

PRO ARTE FOUNDATION FINLAND, IHME HELSINKI

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IHME Helsinki brings together the worlds of art, science and climate work. Each year, we produce a public artwork and a series of events that offer a vision and hope amid the environmental crisis.

IHME HELSINKI'S ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE OPERATING MODELS

IHME Helsinki's **Environmental Pledge** is:

- Promoting art that gives people a chance to deal with feelings and information about the environmental crisis
- Monitoring the carbon footprint of its operations and their impact on biodiversity
- Cutting down on the climate emissions generated by its travel, energy consumption, catering, purchases and waste management, and offsetting any remaining emissions
- Choosing services that are as environment-friendly as possible and developing environment-friendly operating models with its partners in collaboration
- Studying the carbon handprint of art: what does it mean, how to verify and measure it
- Sharing information about its environmental work

IHME follows the EcoCompass environmental programme and has an EcoCompass certificate.

<https://ekokompassi.fi/briefly-in-english/>

Carbon handprint (or green handprint) and carbon footprint

Art has an important role in sustainability transformation especially in creating cultural change. In 2022, alongside a carbon-footprint prediction, we will be focussing on establishing how a carbon handprint can be measured and verified, especially with regard to IHME Helsinki's operations. "Carbon handprint" or "green handprint" refers to the climate benefits or the emissions avoided by using a product, process or service. It can be created by a state, company, association or individual human being. For example, when a company generates a carbon handprint for a customer, the customer can reduce his/her own carbon footprint. The handprint emphasises positive future effects on emissions, whereas the carbon footprint focuses on the current negative effects of emissions.

In IHME's operations all emissions are assessed from the viewpoint of what they do. IHME's artwork productions and other activities are aimed at helping our audiences to adapt to environmental crisis and to the sustainability transformation. We investigate our operations to monitor whether the Foundation is realizing its purpose as well as possible, while, at the same time, seeking modes of implementation that save natural resources and make it easier for our audiences to join in the sustainability transformation. Art is a possibility that offers those who experience it a chance to test out new ideas and to do things differently. Because the world is not ready and we don't have only carbon-free solutions to choose from yet, IHME is having to produce some level of emissions now.

The diverse methods and manifestations of contemporary art create space and time for experiencing various feelings about the age of crisis: fear, sadness, anxiety, but also for shared experiences of hope, joy and consolation. Art is a space for learning new things, testing out various thought models, changing viewpoints, contemplating, meditating and asking questions. What is it like to be human in this time and place, and in the future? What is it like to grow into a Planetarian – a human being whose sphere of concern extends to all the species, ecosystems and other people that are affected by our actions as consumers? How are wellbeing and progress defined in the life of a planetarian? Art brings people in different parts of our planet together more than it divides, because it has the ability to speak on the level of universal humanity. How can we save, verify, measure and transmit these positive effects of emissions experienced through art in the future?

Sustainable operating models

At IHME Helsinki we act according to the following ecologically sustainable principles:

Artwork production

The carbon footprint created by the production of an artwork is guided by the following principles:

- having close dialogue in the spirit of IHME's ecological ethos with the artist when planning the realisation of the art production
- supporting sustainable choices and creating the circumstances for making them
- reporting flight kilometres of the project (artist, curator, collaborators etc.)

The environmental impacts of various alternatives (especially the carbon footprint) are estimated in advance

- alternative ways of implementing the IHME Commission
- flights
- transportation
- accommodation
- remote links and digital services

Choice of space

- Favouring existing spaces that do not need any special construction.
- Favouring spaces that use renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal)
- Favouring spaces with an environmental certificate
- Favouring energy-efficient spaces
- If the space is to be used for a long time (several days or weeks), the eco-coordinator assesses the environmental impacts of the different alternatives before making the choice

Getting around

- Estimating the need to move around
- Gauging the different alternatives for dealing with issues
 - physical meetings, including by air, at the start of a collaboration
 - regular meetings by video call

- handling daily matters and sending written summaries by e-mail
- Physical travel
 - avoiding flying
 - minimizing car use
 - travelling whenever possible by walking or cycling, train, bus or other public transport
 - when travelling, carrying out multiple tasks on the same journey

Accommodation

- Favouring energy-efficient accommodation options
- Favouring accommodation with an environmental certificate
- Encouraging renters to determine the carbon footprint of the accommodation

Audience journeys:

* Asking on the feedback form how the audience got there:

- means of transport
- length of journey

Transportation for the work

- Minimizing the need for transportation
- Using transportation firms with an environmental certificate
- Eco-coordinator assesses the environmental impact of different options before making the choice

Purchases and subcontracting

- Eco-coordinator maintains a purchase list of recommendations on the use of certain products or service providers
- Favouring products and services, with an environmental certificate
- Favouring energy-efficient products and services
- If services involve transportation, purchases are made from as nearby as possible and subcontractors are asked to report kilometres travelled and mode of transport used
- With major purchases the eco-coordinator estimates the environmental impacts of the various alternatives, wherever possible

Food

- Favouring environmentally certified or carbon-neutral services
- Offering vegan food
- Minimizing food waste (e.g. coffee)

Waste

* The eco-coordinator makes a waste-management plan for the public work

Event production

Choice of venue

- Consider holding the event via remote link

- Favour existing spaces that do not need special construction.
- Favour energy-efficient spaces (energy class A–C)
- Favour spaces that use renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal)
- Favour spaces with an environmental certificate
- Eco-coordinator estimates the environmental impacts of the various alternatives before making the choice
- If the space is to be used for a long time (several days or weeks), the eco-coordinator will assess the environmental impacts of the various options before making the choice

Audience journeys:

Asking on the feedback form how the audience got there:

- means of transport
- length of journey

Food

- Favour environmentally certified or carbon-neutral services
- Serve vegan food
- Minimizing food waste (e.g. coffee)

Waste

* Eco-coordinator makes a waste-management plan for the event

Collaboration on events arranged by others

- Establish whether the event or its arranger has an environmental programme or certificate
- Ask about the event's carbon footprint
- Ask about the event's waste-management plan

Office

At the office

- Keep an eye on office temperatures
- Keep an eye on window insulation and functioning of the ventilation
- Encourage the renter and housing association to renovate windows as recommended for the energy certificate

Food

- Serve seasonal vegan food
- Minimize food waste (e.g. coffee)

Purchases and subcontracting

- The eco-coordinator maintains a purchase list of recommendations on the use of certain products or service providers
- Favour products and services, with an environmental certificate
- Favour energy-efficient products and services

- Establish how ecological considerations are taken into account in the production of services (cleaning, translations, Internet operators and so on)

Waste management

- At the office and event venues waste is sorted according to the premises' waste-sorting rules (paper, card and cardboard, biowaste, plastic, metal, mixed waste/burnable waste)
- The eco-coordinator sends other types of waste (electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), hazardous waste) for waste recycling as appropriate
- The eco-coordinator maintains the office's waste-management plan

Chemicals

- The eco-coordinator maintains the office's chemical inventory

Further information: www.ihmehelsinki.fi

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