

International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL)

Green and Environmental Awareness Policy

1. Purpose and Commitment

The IAFL recognises the environmental impact of its international activities, especially intercontinental travel for our conferences and meetings which are a core part of our purpose for our members. This policy sets out our commitment to sustainability and responsible environmental stewardship whilst maintaining the benefits of face-to-face networking and global collaboration amongst the world's leading cross-border family law practitioners. It aims to minimise our carbon footprint and promote sustainable events without diminishing accessibility of our professional gatherings. It is aware that its members are in law firms, Chambers and other organisations which have and will increasingly have high expectations and policies of environmental awareness in travel, conferences and similar of their lawyers. It is also aware that its members act for cross-border families who invariably have and expect high standards of environmental practice from those whom they instruct, and the IAFL seeks to operate within these high standards for the benefit of their members and their clients.

2. Guiding Principles

- **Environmental Responsibility:** IAFL will act with awareness of its environmental footprint, including from air travel, and reasonably strive for meaningful carbon reduction of emissions, including as set forth in this policy.
- **Sustainable Collaboration:** We aim to preserve the value of in-person gatherings while adopting environmentally responsible practices and using appropriate and available technology, including as set forth in this policy
- **Transparency and Accountability:** We commit to regular monitoring, reporting, reviewing and engagement with members on environmental performance, their preferences and priorities including as set forth in this policy, recognising that this will be changing year by year.

3. Sustainability Governance and oversight

- **IAFL Sustainability and Environmental Committee:** A permanent committee will be created out of the existing working party and will oversee implementation and review of this policy.
 - Members will represent a cross-section of chapters, career stages, size of firms, ages and professional backgrounds. The Committee will be appointed by the IAFL President in accordance with the Rules of the IAFL.
 - The committee will publish an **annual sustainability report** for the membership in its first 3 years, as these and related policies are put in place and then thereafter every 18 months. so that every other report is able to take account of the 3 yearly survey as below
- **Environmental Working Party:** This group will temporarily remain active to advise and support the committee in its creation and in integrating environmental considerations into requested aspects of IAFL operations and then come to an end.

4. Travel and Conference Guidelines

A. Reducing Environmental Impact of Conferences

- **Virtual Access:** The Executive Committee of the IAFL, at its election, may allow some educational conference sessions to be recorded and/or streamed for remote participation.
- **Hybrid Formats:** The IAFL may incorporate hybrid models for regional engagement at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

B. Responsible Travel Guidance

- It is recommended train and non-air travel should be available for intra continental travel, wherever reasonably possible
- IAFL will in its selection process give good consideration to conference locations that are **major transport hubs** with robust **non-air travel options** for those who can travel without flying.
- **City and location Sustainability Indices** (e.g., Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index, European Green Index), where they exist, will be considered in conference site selection to ensure they meet high environmental standards.

C. Carbon Impact Reporting and Offsetting

- IAFL will provide members with **environmental impact information pack** including estimated carbon impact reports for each conference location, via the meeting registration page on the IAFL website and added to the general information on the conference app.
- Members will be encouraged to review their personal and their firm, Chambers or organisational policies on **carbon offsetting** and consider their attendance accordingly.

IAFL will not presently rely on carbon offsets as a primary mitigation measure, given concerns about effectiveness (“greenwashing”).

5. Event Planning and Supplier Engagement

- **Sustainable Venues:** Consideration should be given to venues, hotels, tour companies and similar with recognised environmental certifications (e.g., LEED, Green Key, Green Mark).
- **Catering:** Insofar as possible, catering companies, including hotels, should have policies indicating awareness that food waste reduction will be kept to a minimum and due diligence performed prior to engagement along with use of local, low carbon footprint food and similar
- **Tours and Activities:** Insofar as possible, organised events should meet sustainability standards and avoid high-emission options where comparable alternatives exist, in the same price range
- **Procurement:** Conference organisers will seek to engage with local suppliers and thereby give back to local communities

6. Member Firm Sustainability Alignment

IAFL will support and encourage sustainable practices within its members' firms by:

- Hosting webinars and publishing guidance, resources and good global practice on integrating ESG and green practices into family law work, especially for cross-border work, as may be directed by the IAFL Executive Committee including their consideration of any recommendations of the Sustainability and Environment Committee.

7. Ongoing Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

- **Annual Review:** The policy will be reviewed regularly by the Committee and updated to reflect changes in best practice and member expectations.
- **Triennial Member Survey:** A comprehensive sustainability engagement survey will be conducted every three years including to identify areas for improvement and change along with global expectations.
- **Performance Metrics:** IAFL through its Sustainability and Environmental committee will track conference-related emissions e.g. number of flights taken, estimated carbon emissions per event, and report progress annually to the membership.

8. Preferred Conference Locations

In considering future venues, IAFL may favour cities that:

- Have strong sustainability credentials (as listed in global environmental indices as above).
- Are easily accessible by rail or other sustainable transport for a good number of attendees wherever possible.

9. Member Engagement and Education

- To the extent available, the IAFL will circulate **environmental impact summaries** ahead of conferences to inform member travel decisions regarding hotels, tour companies and others involved in each conference and be added to the general information on the conference app.
- Members will be invited to suggest innovations and feedback to the Committee.
- Educational content at conferences may include environmental topics relevant to cross-border family law and ESG.

10. Policy Review and Accountability

- The **Sustainability and Environmental Committee** will:
 - Be responsible and ensuring its alignment with global and law-professional best practices and member expectations including from the review and member surveys as above
 - Publish an annual impact and progress report.
 - Present policy review recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Conclusion

The IAFL aspires to balance global collaboration of its members with climate responsibility. This Green and Environmental Awareness Policy provides a roadmap for a more sustainable future while preserving the spirit and strength of the Academy's international community. It remains committed to high standards of environmental sustainability within the legal professions around the world. It is intended to support its members in contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

Approved by the IAFL Executive Committee 4 February 2026