



CCIVS
Coordinating Committee for
International Voluntary Service
Est. 1948

Sustainability Policy CCIVS

One of the main objectives of CCIVS is “the promotion and development of the voluntary service movement on the national, regional and international levels in the contemporary world, towards the development and the furthering of efforts in sustainable development and protection of the environment”.

Environment and sustainability are important elements of the CCIVS Strategic Plan and are at the forefront of our members actions on the ground. One of the major campaigns that CCIVS coordinates, ‘IVS for Climate Justice’, seeks to highlight initiatives that our members develop in this field. As a result, it is important that the network also sets an example and encourages all organisations which collaborate with CCIVS in the implementation of projects and meetings to be conscious of the social and environmental impact our work has. For further reading, CCIVS member and sister networks also hold sustainability guidelines which you can refer to for the organisation of your projects.

The following basic guidelines were developed and voted on during the General Assembly- India, 2018, to orientate our work when carrying out international projects and meetings, they apply for organisations hosting CCIVS events or for when CCIVS hosts itself.

TRAININGS, EVENTS, MEETINGS AND PROJECTS

GENERAL

- avoid the use of plastics (especially single use plastics);
- avoid printing out too many documents and provide digital documents and/or Internet connection instead: if this is not possible, prefer to use recycled/FSC certified paper to print documents;
- where possible cooperate with local social economy initiatives (cooperatives, foundations,...) instead of big commercial for profit enterprises;



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- use Eco Markers and pens/pencils made from recycled materials and which are refillable. Pencils are a good alternative if bought from a sustainable source;
- make your own recycled notebooks or buy notebooks which use recycled paper from an ecological supplier;
- make your own name badges using recycled card (you can print on recycled paper stickers if needed and stick these on the card) punch a hole in the card and use recycled cord as a necktie.

TRAVEL

- encourage participants to choose eco-friendly ways of transport if possible;
- encourage participants to calculate their carbon emissions¹ and recommend them to pursue carbon offset e.g. the infopack can contain information on carbon offset initiatives from our own members² or other initiatives in order to facilitate the process;
- explore the possibility to hold online meetings.

ACCOMMODATION

- prefer accommodation in which sheets and towels are not changed every day;
- prefer accommodation that manage waste products in a responsible manner;
- prefer accommodation which privilege locally-source produced food, preferring to support local, organic, small-scale producers where possible, and preferring to eat seasonally available food, as a good way to decrease the carbon footprint of meals;
- where possible, choose an accommodation which can promote a sustainable way of living, such as sustainable systems in place for the building and the heating;
- prefer accommodation which provide hygiene products with a low environmental impact (Eco-label), or even more natural products, and if possible, with the least amount of packaging;

1 (<https://www.atmosfair.de/en/offset/flight/> or <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>)

2 SCC project (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/q7dsbywi0w8nmyu/IVS%20Carbon%20Offset%202018.pdf?dl=0>) or SCI GAIA Micro Grants (<https://www.sci.ngo/get-involved/offset-your-carbon>)



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- prefer accommodation or food provision where the workers' rights are respected and where there is a return to the local community;
- encourage participants to use electricity and water responsibly.

FOOD & WATER

- encourage hosts and participants to avoid food waste during meals;
- encourage hosts to privilege locally-sourced produced food, preferring to support local, organic, small-scale producers where possible, and preferring to eat seasonally available food, as a good way to decrease the carbon footprint of meals;
- for food preparation or service, promote the use of ceramic or glass plates;
- minimise the use of packaging where possible and encourage hosts and participants to use refilling systems of existing packaging or recycled ones;
- encourage participants to take a reusable straw;
- provide the possibility to fill up water bottles and encourage participants to bring their own;
- encourage the use of glass or ceramic cups for drinks and buy drinks in glass bottles instead of Tetra Pak or plastic.

PURCHASE OF GIFTS/SOUVENIRS

- encourage participants to support locally produced natural material crafts and products as gifts;
- prefer to use natural materials and where possible, organic (cotton, bamboo, linen, wool and naturally dyed materials), to avoid chemicals and plastics in our clothing and furniture and especially when we make T-shirts or tote bags for projects;
- encourage participants to buy second-hand or upcycling products;
- encourage participants to use cloth bags instead of plastic bags when shopping at markets.