

14. Institution of Environmental Sciences

14.1 Aims and policies

The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES), founded in 1971, is a small professional body with about 3,500 members.^a

Statement of purpose and values

The aims and values of the IES are given on its website, [1] and are as follows.

- Aims
 - *“To promote the role of environmental sciences and sustainable development in higher education, the workplace, the professions and society at large.*
 - *To promote inter-professional practice for environmental science and sustainable development professionals through the application of interdisciplinary and systems thinking.*
 - *To develop high professional standards, competencies and ethics for environmental professionals through the publication of guidance, accreditation of qualifying courses and through continuous professional development.*
 - *To promote the environmental sciences and sustainable development in careers education and guidance.*
 - *To disseminate appropriate and timely information and opinion for the benefit of members and society at large.*
 - *To provide professional and learned advice on environmental sciences and sustainable development.”*
- Values

“The IES believes that a scientific approach deepens our understanding of the natural environment and sustainable development. The professions have a vital role in the transition to a sustainable society and it is absolutely essential that this transition is underpinned by sound science.

The IES seeks to lead debate, dissemination and promotion of environmental science and sustainability. We promote an evidence-based approach to decision and policy making and are devoted to championing the crucial role of environmental science in ensuring the well-being of humanity now, and in the future.

In upholding the standards and importance of the profession, we not only act as an advocate for environmental science, but as a catalyst for improvement. We provide an inspirational vision for the profession as a whole, and the strategic direction to implement this.

Committed to excellence, the IES exists to serve its members and the public, and through innovation aspires to distinction in the services it provides.”

^a This figure is an estimation derived from a graph in the 2014 annual report and membership growth since.

Environmental policy

The aims and values of the IES, as quoted above, demonstrate that the organisation sees improved understanding within the environmental sciences as a means to increase the well-being of human society and the natural world. While the IES does not appear to have a stand-alone environmental policy, elements of what one may expect to see in such a policy can be found within other key documents. For example, Rule 2 of the organisation's professional code of conduct states that "Members shall have full regard for the enhancement of environmental quality and sustainable development and the mitigation of environmental harm." [2] Extensive environmental commitments can also be found in the memorandum of association [3] and the institution's environmental audit, which applies the science-based sustainability framework developed by The Natural Step. [4]

The IES was also one of the 24 UK based professional and learned societies who endorsed the joint Climate Communiqué that was published in the run up to Paris 2015/COP 21 (which led to the 2015 Paris Agreement). The communiqué called on national governments to take immediate action to avert the serious risks of climate change. [5]

14.2 Investments

Size and location of funds

The institution did not hold any investments of relevance to this study, according to a recent annual report. [6]

Investment policies

We found no investment policies – including ethical investment policies – within the institution's publicly published documents. The IES did not respond to our request for more information on their investments and investment policies.

14.3 School education programmes

We found no educational resources aimed at school age children on the IES website.

14.4 Events and sponsorship

The IES takes part in numerous events each year. [7] We carried out a brief survey of the events on its website in mid-2017, and found only one which had sponsors. As such, it does not appear that sponsored events make a significant contribution to the income of the IES. The event was the Rushlight Summer Showcase which was sponsored and supported by Innovate UK, BEIS and Enterprise Ireland. [8]

14.5 Corporate membership

Based on information provided on its website, the IES does not appear to have a corporate membership programme.

14.6 Other corporate links

The IES runs advertisements in its journal/members' magazine, the *environmental SCIENTIST*. However, we were unable to obtain copies of the publication to survey in the limited time available during this study.

14.7 Overall assessment

Reviewing the information in this case study, we have given The Institution of Environmental Sciences the assessment as shown in tables 14.1a and b.

	<i>Investments</i>	<i>School education programmes</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Other</i>
Involvement with arms corporations	None	-	None	-
Involvement with fossil fuel corporations	None	-	None	-

Table 14.1a – Corporate involvement ratings for The Institution of Environmental Sciences

	<i>Ethical issues covered in this study</i>
Positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No financial links with fossil fuel industry • No financial links with arms industry • Extensive environmental policies and practices • No listed investments
Negatives	-

Table 14.1b – Positives and negatives for The Institution of Environmental Sciences

The information publicly published by the institution was adequate to establish that it had no financial involvement at all with the arms and fossil fuel industries. Its annual accounts also revealed that it held no investments.

With environmental protection and sustainable development being key concerns of the organisation, it was no surprise that it had a variety of policies and practices incorporating these values. While the organisation did not have an ethical investment policy, it seemed that this was because it had no investments.

References

- [1] The Institution of Environmental Sciences, "About us," 2017. [Online]. Available: https://www.the-ies.org/about_us. [Accessed 15 06 2017].
- [2] The Institution of Environmental Sciences, "Code of Professional Conduct," 2017. [Online]. Available: https://www.the-ies.org/sites/default/files/documents/code_of_conduct_0.pdf. [Accessed 05 06 2017].

- [3] The Institution of Environmental Sciences, "Memorandum of Association," 3 04 2017. [Online]. Available: <https://www.the-ies.org/sites/default/files/documents/mem%26arts.pdf>. [Accessed 15 06 2017].
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- [5] The Academy of Medical Sciences et al, "Learned Societies' Climate Communiqué - COP21," [Online]. Available: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Policy-and-Media/Policy-and-Position-Statements/Learned-Societies-Climate-Communique>.
- [6] The Institution Of Environmental Sciences, "The Institution Of Environmental Sciences Limited Annual Report And Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2016.," 13 01 2017. [Online]. Available: http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends11/0000277611_AC_20160630_E_C.pdf. [Accessed 15 06 2017].
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- [8] The Institution of Environmental Sciences, "Rushlight Summer Showcase," 07 2017. [Online]. Available: <https://www.the-ies.org/events/rushlight-summer-showcase>. [Accessed 01 07 2017].