

We are happy to close the year at the **EPIC Sustainability Workgroup** with even not big, but meaningful results of the year.

Our December 8 quarterly meeting featured two knowledgeable speakers who shared insights on implementing photonics strategies in their companies. They discussed how photonics can create an entirely new market and contribute to sustainability efforts.

Tammo Ripken from [Laser Zentrum Hannover](#) presented about how photonics technologies can be used to replace conventional technologies to make agriculture and remanufacturing of carbon materials more sustainable. Bernard Lee from [Senko Advanced Components](#) presented insights from the ITU-T CxO Meeting in Dubai and outlined Senko's efforts to become a more sustainable company.

A topic that was brought up by several members of the workgroup and could be a topic for a dedicated session was the use of plastic packing, how it can be avoided or made more sustainable. Another topic for one of our upcoming meetings could be how to make sustainability more accessible for smaller companies in photonics, demonstrating how sustainability practices can be both ethical and profitable.

We presented a recap of 2023 and an **outlook of what is planned for 2024**:

- We want to get even more companies involved in sustainable photonics/photronics for sustainability and continue with our quarterly meetings.
- We plan to educate our members on various topics related to sustainability, especially why it is worth implementing those practices and how it adds up to the business goals.
- We plan to promote active members in the Workgroup.

If you want to actively contribute to the strategic decisions of the Workgroup, feel free to reach out to us by [neringa.norbutaite@epic-assoc.com](mailto:neringa.norbutaite@epic-assoc.com) and become a co-chair of the group.

#### **Chair and Co-Chairs of the Workgroup:**

- Katharina Zeuner, Optics Specialist at Eclipse Optics (Sweden) – Chair
- Estefania Cervantes, Global Sustainability Manager at Edmund Optics (United Kingdom) – Co-Chair
- Elizabeth Illy, Head of Marketing at HUBNER Photonics (Sweden) – Co-Chair

**Selected topics that Workgroup will be concentrating on** based on [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) are:

- Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure (80% importance for members)
- Climate action (67% importance for members)
- Responsible consumption and production (60% importance for members)
- Affordable and clean energy (53% importance for members)

Based on Carlos Lee, Director General at EPIC LinkedIn post, 35% of respondents have Sustainability program in place or actively communicate about Sustainability topics. 29% do that a little, 29% don't do that at all and 6% does not know, if their company is doing that. Post:

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carloslee\\_photonics-togetherwearestronger-activity-7119691602494636032-gkkm?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carloslee_photonics-togetherwearestronger-activity-7119691602494636032-gkkm?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

Register for our **upcoming Workgroup meetings:**

- 12 April, 2024, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, <https://epic-assoc.com/events/epic-sustainability-workgroup-meeting-april-2024/>
- 14 June, 2024, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, <https://epic-assoc.com/events/epic-sustainability-workgroup-meeting-june-2024/>
- 11 October, 2024, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, <https://epic-assoc.com/events/epic-sustainability-workgroup-meeting-october-2024/>
- 6 December, 2024, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, <https://epic-assoc.com/events/epic-sustainability-workgroup-meeting-december-2024/>

**Contacts:**

- Carlos Lee, Leader of the Group, [carlos.lee@epic-assoc.com](mailto:carlos.lee@epic-assoc.com). You can register for a direct call to discuss your sustainability goals and how EPIC can help here: <https://calendly.com/carlos-lee-epic>
- Neringa Noreikiene, Project Manager of the Group, [Neringa.norbutaite@epic-assoc.com](mailto:Neringa.norbutaite@epic-assoc.com)
- Anna Martensson, Marketing Manager of the Group, [anna.martensson@epic-assoc.com](mailto:anna.martensson@epic-assoc.com)

Estefania Cervantes, Global Sustainability Manager at Edmund Optics (United Kingdom)