

Environmental Policy 2009

of The Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

This Policy document has been prepared with a two-fold ambition:

- to establish and maintain within the surveying profession a set of objectives, strategies and initiatives so that it treats the environment with the respect that it deserves; and
- to inform the community that the surveying profession recognises that the environment and issues related to it retain a very high priority.

The Institution's Core Environmental Objectives

To conduct the Institution's business in a manner that is environmentally responsible having due regard for the Corporate Environmental Policy, changing community standards and expectations and to comply with all relevant environment legislation and regulations.

To monitor and modify the Institution's environmental activities to ensure compliance with changing laws, standards and community attitudes.

To conserve resources used by the Institution in the execution of the Institution's business including the maintenance of effective energy conservation strategy when it is cost effective.

To achieve ongoing improvement in environmental management and prevention of pollution.

To encourage a sense of environmental responsibility among all employees & members through training, education and communication.

To review our activities to develop objectives and targets to minimize the impact of the business on the local environment and develop appropriate programs to achieve these objectives.

To monitor and evaluate our environmental initiatives through internal and external audits.

To educate our members of the potential impacts of Peak Oil (see definition below) and identify alternatives.

To provide information on our environmental initiatives to the public through our website and publications.

Encourage members to contribute to minimising their green house gas emissions on a day to day to level.

Encourage businesses to contribute to minimising their green house gas emissions on a day to day to level.

Encourage alternative transport options such as public transport, cycling and walking wherever possible.

Encourage sustainable development to the profession & community alike.

The Guiding Principles

The following principles are endorsed by the Institution and provide real actions for a sustainable future. In meeting community expectations of an active, responsible, professional organisation, members are strongly encouraged to do the following:

- Arrange an energy audit to identify what is using the most power and investigate whether it can be replaced with a lower wattage version or turn off when not in use (or do without it altogether). For more information on business energy audits see Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus.
- Offset vehicle carbon emissions at www.greenfleet.com.au with tree planting.
- Install windows which allow natural ventilation instead of turning on the air-conditioning.
- Maximise natural light.
- Best practice lighting, i.e. signs, multi switches & cleanliness of shades.



- Use efficient lighting – replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs). Compact fluorescents use a quarter of the energy and last eight times longer than incandescent light bulbs.
- When buying anything, source it from a local supplier. Products can come from virtually any place in the world. But when they need to travel, more fuel is used and greenhouse gases are emitted.
- Don't buy anything made from rainforest timber (this includes many particle boards and plywood) or old-growth forests.
- Turn off your electrical appliances when they are not being used. Many appliances use almost as much power on standby as they do when switched on.
- Set hot water thermostat to low as possible.
- Wash in cold water rather than hot.
- Use recycled paper & reduce paper use, i.e. double side printing & narrower margin settings.
- Set colour printers to default print black & white
- Install AAA-rated plumbing devices.
- Use of fuel efficient and alternative energy powered vehicles.
- Encourage members and employees to use alternative transport such as walking and cycling by provision of suitable facilities such as change rooms and showers.

Definitions

- **Conservation** – the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.
- **Environment** – a concept which includes all aspects of the surroundings of humanity, affecting individuals and social groupings.
- **Sustainable Development** – a concept introduced as a result of confirmed concerns that universally the environment has deteriorated. To achieve satisfactory sustainable development, surveyors need to understand the environmental, economical and social implications of proposed developments. They need to adopt attitudes which promote sustainable development to society, and not rely solely on statutory requirements. Conversely, community concerns and social values must be integrated into development proposals along with input from the surveying profession, government and other concerned professions.
- **Peak Oil** is the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum production is reached, after which the rate of production enters its terminal decline. If global consumption is not mitigated before the peak, an energy crisis may develop because the availability of conventional oil will drop and prices will rise, perhaps dramatically.

Environmental Development Objectives

Members of the Institution of Surveyors NSW have a responsibility to:

- ensure that development proposals include extensively researched and soundly based environmental factors provided through community discussions, opinions and contributions but tempered with technological information;
- ensure that decisions which affect the environment are developed after consultation with professionals from other disciplines;
- ensure that long term considerations outweigh those of the short and medium terms;



- ensure that the environment is not radically altered and/or adversely affected by the development proposals, i.e. ensure that the effects of the proposals do not offend the principles of sustainable development;
- ensure that natural resources are conserved;
- ensure that appropriate factors including recycling, energy conservation, air and water contamination, soil erosion, noise rivers, coastal regions, waste control and dispersion are all considered whenever development is being contemplated;
- encourage the instigators of developments to take sole responsibility for monitoring the affects of those developments on the environment, and also to rectify any subsequent damage to the environment;
- ensure that they assist in promoting environmental awareness and responsibility;
- ensure that they assist in protecting and sustaining natural ecosystems and historically important structures and sites; and
- ensure that their clients and/or employers are aware of the need for ecologically sustainable development.

Environmental Strategies

The Institution of Surveyors NSW will endeavour to:

- assist members to increase awareness of sustainable development amongst their employers and/or clients;
- ensure that surveying education and training schedules contain suitable material which will promote environmental issues;
- take active steps to promote and maintain interest in environmental matters amongst all members and those associated with the surveying profession;
- encourage the philosophy that members must not abuse the environment for short-term economical gains to the detriment of future generations;
- encourage recycling of non-renewable resources and, where possible, the use of renewable resources; and
- encourage members to identify in advance likely harmful effects of development proposals to the environment.

Environmental Initiatives

The Institution of Surveyors NSW gives an understanding to promote this *Environmental Policy* by:

- encourage environmental content component to all regional group, state seminars and conferences and assist in its implementation where necessary;
- providing leadership in environmental matters at local, national and international levels;
- providing input to legislation at local, national and international levels;
- providing continuing education programs for its members to enable them to keep informed on local and global environmental issues;
- encourage appropriate updating of undergraduate courses in surveying.

