



Our contribution

Sustainability at IWES

Our self-image of sustainability

We at Fraunhofer IWES know how important renewable energy resources are for the future of our planet. With our day-to-day work, we support and accelerate the further development of technology in the wind energy and hydrogen sectors. Part of our vision is to contribute to the energy transition and support society on the path to a more sustainable future, which is why we want to align our work with sustainable development and promote a holistic understanding of sustainability at IWES. We are aware of our role and our responsibility as an applied research institute and, therefore, continuously review our processes, our research and development topics, and our organizational and operational procedures. We are convinced that we need to work sustainably to achieve our goals. At IWES we strive to create an inclusive working environment in which everyone is treated fairly and equally. We are aware that challenges can arise along the way but try to make the best possible contribution in terms of sustainable action for our society and our environment.



ONE
in wind energy

Our guiding principles for sustainability:

- We recognize and understand the urgency of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are committed to advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our activities and work.
- We act! That means an honest self-analysis and the will to optimize our institute so as to become a climate neutral organization.
- We are committed to reducing our social and carbon footprint.
- We strive to research with social responsibility. By that we mean reflecting on our work, its impact, and the added value for society.
- We are part of Fraunhofer's goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.
- We promote the use of renewable energies.
- We advocate for the strengthening of local communities.
- We transfer and share our knowledge.
- We are committed to minimize the wasting of resources.
- We are committed to establishing and developing sustainable supply chains.



Sustainable Development Goals at Fraunhofer IWES:

We strive to create a workplace where people from all social areas can feel accepted as they are and where everyone can develop their skills and personality in balance with their surroundings. For this, we are setting up new ways of collaboration and work scenarios, enabling a flexible work environment that we adjust to the people in it.



With the way we work and the work we do, we have an impact on other areas of sustainability, reducing water use and pollution of different kinds while always aiming to minimize the impact that our technology has on the environment.



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We as Fraunhofer IWES and as part of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft develop new methods and technologies which make wind energy more environmentally friendly and cheaper in order to make renewable energy the first choice for generating electricity worldwide.



Sustainability activities at IWES

The Fraunhofer IWES has established four pillars for sustainability. Focuses and necessary measures have been defined for each pillar and are being continuously reviewed and further developed.

Employees

Raising awareness

- Vision: IWES-spirit
- Sustainability initiative at IWES
- Visits, internal audits, training
- Strengthening direct responsibility

Teamwork

- Networking competences
- Cooperation and collaboration
- Communication

Living diversity

- Tolerance, openness, respect, and responsibility
- Organization structure and work methods
- Hybrid and multi-space working environments
- Flexible working hours
- Leadership and personnel development, working conditions
- Innovation culture

Environment

Reducing the institute's carbon footprint

- Energy monitoring / optimization of operations
- Changeover of energy carriers to sustainable sources
- Own business travel regulations for the institute
- Changeover of IWES fleet to electric vehicles

Responsible use of resources and hazardous substances

- Waste and hazardous substance management
- Paper reduction
- Procurement of environmentally friendly office supplies
- Vegetarian catering

Scientific communication

Communication and promotion of science and teaching

- Participation in associations and panels
- ENIQ – Fraunhofer energy research platform in Berlin
- Teaching activities
- Networking
- Public relations, facts instead of fake news

Further information

Fraunhofer IWES secures investments in technological developments through validation, shortens innovation cycles, accelerates certification procedures, and increases planning accuracy by means of innovative measurement methods in the wind energy and hydrogen technology sectors. At present, there are more than 300 scientists and employees as well as around 150 students employed at the nine sites: Bochum, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Emden/Leer, Görlitz, Hamburg, Hanover, Leuna and Oldenburg.

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