

## Environmental and Energy Policy

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICY

This Environmental and Energy Policy applies to all LifeWatch ERIC's activities and operations, including computing infrastructure, purchasing and procurement, as well as general collaborations. The policy is applicable to the LifeWatch ERIC Statutory Seat and the Common Facilities in Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands, and serves as a reminder of LifeWatch's commitment to environmental management and energy efficiency to the Distributed centres.

### 1. PRINCIPLES

**Environmental and energy compliance:** LifeWatch ERIC is committed to follow all applicable environmental and energy-related laws, regulations, and standards while continuously striving for improvement. It will assess and improve its environmental and energy performance regularly to stay compliant and progress toward sustainability.

**Sustainable resource use:** LifeWatch ERIC encourages water and material conservation through reuse, recycling, and energy efficiency, following circular economy principles. It encourages sustainable practices in research, operations, and daily activities.

**Procurement:** LifeWatch ERIC prioritises environmentally friendly products, services, and suppliers in its procurement requirements and lifecycle planning.

**Research and innovation:** Research on sustainable technologies and practices and promotion of the consideration of environmental and energy factors in projects and services is encouraged.

**Stakeholder engagement:** Collaboration with stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and offer training and resources to enhance energy and sustainability is supported where possible.

**Biodiversity:** LifeWatch ERIC aims to ensure that research, digital services, and

collaborations support biodiversity conservation, in line with its vision and mission.

**Reduce carbon footprint:** LifeWatch ERIC aims to reduce its carbon footprint by minimising emissions, promoting sustainable travel, and supporting carbon-neutral initiatives.

**Transparency:** LifeWatch ERIC aims to maintain open communication regarding its environmental and energy performance.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION

LifeWatch ERIC will support these objectives by providing resources for staff training, technology upgrades, and process improvements where possible. Progress will be tracked through assessments to ensure compliance and identify areas for enhancement. By integrating environmental and energy considerations into its operations, LifeWatch ERIC aligns with its overall mission to advance biodiversity and ecosystem research while promoting sustainability for future generations.

## 3. KPIs

1. **KPI 1: Annual Awareness Seminar:** at least one seminar organized per year, dedicated to the implementation of this Environmental and Energy Policy for LifeWatch ERIC personnel.

2. **KPI 2: Sustainable Transport for Domestic Travel:** at least two thirds of the trips made annually by LifeWatch ERIC personnel within the countries hosting the ERIC facilities are undertaken using sustainable means of transport (e.g. trains, ferries, etc.).

3. **KPI 3: Digital Participation in Events:** at least two thirds of the events in which LifeWatch ERIC participates each year are held digitally.

## 4. FACTSHEETS

Objective	<b>Environmental and Energy Policy Implementation</b>
Indicator	<b>KPI 1: Annual Awareness Seminar</b>
Definitions	A seminar is defined as an internal event (physical or virtual) organised by LifeWatch ERIC and dedicated specifically to environmental and energy policy awareness and implementation.
Rationale	Promoting awareness among personnel is a foundational step to embedding sustainability into organisational cultural principles and daily practices.
Assumptions	Personnel participation is voluntary but encouraged; one seminar per year is sufficient to meet awareness-raising goals.
Data/information needs and resources	Calendar of internal events; confirmation of seminar delivery; attendance lists; materials used during the session.
Detailed methodology for indicator calculation	Check whether at least one seminar on environmental and energy policy was held in the calendar year.
Unit of measure	yes/ no
Frequency of measurement	Annual
Estimated cost of data collection (including access to external databases)	Low (internal HR/event records)
Level of reporting burden	LOW

Objective	<b>Environmental and Energy Policy Implementation</b>
Indicator	<b>KPI 2: Sustainable Transport for Domestic Travel</b>
Definitions	Sustainable transport includes trains, busses, ferries, and other low-emission options. Domestic travel refers to trips within the country of each CF (Spain, Italy, Netherlands).
Rationale	Transport is a major source of emissions. Encouraging the use of lower-emission options supports the reduction of LifeWatch ERIC's carbon footprint.
Assumptions	All trips are logged and can be categorised by mode of transport; staff have viable sustainable transport options.
Data/information needs and resources	Travel expense reports, travel booking records, or internal travel declarations specifying transport mode.
Detailed methodology for indicator calculation	$(\text{Number of domestic trips using sustainable transport} / \text{Total domestic trips}) \times 100$ . Target: $\geq 66\%$ .
Unit of measure	Percentage (%)
Frequency of measurement	Annual
Estimated cost of data collection (including access to external databases)	Medium (dependent on the new Zoho travel system implementation)
Level of reporting burden	Medium

Objective	<b>Environmental and Energy Policy Implementation</b>
Indicator	<b>KPI 3: Digital Participation in Events</b>
Definitions	Events include conferences, workshops, and meetings where LifeWatch ERIC is officially represented. "Held digitally" means attended entirely online.
Rationale	Virtual participation significantly reduces emissions from travel and accommodation while enabling broader engagement.
Assumptions	The format of the event is known (digital/physical).
Data/information needs and resources	Event participation records; calendar entries; staff reports; event format details.
Detailed methodology for indicator calculation	$(\text{Number of digital events attended} / \text{Total number of events attended}) \times 100$ . Target: $\geq 66\%$ .
Unit of measure	Percentage (%)
Frequency of measurement	Annual
Estimated cost of data collection (including access to external databases)	Low to medium (depends on event reporting system)
Level of reporting burden	Low to medium

## 5. Document Revision History

Revision	Reason for and description of change	Author	Date
1.	First issue	Christos Arvanitidis	02-07-2025