

Resource & Environment Board: Strategy for 2020 and beyond

Goal

The IFoA Resource & Environment (R&E) Board seeks to create meaningful engagement by all actuaries, their clients and wider stakeholders in understanding, and then in addressing, the uncertainties for economic and financial systems arising from climate change and other sustainability issues. The Board seeks to be a centre of expertise and leadership for the IFoA in climate change and other sustainability issues and aims to help identify, educate and raise awareness of the need for such issues to be addressed.

Objectives

- Equip current and future actuaries with the knowledge, skills and tools to embed climate and sustainability risks into all actuarial practice;
- Articulate the potentially cataclysmic systemic risks; engaging with stakeholders, policy makers and regulators to influence them to take the urgently needed financial market and real economy actions;
- Support actuaries working in specialist sustainability fields in their practice and, in turn, seek to encourage such actuaries to contribute to the ongoing development and understanding of R&E issues within the IFoA;
- Engage with the IFoA Council, Executive and Management Board to ensure that issues identified by the Board are appropriately recognised and actions are sufficiently prioritised and that the broader strategy of the IFoA is encapsulated within the work of the Board.

Approach to achieving the objectives

- The Board is ambitious and recognises it has a role as a change agent. The Board therefore seeks to ensure that it is sufficiently resourced to achieve its objectives and fulfil its leadership role. Whilst recognising that its membership is drawn from volunteers, the Board seeks members who are both proactive and positively engaged, willing to commit sufficient time to allow the Board to achieve its goals.
- The R&E Board will be structured so as to provide exposure to a diverse range of knowledge and skills acquired from members' personal and/or professional experiences. The Board will seek to maintain this diversity in recruiting new members in order that it can provide effective leadership.
- The Board, through its leadership team and with the support of others where appropriate, will engage with both Council and Management Board in order to ensure it is aware of the broader strategy of the IFoA and that it can reflect to Council and the Board its own perspectives, strategy and intended activities.
- The Board will co-ordinate through direct liaison with other Practice and Corporate Boards to support them, using its specialist expertise and in support of its goals and objectives.
- The Board currently operates with six portfolios covering Research, Education, Events, Policy & Regulation, Communities and the UN SDGs which have each developed their own goals and

objectives linked to the broader goals of the Board. A summary of the goals of each portfolio is provided as an Appendix.

- Each portfolio is empowered to develop and pursue its own objectives subject to oversight by the Board. The Board will seek to: (a) ensure that portfolio objectives are consistent with the broader goals of the Board; (b) monitor and scrutinise the actions of the portfolios and provide guidance where necessary; (c) prioritise the allocation of resources to allow the portfolios to achieve their objectives.
- Board members will both collectively and individual develop their own knowledge and understanding of R&E issues through their professional involvement (both work and IFoA related) and through personal activity. The Board will also seek to invite external speakers to challenge or enhance its thinking.
- In respect of the 2019/20 session, the Board had the specific objectives of reviewing its broader strategy, increasing the resource available to deliver its strategy and initiating, in conjunction with Council, the Climate Related Risks Taskforce.
- The Board will report on its activity following each Board meeting and on an annual basis to the IFoA membership.

Board KPIs

- Engagement of Board members with activity, measured by meeting attendance and feedback from Board at end of year review. Expectations are that members attend a minimum of 4 meetings each year with at least 75% of members attending 5 meetings and 50% of members attending all 6 meetings.
- Attractiveness of Board for future volunteers, measured by number of applicants for volunteer vacancies.
- Diversity of Board members, measured by balance between gender, geography, ethnicity and professional background.
- Effectiveness of Board structure and activity, measured by portfolio level KPIs and extent of liaison activity with corporate and practice Boards
- Development of Board knowledge, measured by attendance of external speakers at Board meetings and Board feedback (minimum 3 per session)
- Engagement with IFoA stakeholders, measured by bi-monthly reporting, annual reporting and informal contact
- Visibility, influence and leadership of Board, measured within portfolio level KPIs and external feedback

Appendix: Portfolio goals

Communities Portfolio

In support of a 5-year vision of an engaged global actuarial community on R&E issues, develop mechanisms to successfully engage and support actuarial communities on R&E issues.

Education Portfolio

To identify the educational needs of current and future actuaries relating to the R&E subject area. Through ongoing engagement with education actuaries, module leads and the Lifelong Learning Board, ensure both that appropriate content is embedded in syllabuses and post-qualification development requirements are supported. The education of all actuaries needs to be consistent with the IFoA's commitments as a signatory to the Green Finance Education Charter.

Events Portfolio

To facilitate the sharing of knowledge and debate on R&E issues both within the IFoA and between the IFoA and its stakeholders.

Policy & Regulation portfolio

- Help actuaries enhance their voice as a source of expertise, particularly with respect to the financial impacts from climate change.
- Help actuaries influence policy and regulation developments to be appropriately inclusive of resource and environment issues.
- Manage the strategic relationships that support our understanding of R&E issues; and disseminate key learnings to bolster R&E awareness within the profession
- Support the Regulatory Board, JFAR and other bodies in their oversight of actuarial work

Research portfolio

Facilitate R&E mainstreaming by December 2023 by finding, grouping, organising and sharing the best and most relevant resources for R&E and developing new R&E resources.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Portfolio

Highlight the continued relevance of the SDGs to actuarial thinking, and vice versa; Consolidating the work actuaries are doing to recognize and address SDG related opportunities in the course of their current work and be a central source of information for addressing the SDGs through future actuarial work, both in the UK and worldwide.