

Draft ISCN CHARTER (version March, 2009)¹

The International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) was established to facilitate world-wide knowledge exchange on how to make campuses more sustainable. ISCN member organisations have set themselves the goals of promoting awareness about environmental and social challenges, effecting behavioural changes, and providing tools for improved natural resource management. The ISCN was founded on the premise that the development of a model sustainable campus² by integrating design, construction, operation, renovation, management, research, education, and learning, is a prerequisite for fostering adoption of best practices in society at large. The key goals of ISCN members are:

1. Sustainable construction, renovation, and campus operation

- Continued improvement in campus operation, management and planning governed by respect for natural resources, with goals for minimising energy and water use and waste production.
- Development of campus infrastructures that take into account social equity considerations (such as non-discrimination of the disabled).
- Adoption of processes for definition of sustainability-related goals and targets, management, planning, monitoring and review of achievements that rely on benefits from participatory processes involving faculty, staff, and students. Reporting and audits will contribute to transparency.
- Design buildings for longevity and flexible use, conduct of life-cycle-analyses and taking account of future cost-savings in operations from adopting environmental measures during construction.

2. Sustainable campus master planning, development and community integration

- Master planning and campus development minimizes use of land and other natural resources.
- Design facilitates low impact modes of transport such as biking, walking or public transport.
- Social goals include efficiently managed urban flows, maintaining diversity and ensuring ease of access to commerce and services, whilst considering trade-offs between such goals.
- Creation of spaces for exchange and learning within and outside of buildings.
- A key economic goal is the connectedness of research in universities and industry.
- Development of participatory projects and workshops on environmental and social issues with engagement from government, industry, and organised civil society, with dissemination strategies.

3. Linking facilities, research and education for sustainable development

- Development of research, teaching and learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff to raise awareness about the interconnection between environmental, social, economic and equity aspects, and facilitate their assuming individual and collective responsibilities.
- Research on how to better understand and address environmental challenges from research facilities.
- Adoption of new participatory teaching methods and research approaches that transcend disciplines.
- A campus community engaged in continued campus improvement and planning and implementing environmental and social measures.
- Support by the institution's leadership and a dedicated person or department in the administration.

The ISCN functions successfully as a global network of individual organisations and regional networks, allowing its members to build on past and present work with related objectives (a more detailed description of ISCN activities is provided in Annex I; for an overview on initiatives relating to sustainable campus development see Annex II). By signing on to this charter an organisation joins the ISCN and expresses support of the above described goals.

The 'ISCN Guidelines' associated with this charter describe the objectives of the ISCN and each of the above goals in more detail. The Table with 'Suggestions for campus management objectives' provides examples of targets that each ISCN member organisation could set themselves, and monitor and report progress on.

¹ This document was developed for the ISCN by Ariane König (University of Luxembourg), in collaboration with Joseph Mullinix (National University Singapore) and Bernd Kasemir (Sustainserv). Inputs into this and preliminary versions were provided by T. Refslund Poulsen (Copenhagen Univ.), D. Brem (ETH Zurich), M. Adomssent (Univ. Lüneburg), R. Bland (Cornell), F. Gröndahl (KTH Stockholm), N. Heeren and K. Hoeger (ETH Zurich), A. Kildahl (Univ. Hong Kong), M. Kunz (ZHAW), S. Lynham (Anglia Ruskin Univ.), A. Meier and W. Natrup (Basler + Partner), P. Obrdlik (Brno Univ.), R. Sigg (Intep), R. Stulz (Novatlantis), and H. Tan (Tongji Univ.). In case of questions, please contact airane.koenig@uni.lu.

² Campus is defined as the overall facilities of an organisation including the site, installations and all buildings on the site.

Annex I: Overview on ISCN activities

Compared to existing initiatives and organisations promoting sustainable development (for an overview, see Annex II), there are three main new aspects to the ISCN. (For an overview of existing initiatives and more detailed activities of the ISCN as a network, please see Annex I). First, the ISCN will serve as a network of networks, for the world-wide exchange of experiences in implementation efforts of sustainable campus design. The aim is to make available a set of global and regional tools that will serve engaged individuals to act as change agents in their respective organisations to set realistic local goals and to secure resources to achieve these. The strong and diverse representation of regional networks and leading Universities across the globe makes the ISCN uniquely suited. A second key new aspect of the ISCN is to make more explicit the link between the Environment, the Economy and the Social dimension of sustainability, by placing community development and the integration of research, teaching, campus design activities and operation in the foreground. Furthermore, attention is paid on change management and the complementarity of roles when engaging diverse actors in a campus community; students are seen as key actors, not merely as recipients of education. A third difference is that the ISCN is also planning to recruit selected corporate members, and improve links to selected international organisations, in order to highlight parallels and differences between sustainable University and corporate campus development. These differences are reflected in the three overarching goals of the ISCN:

1. Foster sustainable construction, renovation, and campus operation

How can the latest sustainable building guidelines best be adapted to and implemented in university and corporate campus settings? How can ongoing operations on campus be optimized for sustainability?

2. Foster sustainable master planning and development, mobility and community integration

How can master planning for sustainability optimally structure the interfaces between buildings and users, different buildings on campus, and campus and the surrounding communities?

3. Foster the practice of linking facilities, research, and education for sustainable development

How to best create “buildings that teach” in relation to sustainable development by demonstrating and inspiring cutting edge research on environmental and social issues? How can research and education transcend disciplinary boundaries, a requisite for socially salient solutions?

The ISCN fosters learning and exchange across continents on how organisations can strive for these goals by three main iterative mechanisms: (1) supporting and disseminating information on the development of landmarks, also with a planned award scheme, (2) international conferences serve as platform for exchange of experiences and working group meetings, and (3) the four ISCN working groups deliver cross-cutting tools and guidance for strategic planning and practical implementation issues.

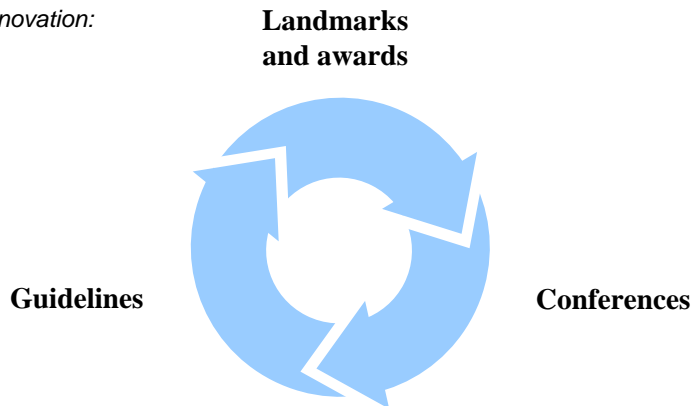
WG I Awards programme: WG I is establishing an international awards programme for sustainable campus design and operation. This will involve identifying criteria for judging success in striving towards the three stated ISCN goals by individual organisations. The award programme will help to draw attention to and foster information exchange about achievements and possibilities in this fast-moving field.

WG II Charter and guidelines: This WG develops a charter with statements on organisational commitments that help to meet the ISCN goals. Associated guidelines will develop more concrete recommendations on what strategic activities may be defined and how they might be implemented at the level of the organisation.

WG III: Decision making and financial mechanisms. This WG serves as a platform for exchange on how to secure resources and finances in organisations for implementing such measures. Case studies analyse decision-making procedures in organisations, with a view to make general recommendations and pool arguments in favour of dedicating resources to sustainability on campus.

WG IV: Change management. This WG looks at the complementary roles and necessary interactions of diverse actors within the University to define and implement strategies to achieve the ISCN goals. This WG highlights the need to integrate facility management and planning, research and education in a holistic approach to campus sustainability. (At present the focus is the University setting, and later perhaps the corporate setting)

*The ISCN activities as a
cycle of learning and innovation:*



Annex II: Overview on other initiatives on sustainable campus development

Sustainability in higher education: Early international initiatives on higher education for sustainable development include the 1990 Talloires declaration, the 1993 Copernicus Alliance (over 326 signatories in 2006), and the United Nations Declaration on the 'Decade for Higher Education for Sustainable Development from 2004 – 2013'. The UN decade led to the development of Regional Centres of Excellence and the establishment of dedicated Chairs at several Universities. More recent initiatives were started among the GULF partner Universities associated with the World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos and a group of leading Universities that associate themselves with the G8 summits. These international initiatives all address the general need to take actions in the realm of teaching, interdisciplinary research projects and campus design for Universities to serve as role models and to foster environmental awareness, behavioural changes and new knowledge creation for sustainable development in society at large.

In addition to these international initiatives, there are regional and national networks, which develop more concrete goals and actions with a focus on sustainable building- and campus-design. Examples include the North American AASHE network, the US-based Ivy League for Climate Change Initiative, and the UK Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) initiative. Regional or national initiatives often refer to national policies, laws and certification schemes for environmental building (such as the US LEED scheme, the Swiss SIA recommendations and the 'Minergy' label, the UK BREEAM, or the French HEQ) and further develop and adapt them to make them more applicable to campus design (including initiatives on sustainable laboratory design, IT server rooms, and others). However, there seems to be a lack of a systematic effort to facilitate information exchange between such networks and individual organisations.

Sustainable campus design in the private sector: Forward looking firms are increasingly concerned with sustainable development, not only in developing their approaches to corporate governance and reporting, but also for sustainable campus design (see for example the new Novartis campus as described in Hoeger and Christiaanse). The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) focuses on more general commitments, the UNEP/SustainAbility Surveys provide rankings looking mainly at approaches to corporate governance and reporting, and the Global Reporting Initiative is developing guidance and indicators for monitoring and reporting. However there seem to be few, if any, venues for information exchange on how to implement more concrete practical aspects of sustainable corporate campus design.