for the World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#).

The policy outlines WIPO's commitment to greater environmental sustainability in the management of its facilities and operations. It defines the organization's environmental commitments and includes objectives and principles, as well as the framework of implementation to underpin progress and results at all levels. This long-term endeavor can only be achieved through collective action; therefore, all sectors, units and employees are to strive to apply the guiding principles and objectives in all aspects of WIPO's activities and operations at Headquarters and worldwide.

Locations away from Headquarters (WIPO External Offices and WIPO Liaison Office) may be subject to host country regulations and premises constraints, and therefore may not be completely covered by the present policy; nevertheless, environmental sustainability efforts at such locations should be aligned with the policy as much as possible.

Background and Framework

WIPO began its environmental journey over a decade ago, integrating sustainability considerations as criteria into numerous activities such as premises upgrading, energy consumption reductions including for IT equipment, and other initiatives. WIPO has been 100% climate neutral since 2014 due to continual reduction efforts, including by offsetting emissions (travel and facilities) through a mechanism with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, there remain many areas wherein further action can be taken to reduce our environmental footprint even more. WIPO therefore commits to the protection of the environment, including the prevention of pollution.

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by providing concrete services to its member states, enabling them to use the intellectual property system to drive the innovation, competitiveness and creativity needed to achieve these goals. WIPO's efforts to further reduce its environmental footprint also fits under the "Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations system 2020-2030," as with other UN agencies.

WIPO's environmental responsibility also encompasses voluntary compliance with the Host Country's regulatory framework and active contribution to local environmental initiatives, such as a bilateral agreement with the Swiss Confederation committing to long-term reductions of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. WIPO is also an active member of 2050Today, a Geneva-based initiative working to reduce by 50% by 2030 the greenhouse gas emissions at the local level, with the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

Objectives

The Organization commits to the following main objectives in order to further strengthen environmental responsibility and promote continual improvement in all WIPO activities:

- i. Further reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;
- ii. Increasing use of renewable and more sustainable energy sources;
- iii. Reducing consumption of natural resources and actively pursue further water efficiencies;
- iv. Enhancing waste management practices, including by reducing, reusing and recycling waste and aiming for plastic-free premises;
- v. Intensifying environmentally sustainable land management practices to preserve and promote biodiversity around the WIPO campus;
- vi. Preventing pollution of all kinds;
- vii. Further integrating environmental criteria into procurement actions;
- viii. Reducing the environmental impact of Information and Communications Technology;
- ix. Reducing WIPO travel, especially air travel, and further promoting sustainable travel practices;
- x. Integrating sustainability criteria into conferences, meetings and events organized by WIPO.

Principles

To achieve these objectives, WIPO will integrate environmental responsibility considerations across all activities in a systematic and coherent way, guided by the following principles:

- i. Considering environmental risks and benefits in all relevant management decisions as well as further integrating environmental sustainability considerations in relevant existing policies;
- ii. Integrating environmental targets and indicators into existing results-based management frameworks;
- iii. Implementing coordination, monitoring and measuring mechanisms in order to track system-wide progress;
- iv. Ensuring internal and external transparency of all greening activities;
- v. Improving the environmental awareness and engagement of employees at all levels.



Implementation

The Organization will implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) to achieve its environmental sustainability goals, aligning with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations and the requirements of the international standard ISO14001. Environmental targets and indicators will be defined within the framework of the EMS, against which performance will be measured. An Action Plan will support strategic short-, mid- and long-term planning and consistent evaluation of the WIPO environmental management system will be conducted and reviewed by top management, with the aim of consistently reviewing outcomes.

The governance mechanism of the EMS, including its composition and functioning, will be determined and individual roles and responsibilities will be defined. Additional information will continue to be shared and presented to give effect to the various actions laid out above regarding the implementation of the policy and the EMS.

The policy will be reviewed, updated and communicated to internal and external stakeholders at least every four years.

The policy will enable a transition towards greater environmental sustainability in the management of WIPO's facilities and operations. Successful of this policy will depend on the involvement of everyone at all levels, and will ensure that WIPO continues to be an organization that contributes meaningfully to the health of planet Earth for years to come. Collective action, both individually and systemically, can and will make all the difference in this time of climate emergency.



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