

Engineers Ireland Sustainability Strategy

2025 -2027





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“Engineers turn dreams into reality.”

Hayao Miyazaki



Introduction to our Sustainability Strategy 2025-2027

To engineer the transition to a sustainable society.

Engineers at the Forefront: Shaping Solutions for a Sustainable Tomorrow

Engineers hold a pivotal role in shaping the future of both Ireland and the world. Engineering connects almost all parts of our daily lives and, as such, is an integral part of the solution to many of the most pressing societal challenges of our time. From energy and food security to transportation infrastructure, cybersecurity, and housing shortages, engineering solutions lie at the heart of addressing these critical issues. Yet, among all the challenges faced by governments and communities worldwide, climate change stands out as the most dangerous, urgent, and existential of all.

Our Ethical Obligation: Engineers as Stewards of the Environment

Engineers possess the expertise and skills needed to confront environmental challenges effectively and to help build a better future for all. However, with such expertise and skills comes a profound responsibility. Engineers have an ethical obligation to contribute to the transition

towards a more sustainable society. This commitment is reflected in the first article of [Engineers Ireland's Code of Ethics](#), which mandates that members must "hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public; the protection of the environment; and the promotion of health and safety in the workplace". Our Institution's purpose, vision, and values are aligned to encourage every member of the profession in Ireland to conduct their work sustainably.

A Commitment to Sustainable Development: Engineers Leading the Charge

Engineers Ireland champions the principles and practices of sustainable development, empowering the engineering community to make a meaningful, sustainable impact on society. In pursuing this essential mission, we collaborate closely with international engineering organisations, scientists, environmentalists, government bodies and advisors, public services, and colleagues across the built environment supply chain, other professions, and civil society.

Educate, Regulate, Advocate: Engineers Ireland's Role in Sustainability

Engineers Ireland is deeply engaged in sustainability-related initiatives and uniquely positioned to educate, regulate, and advocate to a broad audience through our membership.

In 2020, we declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and adopted a Sustainability Framework. This framework aligned our sustainability actions with our core objectives across four pillars: Learn (professional formation and development), Live (operations), Lead (advocacy and regulation) and Link (collaboration). Through this approach, we integrated sustainability into every aspect of our mission.



Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Alongside the development of our new Sustainability Strategy, Engineers Ireland has refreshed its organisational purpose, vision, and values.

This alignment reinforces our commitment to advancing sustainable practices within the engineering profession. By clearly articulating who we are and what we stand for, we empower our members, employees, stakeholders, and partners not only to embrace sustainable practices, but also demonstrate leadership in addressing the pressing challenges facing our society and environment.

Purpose

Engineers Ireland serves as the body that educates, regulates, and advocates for engineers and promotes professional excellence.

Vision

To be the driving force for engineering excellence and innovation, empowering our members to create a better world.

Our Values

Integrity

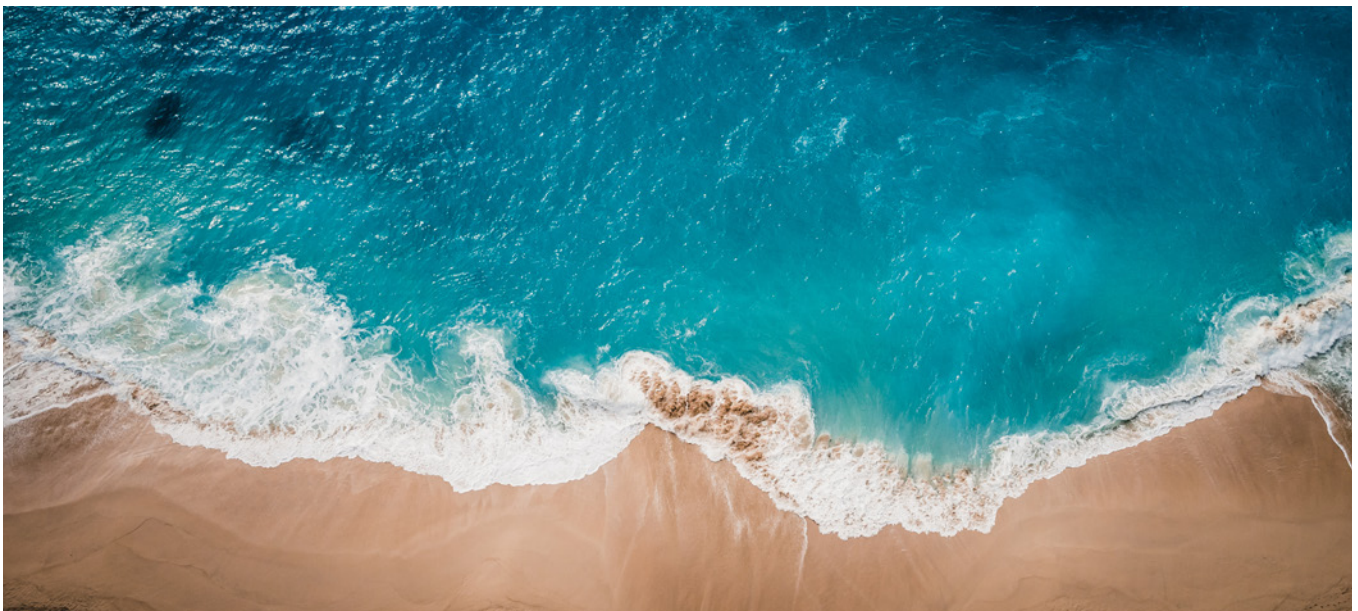
- We uphold standards of excellence and ethical conduct in our organisation and profession, to the benefit of society.
- We are respectful and honest in interactions with all our stakeholders.
- We fearlessly represent our profession and its role in building a sustainable future.

Innovation

- We drive new thinking and practices within our profession to meet existing and emerging challenges.
- We place sustainable considerations and solutions at the heart of engineering.
- We proactively embrace new technologies, ways of working and continuous improvement.

Community

- We create a diverse professional home for members of all disciplines and sectors, strengthening connections and relationships within our profession.
- We value our volunteers as the lifeblood of our organisation, who we encourage to guide the development of our profession.
- We support our members at every stage of their engineering careers and studies.
- We create a nurturing and inclusive workplace for our employees, recognising the creativity and dedication they demonstrate.



Refining Our Framework: Aligning with Environmental, Social, and Governance Principles (ESG) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

A new sustainable framework is essential to ensure alignment with Engineers Ireland overall strategy. As we progress on our journey toward a more sustainable future, we continue to align our efforts with the globally recognised framework provided by the UN SDGs, just as we did in our previous Sustainability Framework. This commitment remains a central feature of our Sustainability Strategy.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, both now and into the future. At its core are the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which represent an urgent call to action for all countries – both developed and developing – to engage in a global partnership. The SDGs acknowledge that eradicating poverty and other forms of deprivation must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and foster economic growth – all while addressing climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

While many of the UN SDGs are environmentally focussed, such as Goal 13: Climate Action, others highlight different elements of sustainability. For instance, Goal 3 emphasises Good Health and Well-being while Goal 10 advocates for Reduced Inequalities.

Engineers Ireland recognises that sustainability cannot be narrowly defined. While environmental sustainability must remain a core priority for the Institution, we also recognise the importance of the interdependent relationship between environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Accordingly, in this updated framework, we are committed to reducing the Institution's environmental impact, integrating sustainability throughout engineering education and the profession, and enhancing collaboration with similar organisations to share best practices and combine our voices on the topic of sustainability to increase impact, moving towards a more sustainable environmental impact.

We have introduced three foundational pillars: Transform, Impact, and Champion. These pillars broadly align with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles: Transform focuses on Environmental aspects for staff and 22 Clyde Rd., Impact emphasizes Social engagement with members and communities, and Champion centres on Governance and advocacy. While they support ESG, they are also strategically aligned with the UN SDGs, underscoring our commitment to impactful, measurable progress.

In developing this approach, we built on our 2020 framework, which focused on the themes Learn, Live, Lead, and Link. Our refined strategy aligned with ESG principles and, building on this framework, addresses these needs more holistically. They enable stronger integration across departments and ensure our goals directly support Engineers Ireland's mission to lead in sustainable engineering practices.



“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them”

Albert Einstein



Leading for a Sustainable Future: Engineers Ireland's Transform, Impact, and Champion Framework for a Resilient Tomorrow

Within this refreshed framework, Engineers Ireland strengthens its commitment to shaping a sustainable future as the leading professional and membership body for engineering in Ireland. We are dedicated not only to advancing the engineering profession but also to championing responsible, impactful change that aligned with global sustainability goals.

The Sustainability Strategy 2025-2027 adopts the newly established framework and incorporates trackable, measurable actions developed in consultation with members and staff.

Approved by the Council of Engineers Ireland on 14 December 2024, this plan will be executed in alignment with Engineers Ireland's "**Engineering our Future; Our Strategy for 2024-27**".

Guided by a detailed implementation roadmap, progress will be reported quarterly to the Executive Board, ensuring consistent oversight, accountability, and transparency.

Declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency

In 2020, the Council of Engineers Ireland which includes representatives of our engineering divisions and regional branches passed a motion to declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, publicly recognising that climate breakdown and biodiversity collapse are the most serious issues of our time. The Council of Engineers Ireland acknowledges the scientific community's opinion that transformational action is required to achieve meaningful outcomes.

The planet has ecological limits and a finite biocapacity, a paradigm shift is required to realign humanity's ecological footprint within this capacity. Indeed, with our existing technologies and dependence on fossil fuels, we will fail to achieve our existing commitments. Engineers Ireland is adding our voice to those of professional bodies and other organisations around the world by declaring a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.

Engineers Ireland members will take action to address the impact of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. In this most important of missions, we will collaborate with scientists, environmentalists, government, their advisors, public service, other professions and civil society.

As a professional body with 25,000 members, we will act as a leading voice for sustainability. Under the environmental and social obligations of our Code of Ethics, our members shall for example:

- promote the principles and practices of sustainable development and the needs of present and future generations.
- strive to accomplish the objectives of their work with the most efficient consumption of natural resources which is practicable economically, including the maximum reduction in energy usage, waste and pollution.
- promote the importance of social and environmental factors to professional Colleagues, employers and clients with whom they share responsibility and collaborate with other professions to mitigate the adverse impacts of their common endeavours.
- foster environmental awareness within the profession and among the public.

The above Declaration was made on 4th March 2020, World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. This UNESCO-WFEO international day aims to highlight the achievements of engineers and engineering in our modern world and improve public understanding of how engineering and technology is central to modern life and sustainable development.

Driving Sustainable Progress: Engineers Ireland's Three Key Pillars for a Sustainable Future

To effectively drive the Sustainability agenda and framework within the engineering profession, Engineers Ireland has established three key pillars to guide our actions and commitments.

These pillars - **Transform**, **Impact**, and **Champion** - underscore our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint, enhancing sustainability education, and fostering collaboration both within the engineering community and beyond. Through these strategic pillars, we aim to empower our members, inspire innovative practices, and advocate for a sustainable future that benefits society and safeguards our planet.

Transform

Within this pillar: we will implement measures to reduce our environmental impact as an institution and adopt innovative technologies to advance sustainability and inclusion. This includes promoting active and public transport, facilitating hybrid participation for work and events, and monitoring the carbon footprint of our operations at Clyde Road.

Improving the Way We Work

Our office at 22 Clyde Road, Dublin 4, serves as a hub for thousands of members and visitors each year and is home to our team of permanent staff. As an institution, we will enhance staff activities to foster broader engagement opportunities both across Ireland and internationally. By striving to become a model of responsible sustainability practices, we aim to lead by example, and assist other engineering organisations in adopting more sustainable practices.

Reducing Carbon Footprint:

- **Enhance Sustainable Events and Travel Policies:** Revise the Sustainable Events and Travel Policies to promote eco-friendly travel including active travel, public transport or carpooling. (Human Resources)
- **Implement Annual Environmental Sustainability Training:** Provide staff with training on sustainability practices at least once a year, highlighting actions that reduce our carbon footprint and encourage sustainable travel. (Human Resources)

Energy Efficiency:

- **Create an IT Strategy for Enhanced Efficiency:** Develop an IT strategy aimed at streamlining processes and reducing unnecessary activities

to improve overall energy efficiency. (Operations)

Waste management:

- **Establish a Comprehensive Carbon Footprint Monitoring System:** Implement a system to track the carbon footprint of Engineers Ireland's operations by capturing data on water usage, waste, travel, energy consumption, and biodiversity at Clyde Road. Set measurable carbon reduction targets and explore the potential of transforming the site into a living lab. Metrics to be tracked may include mileage, energy bills, single-use item consumption and food waste. (Finance/operations)

Investment in people:

- **Enhance Staff Training and Support Programme:** Aligned with the social aspect of ESG principles, Engineers Ireland offers comprehensive staff training and support for staff focusing on sustainability, professional development, and health initiatives. These initiatives encompass both mental and physical well-being, ensuring employees maintain good health and well-being while benefiting from quality education and reduced inequalities. These initiatives will also progress the ongoing accreditation for Diversity Silver with the Irish Centre for Diversity. (Human Resources)



Impact

In this strategic area, we will collaborate with our stakeholders and members to embed sustainability into engineering education, from primary school STEPS projects to accredited degree programmes. We are dedicated to supporting our members in advancing their skills through continuing professional development (CPD). Our commitment includes providing guidance on the role of engineers in delivering sustainable solutions and ensuring that these competencies are reflected in professional titles such as Chartered Engineer and Chartered Environmentalist.

Placing Sustainability at the Heart of Engineering Practice

Engineers Ireland accredits over 200 third-level engineering programmes, each subject to a rigorous assessment focused on programme outcomes. Events organised by our Regions, Divisions and Societies typically attract over 14,000 attendees annually. Additionally, we provide an extensive continuing professional development (CPD) training programme serving over 3,000 delegates each year, in collaboration with partners such as SEAI, IGBC, and the Heritage Council. Through the STEPS programme, we engage nearly 200,000 volunteers, students, parents, and teachers, highlighting our commitment to promoting engineering education and STEM outreach.

We also fulfil a regulatory role in our membership ensuring adherence to our bylaws, code of ethics, and membership regulations.

Diversity & Inclusion:

- **Integrate Sustainability with Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives:** Align our sustainability efforts with our commitment to inclusion and diversity, fostering an inclusive environment where every member feels a sense of belonging. By embracing diversity, we will support innovation and drive engineering excellence. (Sectors)

Member Education and Learning:

- **Enhance CPD Training Programmes:** Aligned with the social aspect of ESG principle, Engineers Ireland will expand our continuing professional development (CPD) training programmes to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts will focus on



upskilling in areas such as climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, good health and wellbeing, reduced inequalities, and sustainability (CPD)

- **Foster Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Promote interdisciplinary champions, case studies, and create networking opportunities among our members to encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange. (Membership)

Community Engagement:

- **Integrate Sustainability into STEPS Projects:** Further embed sustainability in the STEPS portfolio including Engineers Week, Engineering Your Future, Young Engineers Award and the Girl Guides badge. (STEPS)
- **Create a Comprehensive Multi-Module CPD Programme:** Develop a multi-module continuing professional development (CPD) programme to provide essential environmental upskilling for engineers. This programme will draw on best practice case studies from trainers across industry, academia, and state agencies. (CPD)

Protection of the Environment:

- **Promote Sustainability in Engineering:** Building on Engineers Ireland's Code of Ethics which mandates that members must "hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public; the protection of the environment; and the promotion of health and safety in the workplace," we will actively promote best practices that integrate sustainability principles into engineering. (Registrar)
- **Preserve and Enhance the Chartered Environmentalist Title:** Maintain our license to award the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) title and explore opportunities for European alignment in sustainability-related engineering qualifications. (Governance)

Board independence and corporate structure:

- **Review Legal Structure and Governance Principles:** Conduct a thorough analysis of the Institution's legal structure and governance principles to ensure the organisation continues to operate in accordance with the best practices of ESG governance. (Governance)

Champion

Within this strategic area, we are dedicated to championing sustainability through collaboration with our members, scientists, environmentalists, government officials, and other professionals. Through ongoing education, engagement, and advocacy, we aim to advance sustainable practices forward.

Our efforts will focus on partnering with stakeholders to advocate for policies that support sustainability at all levels. We will highlight the role that engineers play in society and in fostering the practices of sustainability.

Advocating for a More Sustainable Ireland and a Better World

Engineers Ireland is a leading voice in the engineering profession and broader Irish society, actively engaging through media, member communications, public policy, and public affairs. With deliberate and impactful actions, we will champion sustainability as a cornerstone of national climate action policies and the journey toward carbon neutrality.

Addressing sustainability challenges requires collaboration across various sectors to promote a holistic approach. We remain committed to partnering with professional bodies, state agencies, and organisations to advance campaigns, training, and communications that support these vital objectives.

Engagement:

- **Advocate for Sustainable Engineering Solutions:**

Actively campaign for sustainable engineering solutions by engaging with government bodies through consultation responses and lobbying opportunities in relevant areas. (Advocacy)

- **Actively campaign and communicate on sustainable engineering solutions:**

Maintain transparency in our operations with membership to foster trust and accountability. Use the annual report, social media, and other communication channels to share updates and initiatives on sustainable engineering solutions. (Governance/Marcoms)

- **Support Sustainability in Engineering Education:**

Assist third-level institutions in embedding sustainability into their engineering programmes, by sharing best practices and supporting compliance with the new Accreditation Criteria. (Governance)

- **Collaborate for Collective Impact:**

Partner with professional bodies, State agencies and organisations on joint campaigns, training initiatives and communications efforts to strengthen sustainability advocacy. (Advocacy)

- **Support Irish society and its place in Europe:**

Continue to actively advocate for our members regarding legislative changes that support sustainability and engage in various initiatives prioritising education to make sustainability an integral part of the competencies of graduate engineers. For example, the E4E project, which is part of the ERASMUS+ program, aims to develop a skills strategy that incorporates primary educational imperatives. This is supported by European frameworks such as LifeComp, DigComp, EntreComp, and GreenComp, which are designed to address the skills requirements of the future. This work feeds into the accreditation of Irish engineering courses. (Governance)

Communications:

- **Media Engagement on Climate Action:**

Promote sustainability and highlight the role of engineering in climate action through strategic engagement with media platforms, including broadcast, print, and online news portals. (Public Affairs/Marcoms)

- **Leverage Internal Channels:**

Utilise our social media and web platforms by sharing our sustainability agenda and internally developed content. (Public Affairs/Marcoms)



Conclusion

In conclusion, Engineers Ireland's Sustainability Strategy 2025-2027 represents our commitment to fostering a sustainable future for the engineering profession and society at large.

Through our three key pillars—**Transform, Impact, and Champion** - we are focused on reducing our environmental footprint, enhancing sustainability education, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders.

By tracking our progress with clear metrics and embracing accountability, we will not only measure our success but also ensure that our actions align with our core values and strategic objectives.


Together, we will empower our members to drive innovative practices, and advocate for sustainable solutions that benefit our communities and the planet,

As we move forward, Engineers Ireland remains resolute in our mission to lead the engineering profession towards a resilient and environmentally responsible future, inspiring our members to make a meaningful impact today and for generations to come.



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