

Case study

Skógræktin/Land og skógur – Icelandic Forest Service/Land and Forest

Iceland



The Icelandic Forest Service (IFS) is a governmental institution that works with and for the government, but also the public and other interested parties, about research, development, consultation and distribution of knowledge within forestry.

IFS has its headquarters in Egilstaðir town in the east of Iceland and the organization has offices and forestry workplaces in all parts of the country. IFS and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland will merge into one organization in January 2024 and that organization will be called

Land and Forest



skogur.is



Education



Wellbeing



Activity



Forestry

Education



According to the law, one of the functions of IFS is to educate about forests and forestry.

A robust website with diverse educational material on these topics is maintained. It is communicated on social media and elsewhere electronically, but also to companies, institutions and the public.

Activity



In one of many IFS projects, *Read to the Forest*, the focus is on the participants learning about the forest, exploring it and its diverse aspects. The aim of the project is to increase knowledge and awareness of the value of the forest for nature, man, culture and history, society and the nation's economy. Emphasis is also placed on teacher education and the school community by gathering experience and knowledge and sharing it with others. The project also offers opportunities for utility and experience in schoolwork and for the public. This project consist of two courses *Read in the Forest - Sapling in Trees*, which are general courses on integrated projects in fresh forest products, forest management and sapling technology. *Read to the Forest with Schools* aims to develop projects in integrated outdoor learning that are related to all subjects in schoolwork.

Afforestation



For over a century, the IFS has been protecting and expanding the remaining native birchwood in Iceland as well as executing afforestation projects and growing commercial forests on its lands situated in different locations throughout the country. In recent years, with ever-clearer signs of global warming, carbon sequestration has become one of the most important drivers of new afforestation projects in Iceland.



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Energy

Iceland is known for its renewable energy and almost every home and building in Iceland is heated by geothermal heating or electricity that is produced with hydropower. All electricity that is used is also produced with hydropower. In addition to that IFS uses local wood for heating and kindling for example at various forest events. Unfortunately, electric cars suitable for forest work have not yet arrived on the Icelandic market, but IFS is gradually increasing the number of electric cars in its fleet. The organization has greatly reduced travel costs by e.g., increased distance meetings and courses on the web, etc. Water-saving shower heads have been installed in camping areas. IFS has set an environmental plan with timed goals, such as electric chainsaws replacing gasoline-powered ones, and all the agency's cars being powered by renewable energy by 2030, only organic grease being used on machines, etc.

Waste

The organization participates in the project *Green Steps in Government Operations*, where there are various goals related to purchasing, usage and waste. In camping areas, containers for different categories of waste have been installed, i.e., organic waste.

Social responsibility and activity

Transport deals are available for staff, and fitness allowances. Efforts are made to make forests accessible to the public for outdoor recreation, education and recreation. The national forests are often the scene of various events, with or without the participation of the IFS.