

Sustainability Committee Activities Report

The Sustainability Committee organises its actions into **six distinct areas**: 0 Carbon, Construction and Refurbishment, Recycling and Waste, Travel and Transport, Offsets and Education, and Water. Each category focuses on specific initiatives aimed at reducing the environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices within the organisation.

1. 0 CARBON

- a. *Electronic signatures* - All administrative processes at IDAEA, including travel approvals, have transitioned to electronic signatures to reduce paper usage and enhance efficiency.

2. CONSTRUCTION & REFURBISHMENT

- a. *Bike shelter* - A new bike shelter is being considered to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport for staff and students.

3. RECYCLING & WASTE. Minimization of waste generation / optimization of recycling. The Committee is continuously analysing different possibilities to minimise the amount of waste the IDAEA generates.

- a. *Labels* - Labels have been created for laboratories and offices to encourage water and energy conservation. The initiative concluded with a sustainable breakfast in the garden with juices served in eco-friendly cups. Prizes were awarded to the teams that quickly implemented sustainability measures, celebrated by planting an olive tree, a rose bush, and installing two vertical gardens.
- b. [*Coffee Capsule Conscious Campaign*](#) - A campaign was launched to raise awareness about the ecological impact of daily coffee capsule consumption. All capsules collected during a week were gathered, and a survey on consumption habits was conducted. The results, along with sustainable coffee consumption options, were shared with the entire centre.

4. TRAVEL & TRANSPORT. Decarbonization of transport and commuting.

- a. [*Mobility Survey*](#) - A mobility survey was conducted among all centre staff to determine the most commonly used modes of transportation. The results showed that IDAEA staff commute more actively and sustainably compared to the city average. These findings were published on the centre's website.
- b. *Electric Cars* - Promotion and support for the use of electric vehicles among staff.

5. OFFSETS & EDUCATION Creating and disseminating ecological knowledge and awareness.

- a. *Annual Talk (Dec '23) - 'From Knowledge to Action'* - A panel of professionals from the scientific sector, public administration, and activism discussed how to transform scientific research into concrete actions to address global challenges. The event had two parts: each speaker shared their experiences in using scientific evidence to persuade their target audiences, followed by a roundtable moderated by a journalist.
- b. *World Environment Day (June '24)* - A reflection event in the centre's hall encouraged thoughts about our relationship with the environment. A drawing of Earth was used to collect post-its with memories, concerns, questions, and solutions. These were later compiled into infographics.
- c. *Cineforum (Sep '24)* - A cineforum on material recovery featured the screening of the *30 Minutes* episode "Reopening Mines for Material Recovery in Europe", followed by a roundtable discussion with IDAEA researchers and a journalist.
- d. *MNCN Interaction (Sep '24) - "Engage with Climate Change"* featuring Maria Vila-Costa (IDAEA) and Fernando Valladares (MNCN) took place in the Auditorium of MNCN (Madrid). The event was aimed at young people aged 18-25, including high school and vocational students, university students, and workers. It also targeted members of environmental and scientific organisations such as Scientist Rebellion, Teachers for Future, Fridays for Future, and Extinction Rebellion.
- e. *Annual Talk (Oct '24) - Circular Economy* - A roundtable on circular economy strategies with experts from the scientific sector, public administration, and business. The event included two parts: presentations on how each speaker applies circular economy principles in their field, followed by a roundtable discussion.

6. WATER Creating models for efficient water use.

- a. *Well Water for Toilets* - A study is underway to explore the feasibility of using well water for flushing toilets at the centre.