

SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPT

CLIMATE LAB 2023(4)

Coworking Space and Accelerator Programmes

At Climate Lab, part of our business model is to support actors, maintain partnerships in, and hold events related to:

- *Energy*
- *Mobility*
- *Constructions*
- *Circularity*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Cities*
- *Climate change*
- *Partnerships for the Goals*

This is done with the intent to eventually create downstream impact for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals connected to these themes.

We have also taken steps to address sustainability internally in the company. Here is how:

Management & Communication

- A company-wide sustainability handbook exists and is maintained for the purpose of explaining environmental and sustainability-related concepts and procedures for staff relevant to our company.
- As a member or visitor, you also have the opportunity to give suggestions and feedback in a guestbook with regards to our sustainability work.

Climate

- We are in the process of calculating greenhouse gas footprint for the direct and indirect activities of our company (Scope 1, 2 and 3) following the GHG Protocol standard. This measurement is planned to be used to reduce what we can and offset what we can't.

- We have also implemented the opportunity for donations to some of the most effective climate change mitigation charities (Founder's Pledge Climate Change Fund) in space.
- In order to compensate for the high environmental impact of coffee as well as contribute to charity, the coffee that we offer is "100% klimaneutral GOFAIR Caritas&Du Bio Fairtrade coffee" from J.Hornig.

Water

Centrally located in Vienna, we benefit from being connected to the safe and healthy sewage system of the city. In our facilities the water flow from taps does not exceed 12 litres per minute, and we are planning to increase our water saving measures in the future.

Energy

- The illumination of Climate Lab is fully provided by LED lighting in order to cut down energy use.
- „*The Hybrid Stage*" - If a hybrid event replaces an identical physical event, research suggest that in many cases this would reduce emissions*. Of course, a hybrid event can also allow more participants than a traditional event, which may increase energy use, but also opens up the event to participation by those who otherwise do not have that opportunity, providing more inclusivity.
- To manage emissions from both hybrid and traditional events, we also offer clients the opportunity to certify events at us through ClimatePartner – this means that a carbon footprint of the event is calculated and offset.

Nature & Biodiversity

In addition to trying to improve the life conditions of other species on this planet by reducing our resource use and choosing products with credible eco-labels , we have implemented a programme that allows all our employees to take 2 paid working days off per year, in addition to their regular holiday, to volunteer with nature conservation.

Waste & Circularity

We weigh our waste daily and convene regularly to discuss the numbers, how we can avoid producing unnecessary waste and 'climb the waste hierarchy'. We avoid one-time disposable materials where it is possible, and instead aim for metal, ceramics, and glass in our community kitchens and catering services. It is actually staff policy at Climate Lab to offer to sell or donate what we do not need anymore, before throwing it away. You will also find a full recycling station (Biomüll / Restmüll / Yellow bin / Glass / Paper / Problematic waste), where the common types of office waste can be properly discarded.

To facilitate a longer lifespan of furniture, less novel resource and energy use, and less waste output, we have made an effort to rent or buy second-hand some of our furniture and electronics. Among them are:

- Carpets from the brand Interface, who are working with carbon-storing materials:
Embodied Beauty [Catalog](#)
Touch and Tones II [Catalog](#)
- The GREENLINE Ricoh printers (Umweltzeichen and The Blue Angel-labeled) that are refurbished and rented instead of purchased as new.
- All phones, and tablets are refurbished second-hand items purchased from [Refurbed.at](#)

Where re-use is not currently an option, we search for recycled materials, such as our default printing paper. It is 100% recycled, Österreichisches Umweltzeichen, Blauer Engel, EU-Ecolabel and FSCTM Recycled certified and CO2 neutral (Kopierpapier A4 80g weiß MONDI NAUTILUS ProCycle CO2). To promote a healthy working acoustic, sound-insulating construction material is being used in the space. The majority of the acoustic elements come from Whisperwool. Whisperwool is made from sheep's wool, an agricultural waste product. Production residues, building scraps and demolition waste are reincorporated into the panels. Most of the cleaning chemicals used in the space that is under our control are labeled with the EU Ecolabel or Österreichisches Umweltzeichen or other accepted eco-labels (according to our internal consumption monitoring at the time of writing).

* Ong, D., Moors, T., Sivaraman, V., (2014). Comparison of the energy, carbon and time costs of videoconferencing and in-person meetings. Computer Communications. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comcom.2014.02.009>

Hiltner, K. (2020). A Nearly Carbon-Neutral Conference Model. URL: <https://hiltner.english.ucsb.edu/index.php/ncnc-guide/> [Accessed 2022-03-07].

