

Belvedere: a museum that cares about sustainability

As a “Green Museum” our work is guided by the Four Pillars of Sustainability: environmental, economic, social, and cultural responsibility. We base our strategy on the United Nation’s Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Agenda 2030, and the criteria of the Austrian Ecolabel.

One of our key aims is to achieve demonstrable and impactful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We strive to minimize our environmental footprint through an energy-efficient infrastructure, a considered approach to resources and materials, and the promotion of climate-friendly mobility and transport. Specific measures include technical improvements to museum stores, exhibition spaces, and workplace areas in order to reduce electricity consumption, and the step-by-step transition to energy-efficient building systems. The museum’s operational transport and mobility is also being gradually transitioned to low-emission alternatives, subject to technical feasibility and suitable infrastructure. We offset unavoidable emissions by supporting carefully selected schemes with high environmental and social benefits, preferably in cooperation with regional initiatives.

Our approach to resources follows the principle of the circular economy: Our aim is to reuse, transform, or give away materials rather than to dispose of them. This includes the ongoing reduction of avoidable waste in visitor and workplace areas and measures to save drinking water, for example through technical adjustments to the cooling system. We favor environmentally friendly and socially fair products and choose partners that promote policies of repair and reuse, longevity, and the circular economy. In our day-to-day operations we also prioritize solutions that are beneficial to both the environment and public health, for example for cleaning, supplies, and services.

Our economic decisions are underpinned by clearly defined sustainability criteria. Procurement processes are based on the best bidder principle, taking account of both environmental and social standards. Transparent supply chains and long-term partnerships foster quality and a sense of responsibility. For hospitality, vending machine supplies, and in-house catering, we focus on organic, resource-efficient, and low-waste options.

We understand social responsibility as an educational mandate: In our exhibitions, learning programs, and interpretative formats we create spaces for reflection and dialog about sustainable living while also actively encouraging this. We are committed to improving accessibility, for example through inclusive educational offers, clear and understandable language, and by reducing physical and digital barriers. In addition, we increase accessibility through architectural interventions and improved orientation, for example by using high-contrast text, tactile guidance systems, and clear wayfinding. Regular training sessions and information resources on environmental protection and sustainability enhance our team’s awareness and competency on these issues.

As a certified venue for “Green Events,” we organize events in a way that conserves resources and ensures high quality. We are committed to aligning exhibition openings and the annual fundraising dinner with recognized sustainability standards. This includes sustainable criteria for catering, hospitality, waste reduction, mobility and transport.

Our outdoor areas are an integral part of our museum's commitment to sustainability. Through greening, shading, and climate-resilient outdoor spaces we both enhance the visitor experience and meet our environmental responsibility.

We see ourselves as a museum that connects and sets the wheels of change in motion: Together with our visitors and our team, we are making a tangible contribution to an environmentally secure, socially just, and livable future.

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Prof. Stella Rollig
Wissenschaftliche Geschäftsführerin und
Generaldirektorin des Belvedere

Mag. Wolfgang Bergmann
Wirtschaftlicher Geschäftsführer
des Belvedere