

HCWH Europe | Sustainability policy

Last updated: March 2022

We are committed to embedding sustainability into everything we do. We advocate for solutions that accelerate a transition to a green, healthy, and fair planet. We constantly look for ways to be even more responsible in our daily activities and we encourage our members, partners, suppliers, and other stakeholders to do the same.

Suppliers and office supplies

- We request suppliers' environmental/sustainability policy as an integral part of our selection criteria
- When purchasing, we carefully assess the need for new products/services and consider environmental impacts
- We favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products, and companies with high social responsibility standards.
- We green our office space with plants to improve indoor air quality.

Energy and water

- We use renewable energy providers.
- We reduce energy & water use.
- We switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.
- We ensure all windows are closed when leaving the office.
- We adjust heating with energy consumption in mind (max. 20°C). The thermostat is set to "night mode" when the office is closed.
- We don't buy bottled water for the office or external events where possible.
- We open the windows to circulate fresh air, whilst conserving heating.
- For those able, we commit to using the stairs at least once per week.

Paper

- We buy recycled and recyclable paper products.
- We avoid printing needlessly and prefer double-sided and black & white. We reduce, reuse, and recycle all paper.
- We prefer digital distribution over printing publications wherever possible.

Chemicals

- We use the least hazardous chemicals, and the smallest amount necessary.
- We seek ecological alternatives to conventional cleaning and disinfecting products.
- We avoid, whenever possible, common EDCs, e.g. bisphenols and phthalates.

Transport and travel

- We reduce travel by promoting alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.
- We monitor and reduce CO₂e emissions of our events and activities.
- We prefer public transport, cycling, or walking over cars.
 - Taxis are not reimbursed 06:00 – 22:00.
- We avoid short-haul flights and prefer trains as a mode of international transport wherever possible.
- We factor carbon offsetting into our travel budgets for flights taken by staff or external participants linked to our activities.

Food

- We commit to at least one plant-based day per week at the office.
- We regularly check the office fridge for unused or out-of-date food and compost food waste according to [local guidelines](#).
- We reduce plastic packaging when buying food to take away.

Waste

- We reuse and recycle everything possible.
- We sort our recyclable waste according to [local guidelines](#).
- We reduce the volume and toxicity of waste produced in the office.

Events and catering

- We favour environmentally friendly and sustainable venues and hotels.
- We favour caterers that demonstrate high social responsibility standards, using seasonal and locally sourced organic products.
- We minimise food waste and seek solutions for donating or reprocessing food waste.
- All catered events are at least vegetarian where possible, we also aim to provide vegan options. We always ask caterers to provide a high proportion of healthy food and fresh fruit.

Environmental awareness

- We organise team activities aimed at improving staff environmental awareness.
- We share best practices/tips to reduce our individual environmental footprint

We all share the responsibility to ensure that this policy is implemented for increased awareness, greater commitment, and improved performance. We will annually update this policy in consultation with other stakeholders where necessary.