

Harpa's Environmental and Climate Policy

Future vision

Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre sets itself the goal of being a role model in environmental and climate issues by systematically reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its operations and their impact. Harpa endeavours to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and thus play an active role in the fight against climate change.

Scale

Until 2030, Harpa will reduce its CO2 emissions by a total of 40% compared to 2019.

Scope

Until 2030, Harpa will reduce its CO2 emissions by a total of 40% through, among other things, the following measures:

- Reducing wastage by increasing waste sorting. The proportion of recyclable waste shall be 75%.
- Reducing energy consumption with energy saving measures.
- Focusing on reducing operational emissions, but also carbon offsetting all remaining emissions through the purchase of certified carbon units from 2022 onwards.
- Conference and event guests shall be invited to carbon offset the event through the Iceland Carbon Fund (ICF) or the Wetlands Fund.
- Emphasis shall be placed on reducing the disposal of waste and wastage at all stages of event planning.
- Reducing food wastage in collaboration with Harpa's restaurant service.
- All waste in Harpa is sorted and all recyclable waste is sent for recycling.
- All detergents used in Harpa have the Swan label, a well-known and respected Ecolabel used in the Nordic countries.
- The managing entities in Harpa only work with suppliers that conduct responsible environmental business and mostly use fresh Icelandic raw materials.
- Obtaining recognised environmental and quality certification, both domestically and abroad.
- Implementation of telework policy.
- Eco-friendly transport of employees to and from work will be encouraged with increased support for eco-friendly transport. The proportion of sustainable transportation to and from work shall be 30%.
- Educational events for employees on environmental issues will be held at least twice a year and there will be regular discussions of green steps in our activities.
- Harpa carbon offsets all travel employees undertake on its behalf.

Scope

The policy covers all of Harpa's operations, including all units that have permanent operations in Harpa, both managing entities and service providers.

Follow-up

Harpa participates in the Green Steps Program, a project led by the Environment Agency of Iceland. By participating in the Green Steps Program, Harpa is given the opportunity to implement strong environmental work in a systematic way under the guidance of experts from the Environment Agency. The chairperson of Harpa's Environment Committee and Green Steps is responsible for reviewing Harpa's environmental work and submitting green accounts annually.

Harpa's environmental and climate policy is reviewed annually by Harpa's steering committee on environmental issues, where the main goals and sub-objectives are updated with regard to developments in greenhouse gas emissions between years. Harpa's sub-goals are being worked on by a steering group and are linked to the UN's Global Goals.

Connection to existing commitments

In November 2015, the Director of Harpa signed the declaration of the City of Reykjavik and the Festa Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility on climate issues, which was presented at the UN Climate Conference in Paris in December of the same year.

According to the Government's Climate Policy, all government agencies are required to meet all five Green Steps by the end of 2021.

The policy is approved by the director and information on the results of operations is disseminated regularly on Harpa's website, as well as to employees on Harpa's intranet.