

RMLA Sustainability Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a set of principles to guide RMLA in supporting sustainability and improving RMLA's environmental and social performance.

Scope

This policy applies to all RMLA employees, staff and agents engaged in RMLA activities or activities reasonably considered related to RMLA. Members are encouraged to follow the Policy when participating in RMLA events.

Principles

RMLA's object will include the promotion of resource management processes which are legally sound, effective, efficient and produce high quality environmental outcomes.

RMLA will support the achievement of high quality environmental outcomes by:

- Encouraging and enabling members from a range of backgrounds to join and contribute to RMLA so that its activities are informed by the diverse views and experiences of its members.
- Creating and supporting Knowledge Hubs to develop members' expertise in a range of environmental matters.
- Using its publications to disseminate information about matters relevant to resource management law.
- Submitting on legislation, policy and process changes with a view to ensuring that New Zealand law and policy produces high quality environmental outcomes.

Practices

RMLA will adopt the following sustainable operating practices including:

Environmental

- Where we use external event organisers for RMLA events, we will use operators that practice sustainable operating practices including:
 - Prioritising physical venues that have utilised sustainable design and / or have in place sustainability measures to make a measurable reduction in their footprint relative to their peers;
 - Minimising waste production including by avoiding the use of single use plastic and disposable items (for example plastic water bottles, signage, décor and gifts);
 - Maximising the use of reusable and biodegradable materials;
 - Recycling materials where possible.

- Providing information on “within city” sustainable transport options for getting to RMLA event venues once guests are in the event city, including public transport, carpooling and walking.
- Avoiding paper when printing materials for meetings and use digital device as much as possible (e.g. adopt a policy of zero paper for meetings)
- Requiring that speakers at RMLA events offset the carbon emissions associated with air travel to events, and encouraging event attendees to offset travel related carbon emissions to RMLA events through the purchase of verified carbon offsets from projects registered under nationally or internationally recognised carbon standards where possible identifying local projects proximate to the event’s location which have strong sustainability characteristics.
- Minimising the environmental impacts of field trips incorporating where possible the measures set out above and including fieldtrips that enable participants to learn about or connect with nature.
- Where practically possible minimising emissions associated with business travel including by adopting and facilitating remote access to RMLA National Committee meetings. Where “in person” meetings are required we will:
 - Hold most of these in locations where the most Committee members live (while recognising that support for regional diversity and Annual Conference host committees means this will not invariably apply); and
 - Encourage Committee members to offset the carbon emissions associated with their travel to meetings.
 - Encourage Committee members to combine multiple meetings in one trip where possible.
 - Source motor vehicles that are more fuel efficient. Refuel with bio-fuels where practical – such as ethanol blended petrol.
- RMLA produces a range of publications. When publishing these reports in hard copy, RMLA will consider using FSC certified paper or carbon neutral paper. RMLA will also promote digital publication where practicable.

Social

- To enable and support the ability of members from a range of backgrounds to join, participate and contribute to RMLA we will provide for tangata whenua, NGO representatives, students and Young RMLA members to attend the Annual Conference at a reduced rate.
- Seek to support positive cultural outcomes by recognising and involving Māori/tangata whenua in RMLA events. This will include:
 - Recognising mana whenua of the location where the Annual Conference is held and inviting tangata whenua involvement in the Conference, including by providing the mihi whakatau.
 - Ensuring (including through engagement with the Mātauranga Māori Knowledge Hub) that the Conference and Roadshow programmes include

topics and speakers of interest and relevance to Mātauranga Māori and Māori resource management practitioners.

- Seek to have a positive community impact, including by:
 - Choosing products and services that are locally sourced; and
 - Preferring ethically sourced food and beverages.
- RMLA will not tolerate harassment and discrimination of any kind and RMLA will strictly adhere to and enforce its Health Safety and Environment Procedure and Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy at all RMLA organised and/or hosted events. A copy of this Policy is available at <https://www.rmla.org.nz/about-us/governance/>.

Monitoring Performance and Reporting

RMLA is working towards implementing, monitoring and reporting of some core sustainability parameters to quantify its sustainability performance. This is intended to be first implemented in relation to its Annual Conference. It is intended that this will become a standard part of RMLA's sustainability program to better quantify and manage its impact.

Responsibility and Review

This Policy was adopted on 23 November 2020 and will be reviewed again at least biannually. This Policy is endorsed by RMLA's National Committee and responsibility for this policy lies with the Executive.