

# Innovations for Poverty Action: 2024 *Environmental Sustainability Report*

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) remains committed to integrating environmental sustainability into our poverty reduction efforts. We strive to carry out our work in a way that respects and protects the environment, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in our environmental performance.

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## Policy Overview

IPA's Environmental and Sustainability Policy, issued in September 2023, continues to guide our operations with a focus on minimizing environmental harm through:

- **Education and Engagement:** Empowering staff with the knowledge and tools to advocate for and implement sustainable practices
- **Sustainable Supply Chain:** Including environmental considerations in the procurement processes and supplier selection, opting for local sourcing whenever possible
- **Resource Management:** Monitoring and managing the consumption of energy and natural resources efficiently
- **Waste Reduction:** Reducing waste and expanding recycling efforts

## Goals and Objectives

Aligned with global best practices, IPA's environmental objectives include:

- **Reducing single-use plastics** by promoting sustainable alternatives across all offices and field operations.
- **Increasing recycling rates** through improved access to recycling facilities, better segregation of waste, and staff engagement initiatives.
- **Strengthening waste management practices**, including the safe and responsible disposal of e-waste and other hazardous materials.
- **Raising awareness on climate-conscious practices** through dedicated campaigns, global staff events, and regular communications to encourage sustainable behaviors in our daily operations.

## 2024 Progress Update

In 2024, IPA continued to strengthen its commitment to sustainability. The following highlights summarize findings from our annual environment survey across global offices and other initiatives with measurable environmental impact.

- **Carbon Offset Initiatives:** Through our partnership with [Cool Effect](#), a leading provider of verified climate projects, IPA surpassed its previous target for offsetting 10% of our flight-related emissions. In 2024 IPA offset 229.76 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 23% of the 997.61 metric tons recorded and, therefore, more than double our goal. IPA will continue to offset at least 10% of emissions years. Additionally, all accommodations booked through IPA's travel agent were fully carbon offset.
- **Responsible Travelling** - IPA continues to rely heavily on virtual meetings to limit travel and reduce emissions, despite our global footprint.
- **Resource Usage:** IPA Country Offices cut paper purchases by 27% and printing volumes by 12% compared to 2023, reinforcing our shift toward paperless operations.
- **Digital Transformation:** Building on our 2023 commitment, IPA expanded the use of digital tools to reduce environmental impact, including among others:
  - New organization-wide digital workflows, like our new procurement system and a our new payroll system;
  - Enhanced remote collaboration via a wider use of Microsoft Office 365 tool;
  - Improved asset tracking and responsible disposal;
  - And fully cloud-based systems to lower energy use.
- IPA's [Climate and Environment Program](#) **launched in 2024:** As announced in our 2023 report and in line with our commitment to sustainability, IPA launched this new Program in 2024. The Program brings together policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to advance a strategic research and policy agenda focused on solutions that simultaneously improve people's welfare while adapting to climate change, reducing emissions, and protecting our environment.
- **Environment focused staff meetings and training sessions:** Through training and awareness sessions, such as the few listed below, IPA continued to foster a culture of environmental stewardship:
  - **World Environment Day Webinar:** Featuring a conversation with the lead author of FAO's "The Unjust Climate" report on climate impacts on vulnerable populations.
  - **Sustainable Procurement Training Sessions:** Equipping procurement teams to integrate sustainability in decision-making.
  - **Multiple environment sessions in our Country Offices :** In 2024, our country offices held a total of 20 different sessions through which they promoted ecological awareness and practical sustainability measures. As an example, the next picture shows IPA Philippines' team participating in an environmental learning session, deepening understanding of ecological preservation and reaffirming our shared commitment to sustainability.



**Caption:**  
*IPA Philippines team participating in an environmental learning session.*

## Key Environmental Action Areas

The table below shows the key indicators we track to measure progress on our environmental action plan. Monitoring these metrics helps us reduce our footprint, strengthen sustainable practices, and set an example of responsible environmental action in the NGO sector.

Objectives	Activities
<b>Waste: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimize paper use and printing.</li><li>• Phase out single-use plastics wherever possible.</li><li>• Maximize recycling efforts in all offices.</li></ul>
<b>Energy and Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Track emissions from international travel.</li><li>• Offset at least 10% of annual emissions through verified climate projects.</li></ul>
<b>Encourage Behavioral Shift</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Train staff on environmental policy.</li><li>• Share educational resources; promote policy adherence across contractors and partners.</li><li>• Prioritize vendors demonstrating strong environmental commitments whenever possible.</li></ul>

## Vision for the Future

IPA remains committed to advancing environmental sustainability through clear, measurable goals and collective action. We recognize that reducing our ecological footprint requires continuous effort across all levels of the organization and active collaboration with partners and communities.

### Short Term Priorities

- Embed Green Procurement practices more explicitly in our Global Procurement Policy and Procedures, ensuring that all purchases—from office supplies to travel services—meet high environmental standards.
- Continue to build staff capacity through ongoing training and awareness programs, integrating sustainability into onboarding and professional development.
- Expand the use of digital tools and workflows to reduce paper consumption and enhance operational efficiency.

### Medium and Long Term Priorities

- Partner with local communities and stakeholders in research areas to co-create initiatives that support biodiversity, sustainable resource management, and climate resilience.
- Advance low-carbon travel practices and scale up carbon offsetting efforts, making steady progress toward IPA's 2050 carbon neutrality goal.
- Collaborate with NGOs, research institutions, donors, and policymakers to help set and drive sector-wide environmental standards, contributing to broader global sustainability objectives.