

# IFMA Sustainability Program

## OVERVIEW

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IFMA is committed to empower facility management professionals to lead the implementation of sustainable practices in their workplaces and communities. The association is focused on establishing itself as a global leader and expert resource on sustainability. It is developing an integrated sustainability strategy framework that:

- Addresses long-term and short-term building portfolio goals
- Creates a 'Total Life-Cycle' sustainability strategy approach to managing facilities and portfolios and that has positive impacts on local communities and the environment

IFMA will provide the training and resources for members to sustainability manage their assets either alone or with strategic partners.

The desired future state of sustainability implies a dramatic shift in the way people live, work and play. As the largest facility management association with extensive research and education capacities, globally recognized credentials, strategic partnerships and delivery capabilities, IFMA is taking a leadership role in expanding, refining and improving sustainable practices. As a global representative in facility management and a major source of knowledge and thoughtful leadership for the built environment, IFMA is also a logical champion for the development and deployment of sustainability models, frameworks and practices that connect sustainable strategy formulation with operational execution worldwide.

Sustainable facility management is a proactive process focused on enhancing corporate social responsibility through:

- Strategically managing sustainable workplaces
- Minimizing the impact of facilities on the environment
- Operating smarter and more efficiently
- Contributing to the bottom line through enabling increased health, safety and productivity of employees

Within corporations, facility managers are in the unique position to accomplish these goals by strategically and operationally managing the entire life-cycle of corporate property assets in concert with the corporate strategic plan, business plans, environmental management plan and the needs of affected communities.

At the same time, these actions can protect and regenerate the natural environment. Once success and benefits are realized, facility management will become 'trusted advisors' to their Boards and C-Suites on all matters relating to sustainability throughout the corporation or company.

## SUSTAINABILITY: ACTIONS TAKEN

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### **Credentials:**

IFMA has created the SFP (Sustainability Facility Professional) credential that emphasizes the strategic and operational attributes required for the life-cycle management of facilities. The credential is supported with educational offerings that address life cycle management and efficient operations. Partnerships are being leveraged with related organizations which are in alignment with IFMA's existing core competencies.

### **Education:**

In order to support sustainability within the organization and for the SFP Credential, two major initiatives have been accomplished. Sustainability has been integrated into all of IFMA's core competencies and a new competency has been introduced to cover the topic. Secondly, specific education and training has been developed to supplement existing resources to provide reference and skill development.

### **IFMA Sustainability Committee (ISC):**

The ISC has been established to actively review IFMA's existing and planned products, services and relationships in light of the dynamic changes taking place in all aspects of sustainability.

The committee's primary responsibilities include the development and continued maintenance of the IFMA Sustainability Strategy Map and Balanced Scorecard. It will review, evaluate and recommend changes in existing IFMA sustainability initiatives and advise IFMA's Professional Development group on the requirements and detailed curriculum for the sustainability credentialing program. The committee will also evaluate and lend support to appropriate global benchmarks and best practices and continue to work with IFMA Senior Management, recommending and prioritizing activities related to Education/Credentialing, research and dissemination of knowledge and policy analysis.

Some proposals the ISC has seen fulfilled is the hire of a Director, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability; the establishment and publication of guides in the "How-to" Sustainability series and the IFMA Challenge: Energy Star Initiative.

### **Related Links**

#### **The IFMA Foundation:**

<http://www.ifmafoundation.org>

#### **The 'How To' Sustainability Guides:**

[http://www.ifmafoundation.org/programs/sustain\\_wp.cfm](http://www.ifmafoundation.org/programs/sustain_wp.cfm)

#### **The IFMA Sustainability Page:**

<http://www.ifma.org/sustainability>

#### **IFMA Community Server:**

<http://www.ifmacommunity.org>

Under "Forums" will be found "Special Interest Groups- Sustainability Group