



Innovations for Poverty Action: 2025 *Environmental Sustainability Report*

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Environmental Sustainability

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) remains committed to conducting its work in a way that respects and protects the environment. IPA's Environmental and Sustainability Policy continues to guide its approach, with a focus on responsible resource use, staff engagement, sustainable procurement, waste reduction, and climate-conscious operational decisions.

In 2025, IPA continued to focus on practical areas where the organization has the greatest operational influence: responsible travel, carbon offsetting, digital ways of working, sustainable procurement, responsible disposal of waste and electronic equipment, and staff awareness.

Responsible Travel and Carbon Offsetting

Work-related travel remains one of IPA's most significant and measurable sources of operational emissions, particularly given the organization's global research, policy, and country support work. IPA continues to track flight-related emissions through centralized travel arrangements and offset a portion of those emissions through Cool Effect, its carbon-offset partner, with offsets processed through Key Travel. Cool Effect is an industry leader, connecting organizations with independently verified carbon reduction projects all over the world.

During the reporting period, IPA offset 32% of recorded flight-related emissions (2025 total recorded flight-related emissions: 718.10 tonnes CO₂e), up from 23% in the previous reporting period and above IPA's minimum annual commitment of offsetting at least 10%. IPA also continued to encourage responsible travel planning and the use of virtual collaboration where appropriate, while recognizing that some travel remains necessary to support high-quality research, policy engagement, and country operations.

In December 2025, IPA hosted an all-staff information session with Cool Effect. The session helped colleagues better understand how carbon offsets work, the types of environmental projects Cool Effect supports, and how IPA's offset contributions connect to broader climate action. It also strengthened staff awareness and transparency around IPA's carbon-offset approach.

Digital Operations and Resource Efficiency

IPA continued to rely on digital systems and workflows to support more efficient and lower-resource ways of working. Digital procurement workflows, cloud-based collaboration tools, remote meeting platforms, and improved asset tracking continue to reduce reliance on paper-based processes and support collaboration across countries.

This remains an ongoing area of work. In the coming period, IPA plans to deepen the use of digital tools across operational functions, including enterprise AI tools where they can support clear operational efficiencies, improve knowledge management, and reduce reliance on manual or paper-based processes. IPA recognizes that digital tools, including AI, also carry their own resource implications, and will continue to focus their use on practical applications that support more efficient and lower-resource ways of working across the organization.

Sustainable Procurement and Asset Management

Procurement remains one of the practical ways IPA embeds environmental considerations into its operations. Where relevant and proportionate, teams are encouraged to consider energy efficiency, reduced waste, responsible sourcing, supplier practices, and appropriate end-of-life disposal when making procurement decisions.

IPA also continued to strengthen asset management and responsible disposal practices. During the reporting period, IPA completed a U.S.-based records destruction and equipment recycling exercise through a vetted service provider. The exercise covered confidential document shredding, obsolete electronic equipment, and other office materials, with 2.56 tons of material processed and recycled, equivalent to saving an estimated 43 trees as certified by the vendor. All materials were securely destroyed and recycled.

Country Office Action

Across IPA Country Offices, teams continued to take practical environmental actions suited to their local contexts. Several offices documented clear, measurable steps during the reporting period:

- **IPA Rwanda** transitioned to hybrid and electric vehicles for all in-town travel and introduced a formal waste segregation system separating organic from non-organic waste, with collected materials transferred to a government-accredited recycling company.
- **IPA Colombia** introduced three-stream waste separation points categorizing materials into recyclables, organics, and non-recoverable waste, in line with Colombian environmental regulations.
- **IPA Kenya** recycled a combined 3,010 kilograms of office paper waste across its Nairobi and Busia offices during the reporting period, through a certified ISO-accredited recycling partner.

Other offices reported further actions, including reducing single-use items, promoting digital workflows to reduce printing, maintaining office green spaces, and strengthening processes for responsible e-waste disposal. Country office practices vary by local context, available infrastructure, and service providers. IPA will continue to document and highlight examples where they are clearly evidenced and relevant to broader organizational learning.

Environmental Sustainability Through Research and Policy

Beyond its operations, IPA contributes to environmental sustainability through the substance of its work. As an organization dedicated to generating and applying rigorous evidence to improve the lives of people living in poverty, IPA recognizes that environmental degradation poses direct threats to the communities it serves.

During the reporting period, IPA's [Climate and Environment Program](#) continued to advance its agenda to identify which policies and programs deliver both environmental and economic benefits for vulnerable populations. The program published [its research and learning agenda](#), which sets out strategic priority areas where evidence and IPA's approach can help decision-makers advance their environmental objectives in ways consistent with development goals, including protecting ecosystems and natural resources, reforming food systems for greater sustainability and resilience, supporting the energy transition, and advancing sustainable urbanization.

To advance this agenda, IPA supported different activities during the reporting period. For example, it provided funding for two pilots in the sector, including one in Peru, where it partnered with the National Forest and Wildlife Service to study government agroforestry concessions and other policy instruments to reduce deforestation and increase resilience. As part of its Best Bets agenda, IPA also published an [evidence review on Payments for Ecosystem Services \(PES\)](#), programs that provide financial incentives to farmers and communities to conserve forests and other natural resources, examining what it takes to scale these programs effectively. Alongside this research, IPA strengthened partnerships with governments, funders, and implementers working on environmental challenges. Through this work, IPA aims to help ensure that environmental policy in low- and middle-income countries is grounded in credible evidence.