

## SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT EUROENVIRO2020

EuroEnviro is a European conference for environmental issues and is also committed to sustainable lifestyles in the implementation of the conference. In our "Basic Agreements for EuroEnviro 2020", all team members have signed an agreement on how we work in preparation for and during the conference. Among other things, we have stipulated: "*We are living the spirit of sustainability during and in preparation for the conference, thus setting an example for eating, travelling and living in an environmentally friendly way*". Sustainability should therefore be implemented in the best possible way at all levels.

### *Transport*

Individual transport has a major impact on our ecological footprint. Therefore, we move within Graz exclusively by public transport. We have also deliberately chosen the conference venues to avoid unnecessary transport.

International students will be offered a "sustainable travel compensation" (STC). This was first offered at the EuroEnviro 2019 and was highly successful. The STC is a concrete monetary incentive to travel in a sustainable way, by train and bus. The aim is to refund part of the conference fee if the criteria are met, depending on the total costs. All monetary resources that we can generate in excess will be invested in the STC.

### *Nutrition*

During the conference we will offer only vegetarian and vegan food. By completely forgoing meat, we are able to significantly reduce the ecological footprint of the conference.

For the common meals we have asked restaurants of Graz that are known as environmentally friendly. These include Café Erde, Mangolds and Café Global. Many of these restaurants work not only on an ecological but also on a social level in a sustainable way. The food is consumed directly in the restaurant or is picked up from us with the cargo bike. The crockery and cutlery is included, and is returned after the meal.

We will combine the excursion to the Zotter company with a visit to the Buschenschank Bernhart, where we will enjoy a vegan and vegetarian buffet with regional fruits, vegetables and cheeses as well as tofu made from home-grown soy.

We further want to show at the conference that also saved food still has a value. We will therefore cooperate with organizations that fight against food waste. For example, we will get snacks for the coffee breaks at the conference through food sharing, thus contributing to waste reduction. The cups for the coffee we will borrow from the ÖH Uni Graz for the whole week.

## *Program*

Following the title "Combating the Climate Crisis - A systemic approach", we will be offering the participants lectures and workshops throughout the week to teach them how to fight the climate crisis on different levels. Our speakers are almost all from Graz and are explicitly encouraged to travel by bike or public transport. For the guest speakers from Vienna, we are happy to finance a train ticket to ensure a sustainable journey.

The entire scientific program, all lectures and workshops, will take place on the campus of the University of Graz, which is EMAS and ISO14001 certified since 2016 and is audited every year. For the University of Graz, this form of environmental management has resulted, for example, in a changeover to recycled paper and certified green electricity. Further measures in the areas of waste, mobility, procurement, research and teaching, and many more have already been implemented. Further information on the environmental goals of Graz University is available at: <https://umweltmanagement.uni-graz.at/de/umwelterklaerung/>.

As can be seen from these points, we have the highest standards of sustainability not only to communicate, but also to live. The role model effect of the conference plays a particularly important role in this respect. We show the participants from all over Europe that a climate-friendly way of life is possible and hope to have a long-term impact on the lifestyle of the participants, but also of the organizers and volunteers. We also set an example for our many stakeholders. By designing a university conference of this scope in the most sustainable way possible, we show that this is also feasible for the many other conferences taking place at the universities of Graz.