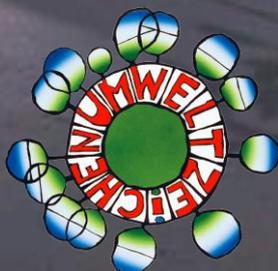


AUSTRIAN ECO-LABEL

Green Meetings and Green Events



The Austrian Eco-label for "Green Meetings and Green Events" is awarded to **events that are organised professionally and in an environmentally sound manner**. Licensees have the competence to organise and certify environmentally friendly events for their customers.

GREEN MEETINGS: EXCELLENT AND CERTIFIED MEETINGS



Congresses, sessions, conferences - many people travel to business events regularly. These meetings do not only provide professional enrichment and social communication platforms of working life but are also an important economic factor in Austria. However, they take up lots of resources, cause emissions and affect our environment. People acting responsibly towards nature in their private lives rarely have effect on natural resource use or social standards as conference participants or event organisers. Now there is a way how they can systematically consider environmental and climate protection, regional benefit and social compatibility. A "Green Meeting" is characterised by higher **energy efficiency, waste avoidance and environmentally benign travel** of the guests to and from the event. In addition, aspects of **regional benefit and social responsibility** are taken into account.

GREEN EVENTS: EXCELLENT AND CERTIFIED EVENTS



Events of all kinds move people, create leisure-time experiences or help enterprises present their products. Furthermore, they constitute major economic activities in Austria. However, events move people not only emotionally, but also spatially: Persons, equipment and goods are transported to different places, thereby producing **CO₂** and in many cases also **traffic noise** or **damage to crops**. In addition, promotional gifts, often in the form of **cheap throwaway products, food and drinks** are offered. So there are plenty of small wheels, we could turn to reduce the ecological footprint of an event. Many good examples show that this is possible also without reducing the pleasant experience of participants or 'bending' the ideas of the organisers. With some **innovative ideas and creative drafts** and with the commitment to leaving our grandchildren a world worth living in, one can turn each event into a "Green Event".

WHICH EVENTS CAN RECEIVE THE AUSTRIAN ECO-LABEL?

All sorts of meetings, congresses and conferences defined in the Austrian Statistics on Congresses and Conferences as well as many other types of events. The event must be organised by a licensee and has to be certified in specific audit software. Some sorts of events, which are not sufficiently definable through the criteria of the Guidelines, are presently excluded from certification, among them public fairs, markets, some sports events as well as open-air concerts and music festivals with campsite areas. For detailed information, please see the Guideline.

WHO CAN BECOME A LICENSEE?

The Guideline **addresses professional enterprises of the events industry**. Planning and implementation of happenings must be the essential business purpose of the enterprise. Under certain conditions also seminar hotels, locations as well as educational institutions and universities can become licensees. For detailed information, please see the Guideline.

HOW DOES AN EVENT GET THE AUSTRIAN ECO-LABEL?



If an enterprise organising events is interested in getting a licence, initial information is provided by the Consumer Information Association (Verein für Konsumenteninformation). A consultant trains the staff members of the enterprise and assists them on their way to licensing. Licensees must appoint a Green Meeting agent and, in the enterprise itself, have to furnish proof of their competence in sustainable office management. In the process of planning and implementing an event, criteria from the following fields are taken into account:

- Offers of environmentally sound mobility as well as CO₂ reduction
- Environmentally friendly accommodation
- Requirements on the conference venue, the catering and any exhibitions
- Environmentally friendly procurement, material and waste management as well as technologies
- Social aspects, communication

Selectable optional criteria take account of the specific situation like the size, offer, equipment or location. In this way, also special priorities, for example in connection with organic food or offers for barrier-free facilities, are rewarded.

With a **pilot event**, which meets all **mandatory criteria** and gets a certain number of points from the proposed **optional criteria**, the enterprise demonstrates that it is familiar with the requirements and the specific online **certification software**. This is verified by an **external expertise**. Subsequently, a contractual agreement on the use of the Eco-label for four years is concluded. During this utilisation period, each appropriate event can be certified through the software and advertised with the Eco-label. For its commitment, the company receives an award certificate, an entry on the Eco-label website and supportive marketing.

COSTS

For the use of the Austrian Eco-label, a one-time application fee and an annual utilisation fee have to be paid. Additional costs accrue for consulting services and for the audit. Fees are graduated according to turnover that is made with certified events. For details see the "General fee schedule for products and services": [Fee schedule for the Austrian and European Ecolabel ← Certification ← Umweltzeichen.at](#)

RÜCKFRAGEN

Information and downloads are available at www.umweltzeichen.at and www.umweltzeichen-meetings.at. You can also contact us directly:

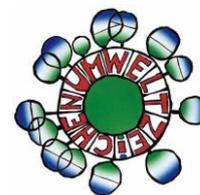
The Austrian Eco-label is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. The Guideline was worked out by the Consumer Information Association, VKI, in cooperation with the congress and event industry, the relevant stakeholders and environmental experts.

*Federal Ministry for Climate Action,
Environment, Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology (BMK)*

Dr. Regina Preslmair
Stubenring 1, A-1010 Wien
Phone: +43 (1) 71100 61-1645
info@umweltzeichen.at
www.umweltzeichen.at

*VKI Verein für Konsumenteninformation
Team Umweltzeichen*

Mag. Barbara Dusek
Linke Wienzeile 18, A-1060 Wien
Phone: +43 (1) 588 77-253
barbara.dusek@vki.at
www.umweltzeichen.at/meetings



www.umweltzeichen.at