Environmental Responsibility Charter of the MetaToul platform

MetaToul personnel are committed to respecting this charter. Each site manager will provide this charter to new arrivals as soon as they arrive.

After several decades of scientific research, the link between human activities, climate change and biosphere degradation is now clearly established and documented on a global scale. Forward-looking studies show that there is a high risk of the situation becoming irreversible in many socio-ecosystems - possibly in the medium term - if we continue on our current trajectory of resource use and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

I. Process and rationale for the Environmental Responsibility Charter

Aware of the urgent need to bring our research and development activities into line with the need to reduce our environmental impact, we have been carrying out the platform's GHG assessment since 2019, using the “labos1point5” collective tool. This will be carried out annually. This tool will enable us to track our progress towards reduction targets.

During the platform's scientific days in March 2022, it was decided to draw up an eco-responsible charter for the platform to endorse our GHG reduction approach. This charter was co-drafted by the MetaToul platform's Ecoresponsible working group, made up of people from each of the platform's teams, and then validated by the Management Committee.

II. Charter objectives

In view of the urgent need to protect the environment, MetaToul members who have signed the charter recognize the reality and importance of this situation, and express their willingness to implement a gradual change in their professional practices to significantly reduce the environmental impact of their research activities. They accept to disseminate this charter among their staff and the general public, and to promote its rapid and effective implementation in their internal and external environments, particularly in the areas defined below.

1. The MetaToul platform is committed to assessing the carbon impact of its activities and raising awareness among its staff;
2. The MetaToul platform is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to its research and development activities, with an annual reduction target;
3. The MetaToul platform accepts to undertake a collective reflection on actions that will enable it to implement, in a consensual, effective and short-term manner, the measures necessary to reduce GHG emissions by means of a citizens' convention agreement method with incentives and awareness-raising actions: all platform members are involved in this reflection and randomly assigned to the various reflection groups set up.

III. Commitment to major themes

The platform is committed to an eco-responsible approach to the following points:

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1. Environmental footprint assessment

- Carry out a complete annual assessment of the platform's environmental footprint, including an awareness-raising campaign on climate issues, and a complete assessment of greenhouse gas emissions (including building consumption, business and home-work travel, digital use, purchasing, etc.).

- Make this environmental footprint assessment public and communicate it widely to staff.

2. Reducing the environmental impact of operations

a. R&D

All our experimental and technological developments consider their environmental impact and the objective of reducing the platform's carbon footprint.

b. Building

- To ensure that the working conditions of its members guarantee a healthy environment, adapted to their mission, and which effectively enables the reduction of the environmental footprint of their activities.

- Commit to controlling energy costs, in particular:
  - Committing to reasonable thermal and electrical regulation of premises
  - Working with supervisory bodies and site and laboratory management to reduce the energy consumption of buildings and promote the transition to renewable energies wherever possible.

c. Purchasing

Control and reduce the environmental impact of instrumental equipment by adopting a rational investment and management policy, and by including the environmental impact of instruments (manufacture, use and recycling) in calls for tender.

d. Mobility

- Encourage soft mobility and car-pooling for work-related journeys, in particular by providing the means and facilities to facilitate them;

- Make high-performance videoconferencing tools available to staff, provide effective technical support and training in their use, and encourage their use for short meetings (day or half-day);

- Encourage staff to rethink business travel, especially long-distance travel, encourage them to use trains rather than planes, choose cities, timetables, group meetings together to avoid multiple journeys, etc.

e. Events

- Encourage vegetarian and eco-responsible meals and/or buffets when paid for by MetaToul.

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- ❖ Organize MetaToul's annual scientific days at a venue that reduces the carbon cost of transport.

f. Digital

Control the renewal of computer equipment, encouraging the purchase of durable items and longer use through extensive constructor warranties.

3. Inform customers about the environmental impact of their analyses

- ❖ Develop tools to carry out LCAs (life cycle assessments) of the various analyses on the platform.

- ❖ Inform clients, when the LCA method is applicable and available, of the environmental footprint of their analyses.