



# METABOLIC INSTITUTE

## Policy Plan





# 1 Introduction

Metabolic Institute is a non-profit think tank working at the intersection of academic research and real-world experimentation. Using data science and systems thinking, we build, test, and share open datasets and tools that address global sustainability challenges.

The Institute's mission is to transition the global economy to a fundamentally sustainable state. Through its long-term engagement in scientific inquiry and primary research, the Institute works to address critical knowledge and technical gaps that stand as barriers for realising a truly sustainable economy. Through academic, public and private partnerships, the Institute works to advance our understanding of the state of the world: the availability, or scarcity, of critical resources; and the consequences of their use across social, environmental and economic factors.

Through its non-profit and public-facing structure, the Institute leverages data and technology to bring greater transparency about the state of the planet and economy. Through publishing open-source datasets and tools, we made this work accessible so that wide sectors of the economy can make, measure and monitor sustainable decisions for real-world impact.

We imagine a world in which institutions, corporations and civil societies around the world collaborate by syncing their efforts and resources in ways that are equitable to both people and planet, and that keep the global economy operating within the planetary boundaries. We imagine a world in which researchers, policy-makers and social leaders everywhere have the freedom to access, utilize, and contribute to shared knowledge and resources to enable sustainable decision-making and the development of a sustainable society.





# 2 Structure

Metabolic is managed by its board of directors and a handful of other dedicated members that give their time and knowledge to keep the foundation successful.

## STRATEGY

### Key Principles

The Institute's mission is to transition the global economy to a fundamentally sustainable state.

As established in our statutes (Article 2), the aim of the Institute is to develop and make available both knowledge and resources to help different groups of shareholders in the transition to a circular economy.

The Institute works towards this aim in two ways:

- By conducting scientific inquiry and primary research that addresses critical knowledge and technical gaps currently standing as barriers for realising a truly sustainable economy.
- By publishing open-source datasets and tools, and leveraging them to support wide sectors of the economy in making, measuring and monitoring sustainable decisions for real-world impact.

## OUR TARGET MARKET

The primary stakeholders of Metabolic Institute are researchers, analysts, and the decision-makers they support tasked with the allocation, management and monitoring of environmental, economic and social resources that impact the well-being of our planet and global society. Given the multi-sided nature of its targeted challenges, the Institute works in partnership with multi-stakeholder groups to ensure cross-cutting research and implementation of solutions.



## OUR APPROACH



Metabolic Institute works at the intersection of academic research and real-world experimentation: combining scientific inquiry and peer-review validation with practical engagement and intervention of real-world issues and contexts.

We believe that by closely combining academic research and real-world context, we can create an iterative feedback loop between theory and practice whereby both theoretical knowledge and real-world impact advance. To realise this potential, Metabolic Institute aims to uphold the following core criteria throughout all of our activities:

- To pursue and advance a systems approach grounded in data science that connects global data to local interventions.
- To work in partnership with key stakeholders across the academic, public and private sectors
- To retain a high-degree of transparency and accessibility in the process and results of our work
- To facilitate open-source knowledge sharing for the advancement and replicability of our work
- To promote and conduct applied research within the multidisciplinary field of sustainability: calibrating the research process and outputs so they are appropriate to and implementable in real-world contexts

# 3 Activities

The core activities of the Institute, can be summarised into three main activity aries which will pursue the established objectives of the Institute.

-  **Consortia building**
-  **Research & Experimentation**
-  **Dataset & Tool Development**

## CONSORTIA BUILDING

Convening stakeholder groups around a common vision is an integral aspect of the approach used by the Institute. The process of setting shared visions and goals allows us to advance a coordinated approach and build a collective intelligence around a critical challenge area.

## RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

Investigating sectoral and global issues independently and in depth, with a focus on testing and application. Our process combines real-world experimentation and systems thinking in order to understand the underlying causes of the critical challenges we face in all their complexity. The approach provides problem solving techniques that tackle the system as a whole rather than only the most visible symptoms, leading to designs of systemic solutions with multiple benefits. This results in a greater awareness of, and engagement in, the world around us, with applied research that progresses the well-being of both people and planet.

## DATASET & TOOL DEVELOPMENT

Developing open-source datasets, platforms, and tools to support improved decision-making. To properly embed the outcomes of our research process into real-world decision-making and action, we must equip stakeholders with accessible tools. We develop software that manages complex analysis behind the scenes, as well as dashboards and monitoring tools that track and visualize key data, relating global data to local metrics.





# 4 Financial Policy

## REMUNERATION POLICY

Metabolic Institute is non-profit, as also can be concluded from the established objectives in the statutes (Article 2.1). Revenues from commercial products or services are reinvested to conduct the factual activities that it is set out to do.

Promoting and maintaining the integrity and solidity of our organization is key to Metabolic Institute's remuneration policy.

- None of the board members will receive financial compensation for the work they do for the foundation. It may be that they receive a minimal attendance fee, which are set according to the latest regulations on "vacatiegelden" issued by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- Reimbursements are handled according to the reimbursement policy (See 4.2)
- Although Metabolic Institute does not intend to employ staff, any employees that it hires in the future will be remunerated according to market salaries.
- No director or employee shall be involved in any decisions as to their own remuneration

## REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

International travel expenses not covered by specific project budgets that conform to the goals set by the foundation have to be voted on, and approved by, all of the board members. Other travel expenses, that are unrelated or not aligned with the goals, should be paid by the members themselves. We want to enforce the following reimbursement policy:

- Declarations of board members have to be approved by the treasurer and the chairperson
- The declarations of the treasurer have to be approved by the chairman and the other board members
- The declarations of the chairman have to be approved by the treasurer and the other board members
- Declarations that are not aligned with the goal of the foundation have to be discussed in the executive meetings and require unanimous approval
- Authorization of invoices/declarations have to be given before payment

The foundation's appointed accountant Holthaus Advies will make a yearly financial statement.

## MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL

We are in the process of opening a bank account at Rabobank in The Netherlands. The institute's board has authorised the board of directors to have access to this account.

## ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL

Metabolic Institute will be largely funded by grants, subsidies, and donations. Funding will be acquired on a per-project basis from EU institutions (e.g. Interreg, H2020), philanthropic organisations, and (consortia of) corporate partners, and for structural research from philanthropic organisations. A small share of Metabolic Institute's funding will come from large, private donors or organizations who are interested in the activities of

the Institute. We will be personally visiting them and inviting them to (partly) finance the relevant projects that are valuable for them.

## SPENDING POLICY

The spending of the capital of the Institute is aligned with the established goals and activities of the foundation, as determined in the statutes. Our capital will only be invested in acquiring the knowledge, skills, expertise, tools, and other forms of intellectual property to achieve this goal. We will contract, second, or hire experts in the topic areas that Metabolic Institute is active,. Our spending will comply to the minimal ANBI-spending requirement of 90% towards our goals, using this as a minimum while striving for 100%.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

Metabolic Institute believes in open knowledge. The knowledge and insights that are acquired during, before, or after projects will be documented and reported on to our customers and the public, according to our principles of open knowledge. The institute will use the website and social media to publish the relevant knowledge documents

## LIQUIDATION

In the event of a liquidation, the remaining balance will be allocated to activities that are aligned with those of the foundation, as stated in the statutes (Article 12.5).



# 5 Board members of the Metabolic Institute



**EVA GLADEK**  
Chair person



**SEADNA QUIGLEY**  
Treasurer



**CHRIS MONAGHAN**  
Secretary





**METABOLIC  
INSTITUTE**

[www.metabolicinstitute.nl](http://www.metabolicinstitute.nl)

[info@metabolicinstitute.nl](mailto:info@metabolicinstitute.nl)

+31 (0) 20 369 09 77

Klimopweg 150  
1032 HX Amsterdam  
The Netherlands