
KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Environmental Protection & Sustainability at the KHM-Museumsverband

Climate change and its far-reaching consequences for the Earth's ecosystems represent one of the greatest societal challenges of our time. We need to act now to shape a more sustainable future.

Museums are places of encounter, debate, and enrichment. As educational and outreach institutions, they play an important role in creating new perspectives, inspiration, and motivation. Museums preserve and protect cultural heritage for future generations and therefore bear a social responsibility on the way to a more sustainable future.

THE AUSTRIAN ECO LABEL

In December 2022 the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, the Imperial Treasury Vienna, and the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna were awarded the Austrian Eco Label (Österreichisches Umweltzeichen). By the end of 2023, two more museums of the KHM-Museumsverband (Weltmuseum Wien and Theaternuseum) are to follow.

The aim of the KHM-Museumsverband (KHM Museum Association) is to be a socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable organization – and this aim flows through the entire museum operation: aspects of sustainability play a central role both in exhibition concepts, scientific projects, art education, structural measures, events, and corporate management.

In the process of being awarded the Austrian Ecolabel, the KHM-Museumsverband first carried out a thorough inventory of all corporate areas, initiated sustainable processes to improve the ecological footprint and set recognizable signs to the outside world. In the next step, a comprehensive CO₂ balance of all locations was carried out and from this a roadmap for reducing our CO₂ emissions was developed.

The results of these two projects were used to develop a sustainability strategy for the entire KHM-Museumsverband, which serves as the basis for sustainability management in the association. The 2030 Agenda adopted by the United Nations and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form a further basis for work.

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The path to operational sustainability is an ongoing process. With a comprehensive set of goals and a sound sustainability strategy, the KHM-Museumsverband is on its way to becoming a green museum and to a more sustainable future.

WHAT WE DO

On our **website** we provide up-to-date information about our activities and progress in the area of environment and sustainability: [khm.at/en/explore/organisation/environmental-protection-sustainability/](https://www.khm.at/en/explore/organisation/environmental-protection-sustainability/)

The following areas are currently in focus:

Energy

- Since 2021, we have been working on a large-scale project to convert all luminaires in the KHM-Museumsverband to energy-saving **LED technology**. This has already been done for several thousand light points. Compared to the classic incandescent and halogen bulbs, the LED products offer a 15 to 20 times longer service life, require significantly less electricity and thus reduce CO₂ emissions.
- **Outdoor shading** is one of the most efficient ways to save energy: If we reduce solar radiation and heat in the room, we thereby reduce the use of cooling systems. In the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Weltmuseum Wien and the Neue Burg, 80 per cent of the surfaces have already been equipped with outdoor shading. The outdoor shading solution developed in the KHM-Museumsverband reduces the incoming solar energy at midday in the summer months by 84 per cent. Effective shading reduces the room temperature by 2 to 3 degrees.
- As of 2023, all museums of the KHM-Museumsverband switched to **100 per cent green electricity**, certified with the Ecolabel's UZ46 guideline. By purchasing green electricity, fossil and nuclear uses are reduced – an important contribution to climate protection!
- Currently, the possibilities for the expansion of **photovoltaic systems** at various locations are being explored.

CO₂ balance

In collaboration with the other Bundesmuseen (federal museums) and the University for Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, we are monitoring our CO₂ emissions **with the aim of significantly reducing our carbon footprint**. Based on this balance we will be able to identify key performance indicators and devise measures. Every new balance will allow us to measure and document our progress.

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Biodiversity

We have installed five **beehives** on the Kunsthistorisches Museum's roof that are home to around 350,000 bees. They feast on the flowers and old trees in the nearby Volksgarten and Burggarten in Vienna's first district, resulting in honey flavoured with the delicate aroma of the roses blooming in the rose garden. This honey is available in the Museum Shop.

Recycling, upcycling and reusing

In exhibition management, **display cases** from the in-house display case depot are used several times. When building new exhibitions, attention is paid to the reusability of materials from previous exhibitions as early as the planning stage, if possible.

Advertising tarpaulins, which are attached to the houses to announce exhibitions, are sewn into **bags** after the end of the exhibition in a joint project with Caritas and sold in the shop.

Waste

The KHM-Museumsverband actively promotes waste separation, recycling and waste reduction. **Waste separation systems** are available in all internal and external areas; guests and staff are actively asked to help with waste separation.

Building operation

In building operations, the use of materials (e.g. paints, varnishes, wood) is environmental compatibility is taken into account. All **paints** are ISO-1 certified. Likewise, **cleaning agents** with ISO-1 certification (eco-label) are preferred – as far as possible given the increased demands of museum operations.

Education

- Our digital app KHM stories includes the tour *A Snowball's Chance?!*, which tells you more about humanity's often fraught relationship with nature over the centuries. This **topical tour on the climate crisis** for adults and children invites you to discover the museum together and discuss what you have learned. App users can look behind the scenes of the museum and under the surface of artworks, encouraging them to take action.
- **Friday is Accessibility Day**: Art touches everybody – in different ways. Experiencing it together is the aim of our inclusive tours held every Friday at 3 p.m. We offer tactile tours, tours in sign language, and tours conducted in language easily accessible for people afflicted with dementia or memory-loss.

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PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Press photographs are available in the press section of our website free of charge, for your topical reporting: press.khm.at/en



Outdoor shading
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
© KHM-Museumsverband



Outdoor shading
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
© KHM-Museumsverband



Waste separation systems
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
© KHM-Museumsverband



Beekeeper Thomas Zelenka with beehives
on the roof of Kunsthistorisches Museum
© Thomas Zelenka Bienenprodukte

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App tour *A Snowball's Chance?!*
Screenshot from the app KHM Stories
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