

# Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America

## Environmental Social Governance Report: 2022

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry – North America (SETAC NA) is proud to present this inaugural Environmental Social Governance Report. Environmental Social Governance considerations are inherent in the fabric of SETAC and embedded in its vision, principles, and values. Since its inception in 1979, SETAC has been guided through its mission to advance environmental science and management and science-informed decision making. SETAC's [Sustainability and Social Responsibility Guidelines](#) include specific recommendations that have guided the society in its journey vis-a-vis the three main compartments of Environmental Social Governance. This report presents highlights of SETAC's current state in that regard.

### E

[Environmental criteria](#) address issues at SETAC related to greenhouse gas emissions and climate including energy, travel, resources, materials, waste, the built environment, air, and water. SETAC's guidelines in this pillar are articulated in the [Sustainability and Social Responsibility Guidelines](#).

Environmental Criteria Highlights:

- SETAC NA operation has been completely converted to digital, greatly reducing its environmental footprint. Working from home is known to reduce travel emissions from people's commutes and saves the need to cool, heat, and light office space.
- SETAC NA Board of Directors has reduced its footprint by reducing the number of in-person meetings the board holds due to the carbon footprint attached to airline travel.
- SETAC NA opted for the more sustainable options when planning meetings in 2022.
  - Developed a virtual meeting option for attendees not wishing to travel.
  - SETAC NA annual meeting venue is Platinum LEED certified.
  - Made use of digital signage to cut down on paper waste.
  - Limited the size of the printed program books and encouraged the app instead.
  - Chose reusable, recycled or recyclable materials where possible.
  - Eliminated custom carpeting in the exhibit hall at annual meeting.
  - Offered more plant-based catering.
  - Encouraged attendees to make sustainable choices.
  - Publicized [SETAC NA Annual Meeting Sustainability Initiatives](#) for awareness.

### S

[Social criteria](#) refer to SETAC's reputation; labor relations; and diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging work. [SETAC's values](#) (transparency, integrity, diversity and inclusion, equity, sustainability, cooperation and civil dialogue) showcase our commitment to social issues. [SETAC's Policies](#), including [Code of Conduct](#) and [Code of Ethics](#), reinforce these values. Furthermore, [SETAC Inclusion Strategy](#) provides recommendations to operationalize these values and policies into practices embedded in all the society's programs.



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### Social Criteria Highlights:

- SETAC NA built on its reputation by cooperating with several societies individually and within three consortia.
- SETAC NA human resource practices ensure equity amongst its labor force and in its hiring practice.
- SETAC NA advanced diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging in myriad ways outlined in its [inclusion report](#); highlights include:
  - Anonymized session and abstract proposals.
  - Anonymized grant applications.
  - Instituted grants based on financial need.
  - Sunset named awards.
  - Required ethical conduct self-disclosures of leadership.
  - Incorporated inclusion best practices in all programming.
  - Working on centering social events on inclusive activities.
- SETAC NA reinforced practices that promote accessibility and inclusion at the annual meeting:
  - Provided accessibility accommodations that meet varying mobility, auditory, and visual needs.
  - Strengthened support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
  - Ensured food options that would accommodate special dietary restrictions
  - Supported those with childcare needs at the annual meeting.
  - Publicized [accessibility and inclusion initiatives at the SETAC NA Annual Meeting](#) for awareness.

## G

**Governance criteria** focus on SETAC's policies and processes, which allow SETAC to run and govern itself, make effective decisions, comply with the law, and meet the needs of external stakeholders. The SETAC NA Board of Directors adheres to best practices of nonprofits, the SETAC NA constitution and bylaws, and all SETAC policies. The board is guided by SETAC principles and values and its fiduciary responsibility.

### Governance Criteria Highlights

- SETAC NA Board members are required to affirm their commitment to their fiduciary responsibility by signing the [Board Member Contract](#). They are also required to disclose [conflicts of interest](#) and [ethical concerns](#).
- SETAC NA transparently communicated its [work](#) including processes, plans, and finances, and continues to look for opportunities to improve transparency.
- SETAC NA built a robust financial policy that accounts for Environmental Social Governance considerations in decision making (e.g., vendor selection, purchasing).
- SETAC NA ensured that volunteer and leadership opportunities were openly advertised throughout the year.
- SETAC NA conducted fair and democratic elections.
- SETAC NA has initiated plans to ensure that SETAC's investments are invested in ESG funds.
- An audit of SETAC NA financial and governance practices in previous year found no material issues.

SETAC NA is fully committed to advancing SETAC's mission within a framework based on Environmental Social Governance best practices.

