



<b>Policy I.3:</b>	<b>Mission Statement on Sustainability</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To establish the Association’s position on Sustainable practices</b>
<b>Intent:</b>	<b>To provide guiding principles and parameters for the Association in addressing today’s Sustainable practice issues.</b>

**Position**

The Association has adopted the following as its official position on Sustainability.

**“IIDA seeks to promote awareness and knowledge of interior design strategies that reduce negative impacts on our natural environment and improve the health and wellbeing of all people.”**

We say seek to promote **“awareness and knowledge”** because these are two drivers for change. Awareness needs to happen, both in the general community (clients) and in the design community for change to occur. Greater awareness will lead to knowledge on how to deal with the issues of sustainability in a positive and proactive way.

We say **“interior design strategies”** because we are an organization of interior designers, responsible for the best practices of interior structures we create.

We say interior design strategies that **“reduce negative impacts on our natural environment”** because that is our noble goal. We are never going to restore the environment by constructing the interiors of buildings, but we can reduce the negative impact of what we do. This is a broad but achievable goal that we can continuously improve on it in all sectors of interior design.

We say **“improve health and wellbeing of all people”** because this is the too often overlooked side of sustainability. Human beings were designed to be outdoors, to experience the changes of the times of day, to breathe fresh air, and to see to the horizon. Study after study tells us that the interior spaces (the “shelter”) we create today needs to reflect these basic human needs in order to improve health and wellbeing – which has a direct correlation to worker performance (or student performance as the case may be). The work of the interior designer should be to benefit all people, and not just the people who inhabit the spaces we design. We need to design with socially responsible materials and construction methods that benefit everyone that touches the project – whether it is the laborer who is manufacturing the textiles or the sub-contractor who is installing the carpet. The issue of social responsibility is becoming a big issue under the umbrella of sustainability.