



ECOCODEX

We at the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum believe that the only possible strategy to tackle the global climate crisis is to follow the principles of sustainable development in both professional and everyday life.

Within the EU, this approach is underlined by the European Green Deal, one of the six priorities of the European Commission introduced in 2019. It is aimed at making the European Union climate neutral until 2050. The Russian Federation has also committed to the climate agenda by joining the Paris Agreement and setting up national goals to limit greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and reduce pollution.

On a global scale, we have been referring to and actively working with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. We feel our responsibility for achieving these long-term SDGs and are convinced that we can avert the degradation of our environment and wildlife, as well as act as a leading example for other organisations.

We also welcome moves for setting and implementing more ambitious goals, in Europe¹ and worldwide. Securing clean and beneficial environment for the future generations and the variety of species on our planet is the moral responsibility for all members of our society.

The present EcoCodex is a practical result of the discussions on the Forum Strategy Priority “Sustainable Development and Climate Change”. Within this Codex, we guide our daily operations, activities, projects and events, as well as awareness-raising practices and global responsibility.

The changes are divided into three major categories:

1. GOOD PRACTICES FOR YOUR OFFICE²

- to separate waste in the office and organise deliveries of different kinds of waste to specific recycling places (in case there is no such service offered by local municipalities)
- to reduce the amount of waste produced
- to switch to clean energy providers
- to limit the use of paper (no unnecessary printing, use of recycled paper, double-sided printing or re-using paper printed on one side only, avoiding colour printing, etc.)
- to re-use in case materials can be re-used
- to save electricity, including by installing energy-efficient lamps and eliminating screen savers on monitors
- to avoid sending unnecessary electronic messages, as each of them absorbs additional amounts of energy
- to use multi-purpose machines that handle copying, scanning, faxing and printing

¹ See e.g. www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/issues/climate-energy/45121/eu-parliament-edges-2030-climate-action-forward and www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/issues/climate-energy/45144/meps-exclude-fossil-fuels-from-eu-coronavirus-recovery-fund.

² Likewise, these commitments apply to the practices of the Board, the Secretariat and other bodies of the Forum.

- to use air-conditioning, only if it is absolutely necessary
- to turn down the office thermostat at night / over the weekend
- to follow a water-saving mode
- to use tap water, where possible, or filter the water – as alternative ways to water delivery
- to avoid single-use items (paper or plastic cups, etc.)
- to completely refuse to use plastic or at least reduce its usage (food deliveries to the office, purchase of stationary, etc.)

2. GOOD PRACTICES FOR OUR EVENTS

- to increase number of online and hybrid (online and offline) events
- to ensure the most efficient use of offline days (preference to collaborative formats, issues of rather technical nature to be discussed online, etc.)
- to apply climate neutrality, also as regards financial and time planning, to all events-related whereabouts, e.g. to choose the most ecological way of transportation (trains, buses, shared vehicles, bicycles, etc.) and to compensate for collaborations with environment-damaging service providers, where there is no possibility to choose a responsible service provider
- to substantially reduce the variety of promotional materials, especially those made of plastic, and switch to digital products
- to offer vegan / vegetarian meals by default or as the first choice (with a meat menu for those who consider that important) – with an explanation why this is more sustainable
- to order ecologically and locally produced food /catering
- to provide a good moderation / facilitation, especially for online formats, in order to save time and preserve a good healthy situation of the participants

3. GOOD PRACTICES TO PROMOTE THE CHANGE

- to set an example with our own behaviour
- to promote our ecological values on the level of the European Union, EU member states and the Russian Federation
- to introduce sustainable development and fighting climate change among the value added elements to your programmes and projects, e.g. to grant-making programmes and reporting
- to advocate for responsible use of resources and energy supplies
- to choose ecologically responsible service providers (hotels, eating places, printing houses)
- to support and collaborate with eco-friendly initiatives
- to make environment-damaging practices known to wider audiences (through Forum channels, etc.)
- to minimise collaborations with environment-damaging service providers, where there is no possibility to choose a responsible service provider (transportation companies, printing houses, etc.)
- to cooperate with experts in the field, especially on the topics, which are not covered by competences of Forum member and supporter organisations

We also encourage all Forum member and supporter organisations to apply these practices to their operations. Besides, we call on the associates of Forum member and supporter organisations to apply the practices of their organisations to their individual behaviour.