

Environmental Policy

IOGT-NTO Movement Sweden

Introduction and purpose

Our existence as a species, and as a civilisation is dependent on a hospitable global climate and the natural ecosystems that surround us. Through naturally occurring processes our crops are pollinated, the climate around us is regulated, erosion is controlled, wild and domesticated animals and plants thrive, dangerous and crippling pests and diseases are kept under control, recreational and spiritual values are provided and most importantly we get clean water and air. All completely free of charge and available to all. However, the unparalleled, and unevenly distributed economic and social development we have experienced on this planet since the onset of industrialisation has come at a price. We are now experiencing the global consequences of an unsustainable utilization of natural systems for wealth accumulation of the few.

The IOGT-NTO Movement work with addressing some of the inequalities brought about by the last 200 years of economic development. In this work we must recognize that any attempt at reducing the inequalities, or of any future advancements of us as a civilisation and species, must occur within the boundaries set by the natural systems around us. Social and economic processes can never be isolated from the environment in which they take place.

With this realisation the IOGT-NTO Movement is committed to and will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to use environmental best practices in all we do. However, in many places we work, current legislation is not enough. Therefore we will continuously identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, within the overall program, regarding our environmental impact. Within our planned activities, we will attempt to decrease any negative impact but also work to create positive environmental/social effects on the communities we interact with.

Rationale

The vision for the international work of the IOGT-NTO Movement is “a democratic world characterized by solidarity and equality where alcohol and other drugs do not prevent human welfare, freedom and security”. This policy aims to define our commitments to the rights described in our vision, but also to a rights based approach in all our processes throughout the organization coming to the international work and cooperation.

Roles and responsibility

We recognise that addressing environmental concerns should be done at several levels of the organisation and in all international activities. A complete exhaustive list of roles and responsibilities is therefore outside the realms of this policy. That said a few areas are worth mentioning.

- Energy – As large part as possible of the electricity used at the regional offices of the IOGT-NTO Movement should come from sustainable sources. If this is not an available through the conventional electricity grid options such as solar power should be considered.
- Travels – As pollution from flights is one of the biggest culprits when it comes to human induced climate change it is important that we address our travelling behaviour. At the same time we work with partners around the world, and we have a strong commitment to give them the support they need. Thus, flights should only be used when other options are not feasible. Efficiency is key when travelling and efforts

should be made to coordinate activities so that as much as possible can be achieved through as few flights as possible.

- Online meetings – As we've seen above, flying is a big culprit when it comes to environmental destruction and should be avoided. Online video and voice meetings are very good options and should be encouraged whenever possible.
- Consumables and food – In our everyday work our ambition should always be to improve the environmental impact we have through our consumption. Whenever applicable organically certified products should be selected and locally produced is always to be preferred.
- Awareness and training- promote environmental awareness among our employees and partner organisations and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner. Train, educate and inform our employees and partner organisations about environmental issues that may affect their work,

In addition the IOGT-NTO Movement requires employees and volunteers to participate actively in local environmental programs, follow specified procedures and notify management of situations that are potentially damaging to the environment. We will conserve natural resources, biodiversity and prevent pollution by reducing waste, reusing and recycling materials, and disposing of all hazardous and other waste in a legal, safe, and responsible manner.

Monitoring and compliance

In order to follow-up on our work to reduce our environmental impact and improve our ambitions in the field of sustainability the head office of the international department as well as the regional offices will annually report our adherence to the environmental policy as per Appendix 1.

Adopted by the board 2018-03-20.

Appendix 1

Environmental policy adherence

Electricity

To what extent is the electricity consumed by the office produced sustainably? Is there any development since last year? Are there any plans made for the coming year?

Travels

What efforts have been made to reduce the number of flights made by office staff? Are there any plans to address this further in the coming year?

Consumables and Food

What efforts have been made to ensure that consumables and food used at the office has as much positive impact to the community and its environment? Are there any plans to improve this during the coming year?

Awareness and trainings

Have any trainings been made at the office, specifically addressing environmental issues? Is the general awareness level among staff satisfactory?