



## Environmental Statement of General Principles

As its contribution to achieving environmental best practice in its business operations, the World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (WCSS22) will aim to minimise the harmful environmental impacts resulting from all its operations including the Congress itself and within reasonable limits, those of our partners and suppliers.

We aspire to reduce our carbon usage wherever possible however appreciate that this is a complex issue, with many facets of the congress delivery (such as delegate travel and carbon costs for virtual attendance) outside our control. As far as practical, we will offset our carbon usage and will encourage attendees to do the same by either donating to a carbon-offsetting organisation or by undertaking soil-related work in their local communities, to mitigate their own usage.

WCSS22 will endeavour to do this without compromising our primary goal to share soil science knowledge.

### *Principles*

WCSS22 will adopt the following seven principles of sustainable development in all that it does. It will:

1. **Reduce** its use of energy and natural resources – particularly those originating from non-renewable sources
2. **Re-use** materials wherever possible to maximise the benefit gained from resources and to prolong their effective working life
3. **Recycle** materials that can be recycled effectively – such as organic waste, paper, glass, aluminium and steel – and use recycled products whenever possible
4. **Use** products and materials that, wherever possible, originate from sustainably managed natural sources that cause minimal pollution of the air, soil and water through their full life cycles and from suppliers who operate to high environmental and ethical standards
5. **Adopt** practices and procedures that minimise waste and pollution
6. **Avoid** materials, products and practices where there is any reasonable doubt concerning their possible environmental impacts
7. **Encourage** those with whom WCSS22 interacts (e.g. suppliers, service providers, organisations) to adopt similar statements and principles.

### *Implementing the Statement*

To ensure that WCSS22 adheres to these seven basic principles within the limitations noted, WCSS22 will:

- **Request** regular updates from its congress organiser, Speakeasy, on how this statement is being implemented in congress planning
- **Identify** wherever practicable suppliers and contractors with demonstrable and auditable commitments to environmental good practice, as outlined in our Procurement Statement.
- **Keep** up to date with changes in environmental management practice and the environmental performance of products and materials available for use by WCSS22, building knowledge and capability across staff, volunteers and our congress organiser Speakeasy
- **Track** those activities which do not meet the requirements of this statement and actively seek to improve their environmental performance

- **Support** those with whom it comes into contact to adopt similar or equivalent statements and practices and to commit to reducing their effect on the environment and their carbon footprint.

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