

Sustainability Policy

The Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES) was established by royal charter to advance the science and art of civil engineering surveying for the benefit of the public. CICES members are bound by Rules of Professional Conduct and have a duty as professional civil engineering surveyors to avoid causing unnecessary damage or harm to the environment and, where possible, make a positive contribution towards the delivery of sustainable development. As society moves towards a more sustainable way of living, it is vital that civil engineering surveyors do all they can to support this.

The Engineering Council defines sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' It can be further understood by looking at three areas of sustainability that can enhance society if considered, maintained and improved upon in projects, rather than depleted or degraded by them – environmental, social and economic. By looking at sustainability holistically through these areas, it can become part of everyday thinking, planning and activity.

As a professional body, CICES pledges to encourage and support sustainable development, whilst expecting its members to uphold standards that demonstrate their understanding of and action in the protection and enhancement of sustainability.

CICES pledge

CICES will undertake activities and support members in the following ways:

- CICES will ensure that its members demonstrate competence in sustainability and sustainable development.
- CICES will support partners and other industry organisations in their sustainability initiatives and will contribute its specific expertise to consultations and work programmes.
- CICES will ensure that sustainability becomes a key part of a civil engineering surveyor's continuing professional development, through the dissemination of thought provoking opinion and best practice case studies in feature articles and events.
- CICES will work with education partners to ensure sustainability features in academic courses and educational programmes accredited and supported by the institution.
- CICES will work with partners in coordinated action to address and mitigate the impact of the built environment on the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.
- CICES will keep up-to-date with, share and promote best practice in sustainability and in mitigating the effects of climate change and the biodiversity emergency.
- CICES will support calls for a fundamental change in thinking, behaviour and policy in the way civil engineering activities imprint the environment.
- CICES will, wherever possible, ensure its workstreams address the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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Member pledge

CICES members of all grades are expected to display professionalism and show leadership in sustainability in the following ways:

- Members should be mindful that the ultimate aim of a civil engineering surveyor is the enhancement of society. They should be good neighbours and engage with and support the communities in which they are operating.
- Members should incorporate thinking and action around the environmental, social and economic areas of sustainable development into their daily planning and activities so that sustainability is considered in a holistic way.
- Members in positions of management and leadership should ensure the development of their employees and provide training and guidance in operating sustainably and with high regard for the environment, biodiversity and wildlife.
- Members should contribute to a site, office and project culture where workers at all levels are empowered to challenge decisions around sustainable practices.
- Members must comply with regulations and legislation pertaining to net-zero emissions, the protection of the environment and biodiversity.
- Members should advise and support decision-making to ensure that projects are economically sustainable and support the best use of public funds.
- Members should advise and support decision-making to ensure that the procurement of services and materials specifies good practice, and is ethical and just.
- Members are encouraged to adopt life-cycle costing, whole-life carbon modelling and post-construction evaluation as an every-day part of the tendering and procurement process.
- Members should endeavour to reduce activities and footfall on site by increased use of off-site manufacturing, on-site automation and fast and/or remote data capture and sharing technology.
- Members should make the management of environmental risks a key part of all surveying activity and decision-making, and do all they can to minimise them.
- Members must work collaboratively with the project team to implement a circular economy approach to products and to dispose of waste responsibly where recycling is not possible.
- Members should view water as a valuable resource, and conserve and recycle its use where possible.
- Members are encouraged to use sustainable methods of transport to and from work where practical, and to use video and teleconferencing facilities more frequently.
- Members should endeavour to ensure their projects leave a sustainable legacy.

This policy should read in conjunction with the CICES Rules of Professional Conduct.

Engineering Council guidance can be found at:

www.engc.org.uk/standards-guidance/guidance/guidance-on-sustainability/

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals can be found at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the standards PAS 2080:2016 Carbon management in infrastructure; ISO 14001 Environmental management systems; and the CEEQUAL infrastructure sustainability benchmarking system.

