

# Kunsthalle Wien

## Environment and Sustainability Concept

## Sustainability and environmental awareness a Kunsthalle Wien

Environmental responsibility has always been a central concern for kunsthalle wien as a municipal institution for art and discourse. This has now been formally acknowledged with the bestowal of the Austrian Ecolabel in November 2023. Our programmatic and organizational work is based on a sense of responsibility that includes both social aspects as well as ecological measures. We are pleased to inform you about the latter in this manual.

## The Austrian Ecolabel

- introduced in 1990 by the Austrian Ministry of the Environment
- the only comprehensively state-audited environmental certification in Austria
- demonstrates awareness of companies and organizations of a high environmental standard of their products and services, sustainable business management, and social responsibility

### Bestowal of the certification

- for a four-year period
- after a thorough, independent examination

### Logo design

- designed by the Austrian artist and environmental pioneer Friedensreich Hundertwasser
- symbolizes the elements of ecology: earth, water, air, and nature

The Austrian Ecolabel for “Tourismus-, Gastronomie- & Kulturbetriebe“ [Tourism, Gastronomy & Cultural Sector] (ZU 200) awards businesses and organizations for their commitment towards environmentally friendly management and social responsibility. This national certification is a project by the responsible ministries. It is intended to foster quality and environmental awareness in the Austrian tourism and leisure industry. kunsthalle wien is certified under the category Museen und Ausstellungshäuser [Museums and Exhibition Houses] (UZ 208).

Further information about the Austrian Ecolabel can be found here:

<https://www.umweltzeichen.at/en/home/start>

## General organizational measures

- Regular disclosure to the public of the institution's own environmental policy and, for example by e-mail, information to employees on how they can contribute to environmental protection
- Informing suppliers and visitors about the implemented measures and encouraging them to do the same (involving partners and visitors)
- Reusing materials for the installation of exhibitions (saving costs concerning waste, supplies, and energy and material flows)
- Start recycling schemes such as reusing of envelopes or cardboard boxes, avoiding window envelopes (harder to recycle)
- Combine orders to reduce the number of deliveries
- Using a catalogue of measures in daily checks
- Energy efficiency in office operations:
  - Switching off/unplugging all unneeded equipment (at least when leaving the offices)

- Set up light switches in shared rooms with a timed schedule (or use motion detectors)
  - Reduce the use of printers
  - double-sided printing
- Video call instead of travelling (especially flying)
- Introducing a “glass instead of plastic” mindset
- regional organic food boxes for the shared kitchen

## Investment measures in technology

- Conversion to LED lighting: large-scale conversion to LED lighting, especially in the exhibition spaces at Museumsquartier (currently around 900 fluorescent tubes á 58 W)
- Use shading for cooling: installation of UV-resistant roller blinds in the offices to achieve better cooling in summer
- Motion detectors for lighting where possible: controlling lighting via motion detectors ensures that lights that are not needed are switched off safely
- Replace feed pumps with more efficient ones    Upgrading outdated pumps in the heating, air conditioning, ventilation, and sanitary systems to state-of-the-art technology
- In summer 2025, a photovoltaic system was installed on the roof of Kunsthalle Wien, financed through the funding programme *Klimafitte Kulturbetriebe* (Climate-Fit Cultural Institutions), supported by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

## Organizational measures in technology

- Taking advantage of the climate tolerances in the exhibition area
- In areas with stipulated climatic values, taking advantage of the lender-related tolerances for the following:
- Needs-based ventilation / system optimization
  - Large-scale reconfiguration of the heating, air conditioning, ventilation, and sanitary systems as well as the measurement, control and regulation technology to ensure needs-based ventilation measures and to prevent unnecessary work processes

## Operative measures in technology

- Regular inspection of the equipment, e.g. valves
- Transferring measures to ongoing control sheets
- Installation of intelligent thermostatic heads
- Central control of the radiators in the offices with regard to night setback, maximum heating temperatures, ventilation control
- Installation of dual-flush toilets (water-saving technology)
- Installation of dual flushes in the toilet units, or installation of waterless urinals

## General energy-saving measures

- Reducing the room temperature to 21° C during the heating season(winter)
- Regulation of the average room temperature by reducing the flow temperature
  - Exception: conservation requirements for depots and exhibition rooms or obligations arising from loan agreements stipulating a higher temperature
- Increasing the room temperature to 27° C during the cooling season (summer)
- The maximum indoor temperatures in air-conditioned areas will be increased
  - Exception: conservation requirements for depots and exhibition rooms or obligations under loan agreements stipulating a lower temperature
- Shortened operating time of outdoor lighting: the outdoor lighting will be switched off up to 30 minutes after closing time (especially at the end of performances or events) or from 10 pm onwards
- Increasing the lighting efficiency
- Large-scale conversion to LED
  - Motion detectors
  - Light at required luminosity
  - Shortening the lighting duration with time switches

- Interior lighting only during use of the premises: no lighting solely for representational purposes
- Reducing the operation of ventilation systems to the absolutely necessary level
  - Consider all air quality requirements, especially with regards to COVID-19 prevention
- Checking and improving window sealing Switching off under-sink hot water tanks or instantaneous water heaters in sanitary facilities
- Switching off areas without visitors
- Expanding renewable energy sources
  - Evaluate further potential locations for photovoltaic systems
  - Strive to change to a regional and renewable energy supply
  - Examine geothermal energy as a heat source
- Drawing up CO2 balances to determine the energy footprint as well as to identify optimization potential

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