

eurac
research

Environmental Sustainability Policy

March 2019

1. Mission statement

Eurac Research recognizes its responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to integrating environmental management into our everyday operations, thus reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance.

2. Research Focus

Our research focus areas include climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk and disaster management, sustainable use of natural resources, soil, water and forests, energy efficiency, and sustainable development with a specific focus on agriculture, tourism and transport. We aim to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030, and improve people's future lives.

3. Responsibility

Eurac Research has a dedicated Health, Safety & Environment department that is responsible for ensuring that our environmental policy is implemented. We operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all we do.

All employees have a responsibility in their area of competence to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

4. Policy aims

We are committed to:

- continually improving and monitoring environmental performance;
- continually improving and reducing environmental impact;
- integrating the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into our decision-making and activities;
- adopting policies to provide a safe and healthy workplace and ensure that personnel are properly trained with the appropriate safety and emergency equipment;
- increasing employee awareness of the improvement and reduction of environmental impacts through the Health, Safety & Environment team in cooperation with the Facility Management team.

5. Measures in place

Energy

- We minimize energy and water use within our buildings and in our processes in order to conserve supplies and minimize the consumption of natural resources. Eurac Research headquarters is an advanced energy-saving building with a sophisticated solar cooling and heating system composed of:
 - a solar energy use system which is both active (solar thermal collectors) and passive (double façade and blinds);
 - controlled ventilation with heat recovery;
 - combined heat and power generation;
 - a centralized control system ensuring high energy performance.
- The Technology Park, which also hosts research staff of Eurac Research, is equipped with green or PV roof systems. The building is LEED gold certified. The Black Monolith is also part of the EU research project DIRECTION (FP7-Programme), and is a near-zero-energy building. The Park is provided with charging stations for electric bikes and cars, and car sharing facilities.
- Thanks to the in-house expertise of our researchers from the Institute for Renewable Energy, building energy-saving performance is constantly improved and monitored.

Office supplies

- We favour environmentally-friendly and efficient products and services as far as is possible;
- We reuse and recycle where possible;
- We use recycled paper for printers;
- We prioritize the use of electronic documents over paper to reduce our carbon footprint.

Transportation

- We are minimizing CO₂ emissions associated with travel by minimizing air travel as much as possible in favour of, for example, rail travel;
- Public transport is used in favour of cars wherever possible;
- Video-conferencing is used in favour of face-to-face meetings where practical;
- Several bicycles (among which many e-bikes) and 2 hydrogen cars are available for local travel;
- We use local materials where available to reduce CO₂ and help the community;
- We organize events and conferences which are environmentally sustainable.

Maintenance and cleaning

- We use cleaning materials that are environmentally friendly;
- We use environmentally friendly materials for office refurbishment;
- We minimize our waste and then reuse or recycle as much of it as is possible.

Monitoring and improvement

- Our Facility Management team is continually improving and monitoring the environmental performance of Eurac Research, reducing environmental impact by doing so;
- Staff members are involved in the implementation of the Eurac Research Environmental Management Policy for greater commitment and improved performance;
- We promote environmental awareness among our employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner;
- We communicate our environmental commitment to clients, customers and the public, and encourage them to support it.