

HCWH Europe | Sustainability policy

At HCWH Europe, we strive to build sustainability into everything we do - that's why 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 member organisations, 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.
- We carefully assess the need for new products/services and consider environmental impacts in purchasing.
- 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 and 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 will be set to "night mode" when the office is closed.
- We do not buy bottled water for the office or external events where possible.
- We open the office windows to allow fresh air to circulate, whilst observing the need to conserve energy in winter.
- We commit to using the stairs instead of the lift at least once per week.

Paper

- We buy recycled and recyclable paper products.
- We avoid printing documents 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 to get the job done.
- We seek ecological alternatives to conventional cleaning and disinfecting products and soaps.
- We phase out the most common EDCs such as BPA.

Transportation

- We reduce the need to travel by promoting the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.
- We monitor and continually strive to reduce CO₂ emissions of HCWH Europe events and activities.
- We use public transport or bicycles/walking.

Food

- We commit to at least one plant-based day per week.
- We will empty the fridge of our unused/out-of-date food regularly and send it for composting.
- We reduce plastic consumption when buying food to take away.

Waste

- We reuse and recycle everything possible.
- We sort our recycling waste according to local guidelines.
- We continually reduce the volume and toxicity of waste produced in the office.

Events and catering

- We favour more environmentally friendly and sustainable venues and hotels, wherever possible.

- We favour caterers that can 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.
- We ask caterers to provide a high proportion of fresh, healthy products, fresh fruit, and vegetarian/vegan options.

Raising environmental awareness

- We organise annual team events related to environment awareness.
- We share best practices/tips to reduce our individual environmental footprint.

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

March 2019