

Environmental Statement

The goals of sustainable development and respect for the environment have cut across all the local development projects AEIDL has been advocating for since its establishment in 1988.

We believe it is crucial to us to know and control the environmental implications of our own activities, to minimise our daily impact, and communicate about it to the wider world. We are working towards making high environmental awareness and actions standard practice within the organisation and with our members, partners and suppliers.

To ensure neutral third party control, we sought an Eco-dynamic certification for our headquarters in Brussels, under the regional '[Label Entreprise Écodynamique](#)'. After being awarded a first label in 2015, we are proud to say that we now hold a 3-stars label, the highest possible score, certifying that AEIDL and its staff comply with more than 100 best practices in 8 themes.

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 reuse and recycling.

We will make great efforts 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 on:

- emissions from the use of 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.

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
- encouraging staff to keep an eye on saving energy

As of January 2018, we have a 'green' energy supplier which provides mainly renewable energy. This supplier was chosen based on Greenpeace's evaluation of Belgian energy suppliers¹.

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. The surface of over 300m² is covered with different types of flowers and plants, maintained and improved regularly by the same enterprise. AEIDL also fitted a new wood terrace produced in FSC-certified Hungarian forests.

AEIDL policy is to:

- keep improving the diversity of the flower beds and plants
- look for other sustainable options to improve biodiversity

Mobility

- we encourage the use of available low impact travel for daily home/work commuting, by reimbursing the cost of public transport fare and applying a 'no company car' policy
- a secured bike parking, a bike repair kit and showers, are available to encourage commuting by bike
- 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 preferred over other modes of long distance transport and staff and experts are encouraged to use it
- emissions from professional travel are offset through CO₂ compensation schemes
- we are committed to reducing the total amount of travel by using new technologies and developing the practice of virtual meetings

¹ See <https://monelectriciteverte.be>

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
- having only low consumption water taps, flushes, and showers
- maintaining all water installations and equipment to detect and fix leaks and excessive consumption

We commit to using only natural cleaning products, which contributes to better quality of the wastewater.

Paper use

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 only paper with a demanding environmental label (e.g. Der Blaue Engel²)
- print double-side and two per page for internal or rough copies of documents, and whenever our clients allow
- stop unwanted material being delivered or sent to AEIDL

Office practices

As for the remaining office supplies and equipment we:

- have an environmentally-friendly purchase policy so we can evaluate if we really need new equipment, and provide purchase criteria
- review suppliers and do our best to encourage them to adapt their practices where possible
- arrange regular servicing to ensure our equipment works at maximum efficiency and with minimal adverse impact
- maintain staff awareness and involvement with regular in-house debates on various environmental subjects (e.g. by participating to the European Week for Waste Reduction)

² See <https://www.blauer-engel.de/en>

EcoTeam and environmental referee

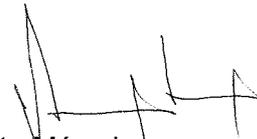
To ensure that our in-house practices are continuously improved and our staff are involved, AEIDL has:

- set up an EcoTeam
- designated a staff member in charge of answering questions related to the environment
- clearly defined and communicated this function to our staff
- dedicated time spent on environmental issues
- set up procedures to ensure better flow of information
- designated a budget associated with the function

Future improvements

Looking ahead, we are committed to:

- keep improving our environmental performance and measuring our progress regularly
- communicating our commitment to our partners, suppliers and stakeholders
- Regularly informing our staff about the environmental effects of their activities and maintain their involvement at every level of the organisation
- involving the staff in the EcoTeam activities
- complying with relevant environmental legislation and keeping up-to-date with developments in sustainable practices

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Márta Márczis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Márta Márczis

President of AEIDL

This statement will be reviewed in January 2020.