Biennial Report of the International Environmental Communication Association 2023-2025



June 2025

Message from the Chair

We live in a moment of impending disaster because of the ways we treat – and mis-treat – our planetary environment. Climate change, biodiversity loss, acidifying oceans and extreme weather events are accelerating. At the same time, wars and crises all over the world dominate news cycles, obscuring the urgency of responding to environmental harms. In this time of planetary crisis, our discipline of environmental communication is more crucial than ever. Science has clearly defined for us the nature of the issues – and the work we do is now at the core of informing, conscientising and building solidarity for change at all levels of society. To echo two prominent environmental thought leaders, we need this work to extend to "everything, everywhere, all at once" (Gutiérrez) because "saving our planet is now a communications challenge" (Attenborough).

As a diverse coalition of people whose work seeks to highlight environmental problems and solve the issues that cause them, members of the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA) are at the forefront of environmental communication (EC) efforts, globally. As academics, educators, journalists and practitioners and artists, we teach, research, and enact EC in diverse forms and fora, with and for a plethora of audiences, across the planet. Our voices are diverse, our numbers are growing and people want to engage with our messages more than ever. In our local places, and collectively, we are agents for change and transformation.

The IECA seeks to support this change-making by being a stable source of collegiality, solidarity and inspiration for what we do. Since the IECA leadership last delivered its official biennial report to members in mid-2023, the organisation itself has undergone a transformation. Like many other member-based organisations, the IECA suffered a decline in membership during the worst years of the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting our financial position. The IECA also suffered financially from a structure that had for some years, undermined our financial sustainability. In 2023, the IECA Board and members voted to enable a change in that structure, that saw us shift from an Executive Director model of management, to a model in which IECA employs a part-time Association Manager, and while benefitting from the work of a strong and active Board.

As the result of an extensive search in the second half of 2023, we were delighted to find and employ our wonderful new Association Manager, Valentina Martínez, who joined the IECA in November 2023. With Valentina's calm and highly competent presence, the IECA has thrived in many ways. At the heart of this is better communication with members – meaning more social media, more outreach via new IECA events (detailed in the sections below), a re-imagined EC

Index, and extensive one-to-one engagement with members, especially in the run-up to the COCE 2025 conference. Valentina achieves all this while only being employed in a part time capacity. We are truly grateful for her energy, her enthusiasm, and her dedication to the mission of the IECA.

In late 2023, after an extensive consultation process, the IECA also launched its new website and learning management system. This has provided much-needed user-friendly functionality, as well as a re-fresh of how we are seen by the world. The new website also allows us to offer our own on-demand learning course in our discipline, 'EC Foundations', which is garnering new attention and is an additional – though currently modest – stream of income for our association, which we plan to expand.

With several years of positive changes in place, are now in the IECA's 14th year of operation, in a much more stable financial position, and with a growing number of members. In late 2025, we plan to poll members on strategic planning options for how we might best position ourselves as an organisation to even more actively work on the environmental challenges of our times, while supporting members and also staying sustainable organisationally.

Culminating our efforts towards positive change and transformation, in June 2025 we are holding the first COCE in the Southern Hemisphere in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. This island at the "end of the planet" has been a decades-long crucible of environmental communication and the University of Tasmania, the local host, is well known for its work on climate and environment. Wonderfully, COCE 2025 is now the most well-attended COCE ever, the most international, and the first COCE ever to "sell out". COCE 2025 sets a precedent for future COCEs to think beyond traditional Northern locations – including now to a future COCE in the Global South.

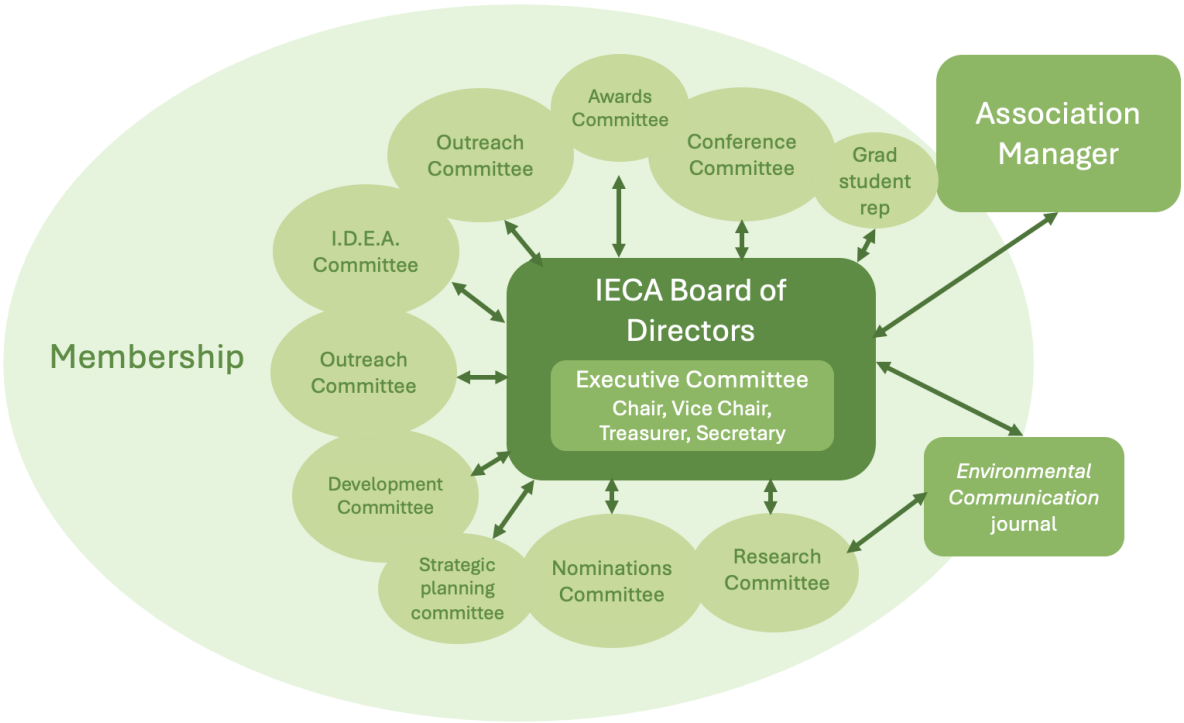
Thank you to all our members, Board and committee volunteers who give their time, inspiration and goodwill make the IECA wonderful organisation that it is.

Gabi Mocatta, Chair of the Board

Structure of the IECA: Board and Committees

The IECA is a charitable organisation registered under 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. As a 501 (c) organisation, the IECA is authorized to carry out its activities for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The IECA structure includes our Board, currently of 13 members. In 2025, the Board and members voted to increase this number to 15, to increase the pool of talent that forms the IECA leadership. The increase was also in recognition that at least two Board members' roles (Treasurer and Secretary) need to be drawn from any current Board. Heading the Board is our executive committee made up of the Board Chair, the vice-Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Board is assisted by committees. Committee positions are drawn from both Board members and non-Board IECA members, with committees chaired by members of the Board.

This image represents the various spheres of the IECA which run the organisation for our members, including the committees involved in day-to-day and strategic tasks.



IECA Board Members as of June 2025

Association Manager
Valentina Martínez

Board Executive Committee
Gabi Mocatta (outgoing chair)
Dara Wald (vice-Chair, incoming Chair)
Emma Bloomfield (Secretary)
Steve Depoe (Treasurer)

Current Board
Sibo Chen (outgoing)
Kundai Chirindo
Etsuko Kinefuchi
Tema Milstein (outgoing)
Hanna Morris (outgoing)
Emma Muncie
Bruno Takahashi
Anke Wonneberger (outgoing)

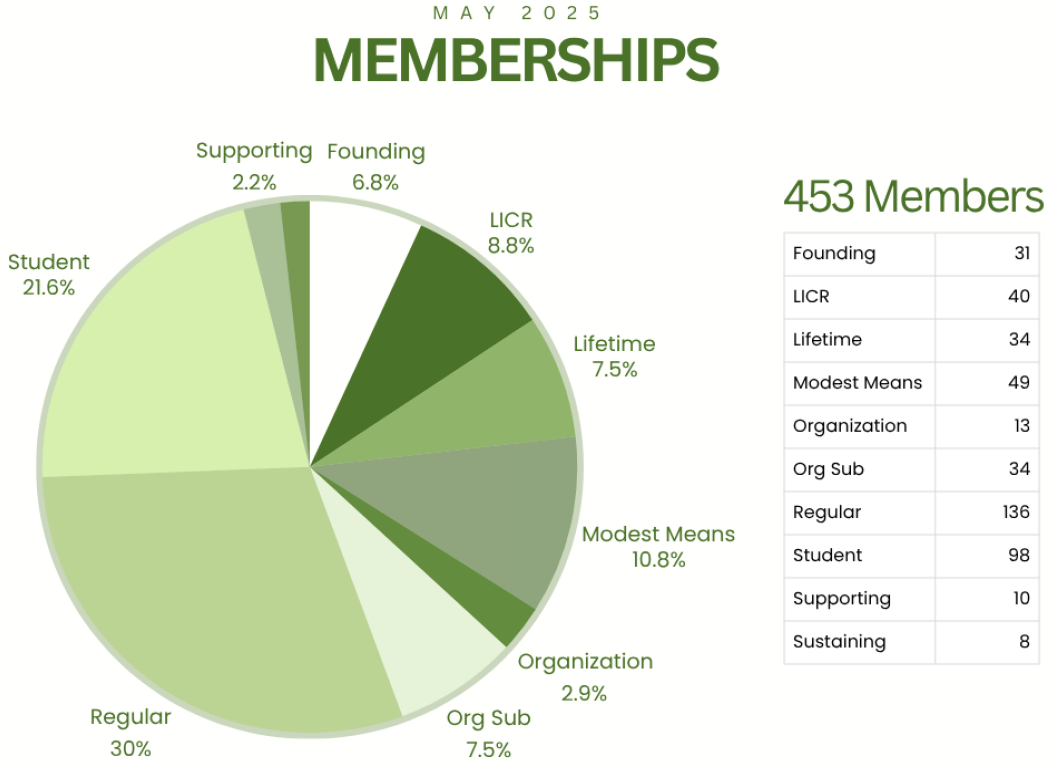
Incoming Board Members
Casey Schmitt (incoming vice-Chair)
Seyifunmi Adebote
Thaís Brianezi
Maria Elmada

Journal Editor
Phaedra Pezzullo

IECA Membership

As a professional nexus of practitioners, teachers, scholars, students, artists and allied organisations, our members are the core of the IECA and the central consideration in all that we do. The legitimacy and sustainability of the IECA depends on our ability to cultivate a professional community, attract and retain new members, and offer benefits our members find meaningful and relevant to their professional interests. Membership fees are also a key source of revenue for our organisation.

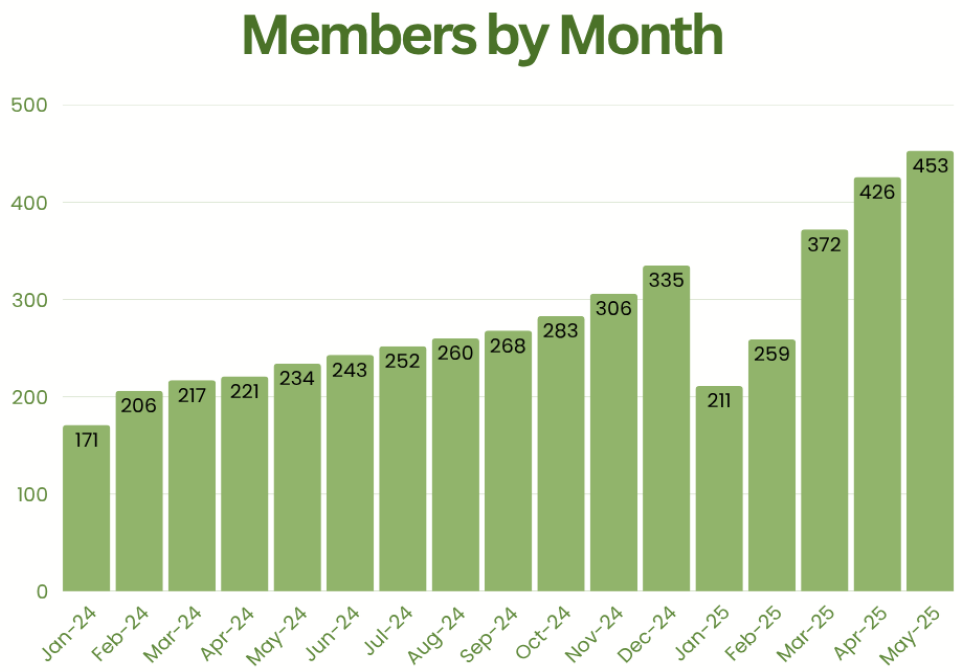
Like other organisations, membership of the IECA was strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IECA's largest ever peak in membership was in 2019, immediately preceding the pandemic. We have been working hard to overcome a decline in membership since that time. This year, we are at our highest level of membership over the past six years – a positive note for the organisation. The following chart summarises membership figures as of May 2025.



Founding	31
LICR	40
Lifetime	34
Modest Means	49
Organization	13
Org Sub	34
Regular	136
Student	98
Supporting	10
Sustaining	8

Membership levels are trending in a positive direction overall. We are up by more than 178 members over May of the previous year. This is fantastic growth and we are very proud of this progress. While memberships tend to dip slightly in non-COCE years, we are continuing to roll out programs designed to keep members engaged and active in non-COCE years, such as the IECA Expo and the monthly member meetups. These efforts have been very successful in engaging long-term members, attracting new members and connecting with a larger IECA community. Our members are still largely academic (63%), though we are growing our student and professional memberships (11.6%). In addition, members are increasingly using the IECA website, with more than half of members having accessed the member-only area of the site.

Before late 2024, 75% of our members were from the US, Canada, Australia, Sweden and the UK. During the membership drive in January, we emphasized our global reach and sought to build connections with members from underserved groups. As a result of this outreach, members from low-income countries have increased by 60%. In addition, memberships increased by 188% in the "modest means" category and 172% in the student category. This data suggests that we are beginning to expand our reach beyond the US and Europe. Finally, the increase in memberships in the modest means category highlights the benefit of the novel and more flexible membership categories we have developed over the last few years. We have also increased the number of organisational memberships by 34% and plan to continue emphasising this membership category, which remains a small but important category for growth.



The IECA elections, held in the October-November 2024 represented the largest and most internationally diverse pool of candidates the IECA has ever had. With the addition of four new Board members at COCE 2025, the IECA is now more diverse than ever before (including new members from Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, and North America.)

We are thrilled to see these trends and will build on them for the future through several new initiatives, with plans for three upcoming efforts to increase membership engagement, recruitment, and retention. First, the Board is planning to host an excellent series of monthly meet-ups in the second half of 2025 for new and returning members. Second, the Board is discussing the creation of a new Membership Committee to work with the Outreach Committee on membership engagement efforts, including a survey to identify members' priorities, needs, and interests. Third, the Board plans to launch a member spotlight social media campaign to highlight the accomplishments of our members in research, arts, practice, and education.

Dara Wald, Vice Chair

Treasurer's Report

IECA's financial position was significantly stronger at the end of 2024 ($27,338.14) than it was in 2022 ($16,893.94). The IECA continues to experience uneven financial performance – much better in COCE years than in non-COCE years. This pattern mirrors annual membership numbers through the years. Having said that, the negative net income reported in 2024 (-$10,369.87) was less than in 2022 (-$26,985.67) and much less than in 2020 (-$44,977.28).

Costs associated with IECA's shift to a new web site, member management system (MMS), and learning management system (LMS), all managed by an outside vendor, have been high (~$14,000 in 2024). NOTE: IECA is in the final year of its current agreement with the vendor (YM-Momentive) and is exploring other options.

IECA has opened a new revenue stream through the creation of 'EC Foundations', a series of online, on-demand courses (earned $1,435 in 2024).

There were several key budget developments in 2025 that deserve highlighting as positive achievements for the organisation overall.

Based on a new affiliation agreement reached with Taylor & Francis, in 2024 the IECA earned ~$25,000 in revenue related to our journal, *Environmental Communication*. This revenue was received in early 2025.

IECA has also struck an agreement with Greenpeace International that allows Greenpeace staff members to gain access to our online courses for a flat fee, with a $1,245 payment received in January. This approach may serve as a model for how we might work with other environmental non-profit organisations and perhaps develop some new learning units as the IECA continues its effort to grow revenue streams consistent with our mission to promote ethical environmental communication around the world.

For more information on the IECA's financial position, please see the Excel document reporting revenue and expenses for 2023-2024 for more details, which can be found on the COCE 2025 website.

If you would like more information about items in this report or are interested in helping to promote long-term financial health for IECA, we encourage you to join the IECA Development Committee. Please contact Steve Depoe (depoesp@ucmail.uc.edu) for details.

Steve Depoe, Treasurer

Committee Reports

The IECA Board, voted and appointed from our talented pool of members, is crucial to keep the organisation running. Board members are all volunteers who give freely of their time and efforts to help the IECA pursue its goals. With the revision to our structure in 2023, the IECA Board's work has become more central and critical than ever. Every board member is part of a least one committee, some work across several committees and some board members chair committees. Committee members, like our hard-working Board members, are all volunteers.

We are always looking for new committee members who can bring their energy, ideas and enthusiasm to the important work that we do. If you would like to volunteer your time with any of these committees, please get in touch with the incoming IECA Chair, Dara Wald (dwald@vt.edu).

Here, we share some insights into the work of the IECA committees over the past two years. All committee updates were written by the Committee Chairs.

Dara Wald, Vice Chair

1. Conference Planning Committee

Chair: Tema Milstein
Members: Alana Mann, Gabi Mocatta, Mariko Thomas, Kundai Chirindo, Kathleen Hunt, Ella Muncie, Tania Leimbach, Steve Depoe, Linda Hunt, Valentina Martinez

A tremendous Planning Committee, comprised of 9 chaired sub-committees and more than 50 international committee members, over 15 months co-created the theme, plan, call, promotion, reviews, program, events, excursions, pre- and post-conferences, and structure of COCE 2025 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

COCE 2025 has sought out meaningful local Indigenous participation, including receiving formative input from Indigenous university leaders on deciding the COCE 2025 theme. The first evening's reception was opened by pakana kanaplila, a traditional and contemporary dance group, welcome attendees through dance and song to the conference. Proud pakana woman Sarah Wilcox gave the Honouring Country talk to open the conference's first full day.

A record number of countries have been represented – with presenters from 35 countries. This global experience helps fulfil the IECA's mission of being truly international. COCE 2025 also had a record number of submissions. Thanks to the anonymous peer reviewers, we were able to accept a record number of excellent papers, workshops, and panel submissions for presentation

This has also been the first COCE to reach full spatial capacity for in-person attendance with 197 in-person attendees. There have been 130 virtual conference registrations. Participants have included a diverse spectrum of EC practitioners and scholars, from early-career to seasoned COCE attendees and founding members of the IECA. COCE 2025 has had an outpouring of interest from diverse local and national-scale practitioners and artists.

COCE has been both in-person, hybrid and online. In addition to the daytime in-person and hybrid sessions, COCE 2025 hosted early morning and evening time slots of online sessions to reach all attendees, including those attending online in different time zones.



In addition to conventional paper and topic panels, COCE 2025 sessions have featured workshops and a variety of unconventional formats proposed by presenters. The goal with this variety of formats is to boost meaningful collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and keep the intimacy and collegiality of COCE alive and well. The University of Tasmania Local Committee has brought great additions to this COCE, including but not limited to a Storytelling Pod, Writers on Ice, news media

interest in presenters' research, and multiple excursions. Excursions included one to a nature reserve with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, a walk to the harbour and the mountain summit to learn about Hobart as a gateway to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and, a stroll along Hobart's urban rivulet, in which conference attendees spotted platypus, and then sampled local beer. Costs were kept low for excursions, with the last along the rivulet free. Other convivial events included a multi-media art exhibition paired with the opening reception, a convivial brew pub evening with a climate-focused panel, fire pits, and food trucks, and the vegetarian conference dinner on the waterfront.

This COCE is the first to host a post-conference: two-day Deep Ecology workshop at the edge of the bush led by the Australian father of the movement, John Seed. The postconference will be immersive, tie environmental communication to transformative practice, and deepen attendees' connections to the land and each other. The COCE pre-conference, led by and focused on graduate students and early-career participants, which will take place at the Birch's Bay Art Farm, south of Hobart, with a productive day had by all.

COCE 2025 keynotes speakers included ABC TV Gardening Australia presenter and permaculture educator, Hannah Maloney and Australian environmentalist and politician, Bob Brown, whose talk was paired with a viewing of *The Giants* film documentary about the ancient old growth forests of Tasmania and the historic activism Brown helped lead.

COCE 2025 kept participant conference registration costs at COCE 2023's levels to help ensure affordability. Catering was in the form of vegetarian/vegan lunches and morning and afternoon teas. The caterer, Hamlet, is a social enterprise which specialises in helping people living with disability into employment.

Situating COCE in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time promises to amplify the transdisciplinary field of environmental communication as a major force for good in Australia and the wider Pacific region, as well as create new international connections and revive old ones for all those who attend from around the world.

2. Conference Selection Committee

Members: Steve Depoe, Thaís Brianezi, Pete Bsumek, Anke Wonneberger

After COCE 2023, IECA posted a call for self-nominations to host COCE 2027 with deadlines of September 30, 2023 for a letter of interest and April 30, 2024 for a full proposal. IECA formed a selection committee. IECA received two letters of interest and one full proposal (from a group of universities in Utah). The committee reviewed the full proposal and decided to award COCE 2027 to the Utah group (University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University). COCE 2027 is planned to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, with a target month of June.

3. Development Committee

Chair: Steve Depoe
Members: Etsuko Kinefuchi, Kristin Timm, Nan Li, Franzisca Weder, Soenke Lorenzen

According to IECA bylaws, the Development Committee is a standing committee charged with "generating income for the Association through fund-raising and other appropriate means" (Article V.). In the 2023-25 period, the committee has focused on developing and promoting a fee-based series of online, on-demand education courses targeted toward environmental communication teachers and professionals. The series, entitled "EC Foundations," was launched in July, 2024, and has attracted enrollment interest from individuals in multiple countries. In addition, Greenpeace International has contracted with IECA to obtain access to the courses for staff members. Revenue returns from the series have been modest to date but have grown in 2025. The committee will continue to explore educational offerings and other professional development activities as ways to generate revenue for IECA that are aligned with the mission of the organisation.

4. Awards Committee

Chair: Hanna Morris, Gabi Mocatta
Members: Carrie Packwood Freeman, Jennifer Inaba and additional reviewing by Tema Milstein, Steve Depoe and Gabi Mocatta

With its imperative towards the 'unconventional', COCE 2025 is handling awards a little differently at the Hobart conference. COCE has solicited submissions for up to seven award categories. These include the traditional and long-held Top Paper and Top Student Paper Awards, and then five new awards, created specifically for this COCE conference. These new, 'unconventional' awards are:

Indigenous Environmentalisms: an award celebrating projects and pursuits that foreground Indigenous environmental knowledges and practices.

Shifting Perspectives: an award recognising projects and pursuits that push boundaries and challenge the conventional in communication and environment, shifting our perspectives.

Resistance, Revolution and Care: an award recognising projects and pursuits that undermine systems of domination and oppression, in care work that responds to environmental crises.

Excellence in Interdisciplinarity: an award that honours projects and pursuits that illustrate the possibilities of interdisciplinarity in environmental communication.

Conviviality and Community Engagement: This award recognises projects and pursuits that directly impact and serve communities by foregrounding collaboration, engagement and conviviality.

There were 36 submissions for awards at COCE 2025, with submissions evaluated by the diverse panel, including COCE and IECA leadership. Awards will be announced at the conference dinner. We thank Taylor and Francis, our partners in the publication of the journal, Environmental Communication for offering each award winner a book from the Routledge range as part of their award recognition.

5. Nominating Committee

Chair: Dara Wald
Members: Etsuko Kinefuchi, Bruno Takahashi, Steve Depoe, Gabi Mocatta

This election cycle we revitalised the nominating process. This included developing a detailed and more transparent timeline, clear candidate requirements, and a stronger outreach effort to candidates. The Nominating Committee met multiple times in the Fall to facilitate this effort and has continued meeting in the spring The Association Manager and the Chair of the Nominating Committee worked together to craft announcements and send them out widely on social media. The Association Manager also developed a new elections page for our website with candidate bios and statements of interest.

The self-nomination period ran from September 1 - October 15. We received a record 14 self-nominations and saw strong engagement during the voting period. The diversity of the regions represented by the nominees was noteworthy, including for the first time members from 7 different countries across Africa, the Balkans, South America, East Asia, North America, and Eastern Europe. This year for the first time, we arranged a meet-n-greet with the candidates where members could hear from the candidates. Sessions were recorded and shared on the IECA website. The Election ran from November 1 - November 15. The vote winners were: Casey Schmitt (Vice Chair), Maria Elmada, Thaís Brianezi, and Seyifunmi Adebote.

The IECA thanks all the members who put their names forward to serve, and congratulates those who were elected. The rest of the Board looks forward to working with you.

6. Research and Publications Committee

Chair: Kundai Chirindo
Members: Steve Depoe

The Research Committee has focused on three key tasks over the last year. First, they identified Phaedra Pezzullo as the new editor of *Environmental Communication* and supported her in her transition to this role. Phaedra began her contract on January 1, 2024. The Committee will support the new Search Committee in helping to select a new journal editor in 2026.

Second, they successfully negotiated a series of changes to the terms of our deal with Taylor & Francis, which owns the *Environmental Communication* journal. These changes mean that IECA is now receiving royalty payments from Taylor & Francis. These funds will help the IECA remain financially stable in years without COCE, to cover expenses such as our website, and salary for the Association Manager.

Third, they are developing a new post-COCE publication. This effort will be led by Gabi Mocatta, and an editorial team (comprised of the Tema Milstein, Mariko Thomas and Kundai Chirindo). This publication will be published as a volume with a reputable, multimodal-capable press. More details will be announced post-COCE.

7. Outreach Committee

Chair: Sibo Chen
Members: Etsuko Kinefuchi, Bruno Takahashi, Muhammad Ittefaq, Emily Diamond

Since the launch of the new IECA website, the outreach committee has resumed activities and has been meeting periodically to discuss possible events/activities to attract new members and improve IECA's overall public profile. Besides the monthly member meet-up, which was initiated by the previous outreach committee, we are happy to report two new outreach activities that have been initiated and will continue: (1) EC Index Interviews, which have invited IECA members to share their research and recent outputs. The series has published three members' stories so far, and we hope the next outreach committee will carry this forward and get more interviews with our members; (2) a webinar series in collaboration with Heyang Institute for Rural Studies,

focusing on environmental communication in the Global South. The three talks in the series have been completed, featuring IECA members Muhammad Ittefaq, Kundai Chirindo, and Bruno Takahashi. The Chair, Sibo Chen, also organized an IECA satellite workshop in Toronto on June 6th, focusing on "Change Communication at a Crossroad." The workshop was attended by IECA members in Eastern Canada who are unable to travel to Australia this year.

Looking forward, we hope the new development committee will initiate new activities for practitioners, scholars, artists and other interested folks to learn about our association and environmental communication.

8. Graduate Student Representative: Ella Muncie

Since assuming the role of IECA Graduate Student Representative in January 2024, the Grad Student Rep has actively contributed to the IECA community by participating in quarterly Board Meetings, serving on the Conference Committee, chairing the Graduate Student Pre-Conference Planning Committee, and advocating for graduate student interests within and beyond the Association. In this capacity, the Grad Student Rep has helped facilitate monthly meet-ups for IECA members and served on the IECA Virtual EXPO Committee. A core focus of the role has been designing, promoting, and delivering the Graduate Student Pre-Conference, which supports the research, teaching, and professional development of environmentally focused graduate students and early career researchers.

To boost participation at COCE 2025, the Grad Student Rep organized a virtual meet-up offering guidance on writing and submitting conference abstracts. The Pre-Conference Planning Committee – made up of five other international graduate students – has played a key role in preparing the COCE 2025 Graduate Student and Early Career Pre-Conference program, scheduled for Monday, June 23. This full-day event at Art Farm will feature networking opportunities, creative research mapping sessions, and discussions exploring the social dimensions of botany and farming. Recognizing the need for inclusivity, the Grad Student Rep also organized a virtual session for students unable to attend COCE in person. This online gathering featured 3 recent PhD graduates and practitioners sharing career insights, research experiences, and professional development opportunities. Additionally, an open mentoring session with 10 leading voices in environmental communication was held during Wednesday lunch at COCE 2025. Together, the Pre-Conference and associated student events at COCE 2025 aim to offer graduate students meaningful, high-impact experiences to support their academic and professional success.

The 2024–26 term for the Grad Student Rep concludes in January 2026. Interested and eligible graduate students are encouraged to reach out – either in person or via email at: ellamuncie@gmail.com – with questions or to express interest in serving in this role next term.

9. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee

Chair: Anke Wonneberger
Members: Mira Rochyadi-Reetz, Hanna Morris, Elja Roy, Nik Norma Nik Hasan, Leonor Solis, Jeremy Escobar, Agboola Odesanya

The Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee of the IECA has been established in 2021. This ad-hoc committee aimed to address Goal 3 of the previously developed IECA Strategic Plan to foster diversity and inclusion (specifically in terms of geography, socioeconomics, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, discipline, and career trajectory) within environmental communication. The previously drafted IDEA vision statement remains a starting point for us and the IECA to continue the conversation about IDEA issues. Last year's highlight of the committee work has been an online membership meet-up held in May 2024. This discussion revealed a range of concerns and ideas: most importantly, language barriers as well as a need for more openness, dialogue, and connection within the organization. The committee is currently wrapping up their work and will formulate a number of recommendations for the board of the IECA to consider. Most importantly, we are very concerned about current political and societal threats toward diversity and inclusivity and underlying values which we consider as a chore part of the environmental communication community. This is why we consider it crucial for the IECA to continue active discussions and engagement with these issues beyond the work of this temporary sub-committee.

10. Strategic Planning Committee

Chair: Gabi Mocatta
Members: Marcus Reamer, Rowena Kirby-Straker, Joanne Marras Tate

The strategic planning committee has been tasked with reviewing the IECA's strategic plan, written in 2020, and working to identify still-relevant goals from that plan, while adding new ones for the next 5-year period. The committee had met several times to start working through this process, undertaking a visioning exercise to gauge what we believe is most important about the organisation as it stands - as well as identifying a pathway to take the organisation forward

sustainably. Financial sustainability was identified as a fundamental strategy for planning: without the kind of longevity this affords, conducting a forward planning exercise is not meaningful. We have therefore embedded strategies for financial sustainability as being at the heart of planning. Second, we exist for, and because of our members. This means understanding what members most want out of our organisation is crucial, and we have not asked members about this often enough.

Work is underway on an 'options' paper, a document that lays out some future pathways and possibilities for developing for the IECA. This will be made available to members after COCE 2025, along with a questionnaire that will garner feedback on potential future pathways for IECA. This will also seek a better understanding of what members most value of what we already do as an organisation, and the ways they would like to see us develop into the future. The member consultation process will kick off at the 2025 Open Board meeting at COCE, giving members a chance to comment on and ask questions about the IECA as it stands. We look forward to receiving members' ideas and feedback to help us plan for an IECA that meets members' aspirations for our organisation is now, and can be into the future.

The Journal



Our journal, *Environmental Communication*, has exceeded our expectations. I have been involved with this journal since it was a yearbook, over 20 years ago. And nothing prepared me for what it would mean to become an Editor in this moment with the rise of AI, the political turbulence in my home country of the US and globally, and the growing sense in the world that environmental communication perhaps has never been more urgent to get right – or at least better.

My editorship began with a double special issue on Care for this reason. Because in a dialectic or dance with crisis, if you are reading this, it is because you care. We should not take our capacity to care – or the capacity of elites to act carelessly – for granted. I hope you have a chance, if you have not already, to read the essays in that Special Issue from around the world, representing a range of geographic standpoints, topics, and methods.

Since, we have included submissions, reviewers and publications from: Africa, Asia, Australasia, Central & South America, Europe, and North America. Based on the Taylor and Francis metrics report of March 2025, our robust agenda of increasing inclusion across geographies, identities, and area expertise has created excitement globally:

- 2024 Downloads: 350K (up from 241K in 2021)
- Our acceptance rate: 12% (from 20% in 2021)
- Impact factor: 4.1

Geography of submission trends tend to be from: United States, China, Indonesia, India, United Kingdon, Australia, Germany, Türkiye, Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Canada, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and South Africa. Institutions with the top downloads: UVA Universiteitsbibliotheek

SZ, Tsinghua University, University of Bristol, University Library Utrecht, Gadjah Mada University, University of Edinburgh, Indonesia Project, Macau University of Science & Technology, University of Lancaster, and University of Leeds. We received 515 total mentions for research outputs, including news, blogs, and social media platforms.

This success is made possible by not only my weekly (often daily) work, but also the many hours of labor of our associate editors, editorial board, Special Issue editors, and guest reviewers. Nothing had prepared me for how much labor editing the journal now requires; so, a sincere thank you to all who have made time to share your expertise as an author and/or reviewer. It's an honour to help keep this community thriving amid the chaos.

Professor Phaedra C. Pezzullo, Editor, *Environmental Communication*

Special events

The EC Expo

In an effort to bring members together in a non-COCE year, the IECA hosted a "Networking for Environmental Communication" Virtual Expo on May 2-3 2024, This 24-hour event provided a forum for exchanging knowledge, capacity building and engaging in in-depth discussions about environmental communication. The Expo offered a unique opportunity to share expertise, perspectives, and strategies, advancing effective and ethical environmental communication at both local and global levels.

Participants included communication professionals, policymakers, scientists, educators, researchers, practitioners, artists and community members involved in environmental issues. The event featured sessions hosted by individuals, groups and organisations, including roundtable discussions, research presentations, policy debates, skill sessions, and artistic presentations. The Expo aimed to engage diverse participants to lead and contribute to these sessions.

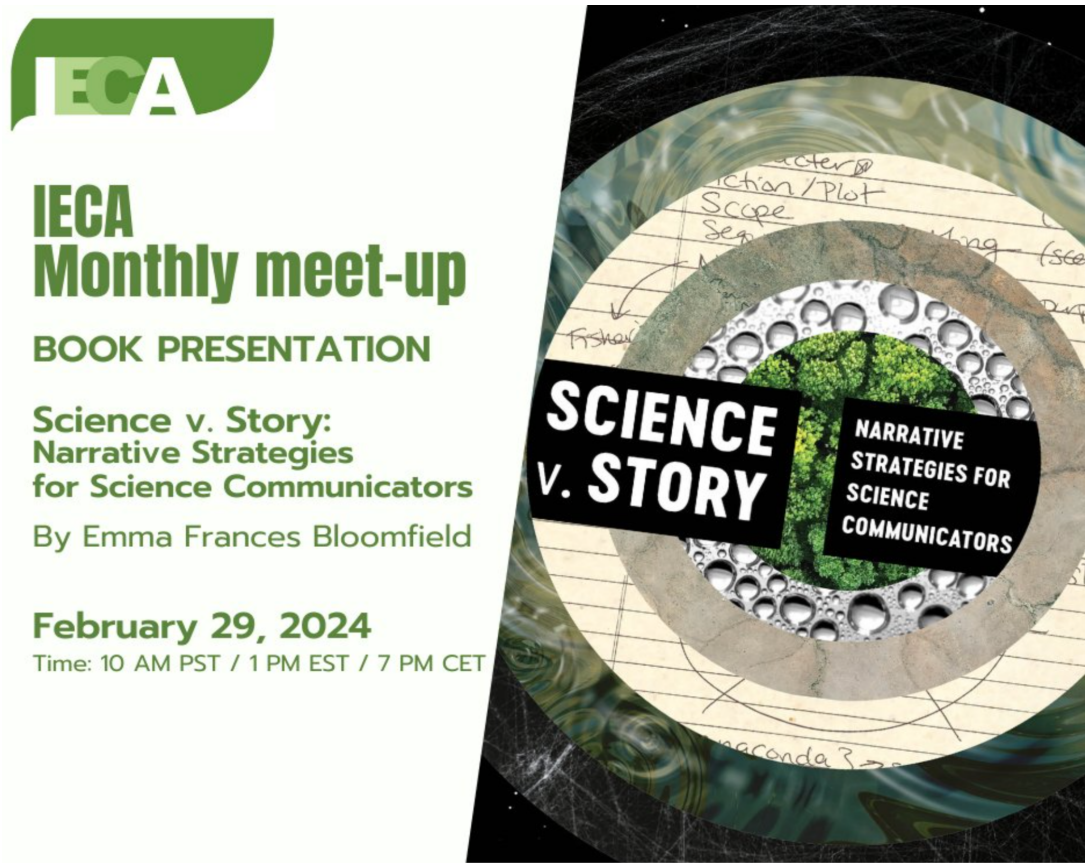
The Virtual Expo was conducted via Zoom, making it easily accessible for all attendees and presenters. Sessions ranged from 60 to 120 minutes, allowing for detailed discussions and meaningful interactions.



EC Meetups

The EC meetups are also a new avenue for bringing members located around the globe together more frequently through the year for exchange of ideas and mutual inspiration on all things EC. We have had themes talks and discussions every 6-weeks to 2 months from IECA members and people with an interest in building new partnerships with the organisation. Though we paused the EC meetups over the middle of 2025 due to the demands of COCE planning, there is planning for these successful online events to resume once again in the second half on 2025 and continue. Our members do so many interesting things and the Meetups are an excellent way for us to keep in touch, exchange ideas and stay inspired by all that's happening in the field.

Gabi Mocatta, Chair of the Board



IECA Communication and Outreach

The IECA was aware in 2023 that members wanted much more communication from our organisation. We know an active social media presence has long been important to many members and under the stewardship of our Association Manager, we now have much more to say on channels including Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram. The IECA's posts have been widely shared and have been particularly instrumental in promoting COCE 2025.



Association Announcements

In addition we have reinstated in new, improved form, the much-loved EC Index. This digital newsletter is a rich source of information on happenings in our field, recent publication listings, calls for papers, abstract submissions, job postings and more.



IECA Self-Nominations Open for UN Climate Negotiations in Bonn

Members interested in attending the UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations (SB 62) in Bonn, Germany (June 16–26, 2025) as observers can now submit self-nominations. This session will shape the agenda for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, offering a rare opportunity to witness global climate diplomacy in action.

Members interested in attending the UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations (SB 62) in Bonn, Germany (June 16–26, 2025) must **submit a letter of self-nomination by Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 5:00 PM PT / 8:00 PM ET.**

All details on how to submit your self-nomination can be found here.

The demands of organising COCE have led to a brief pause of the EC Index in mid 2025 (as occurred in 2023) and members will find the next index in their mailbox in the second half of 2025.

Gabi Mocatta, Chair of the Board

COCE 2027

The site of COCE 2027 will be Salt Lake City, Utah, which was the location of the first COCE in 1991. A consortium of universities – University of Utah, Utah State University, and Utah Valley University – will be hosting the conference. IECA will work with this team to present a conference experience in both in-person and virtual modes. Danielle Endres and Chris Ingraham will co-chair the Conference Organising Committee. The 2027 conference team has provided the IECA with a snapshot of the conference venue and host universities:

"We plan to host the conference at the University of Utah (the U), a beautiful campus in the Wasatch foothills of Salt Lake City. The U has a conference center hotel on site, a second university-affiliated hotel with conference space nearby, dorms that are available for rent in the summer, and excellent meeting facilities. The University has an excellent arboretum, natural history museum, art museum, and other facilities that could be rented for conference events or could simply offer fun activities for conference attendees. The U is in the foothills of Salt Lake City, meaning it is close to several hiking and mountain biking trails and that many of the buildings have beautiful views of the Salt Lake Valley. The U is a leader in environmental sustainability not only in its strong academic programs and centers such as the Environmental Humanities Program, the Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy, and the SPARC Environmental Justice Lab, but also in its climate change commitments. Salt Lake City is centrally located within the United States and hosts an international airport, making transportation to the conference from a range of national and international locations both possible and convenient."

The IECA would like to thank the Utah group for their strong submission to host the conference. We look forward to working with them to develop the 19th biennial conference of the IECA.

Gabi Mocatta, Chair of the Board

In closing

During the period 2024-2025, the IECA has overcome some significant challenges and has turned towards significant new successes. With hard work from our many Board volunteers and committees, together with the vision and efficiency of our new Association Manager, the IECA has moved into positive and thriving mode. As an organisation, we look with renewed strength at the many environmental challenges we can contribute communicational solutions towards – and find courage for the pathway forward in seeing how far we have already come. To our members, thank you for being a part of this journey – and stay with us on this road, so we can tackle these challenges together.

Gabi Mocatta, Chair of the Board