

Action Plan for Sustainability

Last updated: March 2019



Sustainability is a diverse and manifold issue (see also position paper “Youth and Sustainability” of the Austrian National Youth Council – BJV¹). The goal of the present Action Plan is to provide an overview of fields of action and related measures for the BJV and its member organisations.

The Action Plan is based on the term “sustainability” in its current perception and shall be understood as a minimum standard. It shall be amended and revised regularly in accordance with new findings and experience gained from the implementation of the plan.

The Action Plan was developed by a project group in 2012 and was last updated in 2019. It is binding for all committees of the BJV as well as for the main office of the BJV, and has recommendatory character for all member organisations of the BJV.

The BJV commits to the implementation of the present Action Plan for Sustainability with the aim to establish sustainability as a guiding criterion for all working areas of the BJV.

All aspects included in the Action Plan underlie financial and, to some extent, organisational reasonableness. However, this does not change the fact that all measures are checked and edited, and the member organisations are to be informed during the plenary assembly about the state of affairs and any possible progress (see also point “Follow-up” below).

Content framework



The corresponding position paper of the BJV was revised in 2017 and, among other things, additions were made, including the Sustainable Development

¹ Position Paper „Jugend und Nachhaltigkeit“ (= Youth and Sustainability), 2017, www.bjv.at



Goals (SDGs). These goals for sustainable development, which were agreed upon by the UN and thereby also by the state of Austria, are highly ambitious. In order to even remotely achieve them, many different measures on all kinds of levels, including individuals and organisations as well as decisions on the political level, have to be taken.

With the implementation of the Action Plan, the BJV wants to contribute to a more sustainable world and at the same time create awareness in young people and organisations in the sector of children and youth work.

Not all SDGs are thematically covered by the Action Plan. Nevertheless, the chosen measures can contribute to achieving at least some of the SDGs. The corresponding SDGs are indicated in each section headline.

Material and office management (SDG 7, 8, 12 & 13)

The BJV will:

- print as little as possible and print or copy double-sided whenever possible.
- only use paper that is 100% recycled and not bleached with chlorine.
- have all print forms printed by climate-neutral businesses that are certified accordingly.
- clarify whether products can also be rented (e.g. within the network of the member organisations) before purchasing new ones.
- choose the most sustainable option in consideration of price and quality when acquiring material for campaigns and merchandising.
- make sure that products and material for campaigns and merchandising are long-lasting and will remain useable even after the end of the campaign or project.
- adjust the quantity of products and print forms to the actual need (as far as assessable).
- try to use products longer by repairing them instead of purchasing new ones.
- when possible, use reusable containers instead of disposable ones.
- separate and recycle all wastes (especially paper, aluminium, glass and PET containers/bottles, ink cartridges and organic waste).
- make sure that offices are heated efficiently, i.e. by not covering heating elements, not using electrical heat radiators and by brief and intensive airing of heated rooms.

- provide opportunities for sharing, as e.g. a living bookshelf, in the office spaces.

Energy (SDG 7 & 13)

The BJV will:

- continue to use green power.
- try to reduce its energy use and, to this end, also take measures on a smaller scale, as e.g. avoiding the stand-by-mode of devices or disconnecting unused devices (by unplugging them) from power sources altogether.

Travelling (SDG 13)

The BJV will:

- contribute actively to the organisation of travels of delegates and participants to events of the BJV or travelling in the name of the BJV in a way as to using public transport or carpool instead of flights (as far as this is reasonable concerning organisational effort and travel time); national travels or equivalent distances are to be done via land route in any case (preferably by train or bus).
- whenever possible and reasonable, hold audio or video conferences instead of travelling.
- make arrangements concerning the budget for being able to pay CO2 compensation in case travels by air are inevitable.

Food/catering (SDG 8, 12, 13 & 14)

The BJV will:

- offer only vegetarian and, if possible, vegan meals when catering is provided.
- favour organic, local, seasonal, and fair-trade foods and products.
- when shopping for groceries, choose foods and products in a way as to avoid undesired ecological consequences (keywords: conventional palm oil, microplastic).
- avoid the use of disposable cutlery and dishes or individually portioned goods (e.g. coffee milk) whenever possible.
- offer tap water instead of bottled water whenever possible.



- make the points mentioned above binding guidelines when choosing catering services.
- continue to not having food delivered to the office more than once a week and use available containers when picking up food.
- distribute food leftovers from events among the participants or give it to charity organisations.

Cooperations and use of services

The BJV will:

- favour services that comply with the Action Plan (e.g. event venues, catering services) whenever possible. Equally, businesses with a socially integrative focus will be favoured.
- advocate sustainability vis-à-vis member organisations, contractors and cooperation partners.

Strategic focus of the BJV (SDG 4, 5, 8 & 17)

The BJV will:

- try to orientate processes and decisions to the matrix of the Common Good Economy.
- offer childcare at the annual general assembly to facilitate the participation of people with caring responsibilities.
- organise a Gender Mainstreaming Training once a year, in which the board and the office of the BJV will participate.
- pursue the aim to secure inclusive, gender equal and high-quality education in educational offers organised by the BJV or by other service providers.
- place the principles of inclusion and equality at the forefront of its actions in its dealings with both volunteers and office staff.
- try harder than before to establish a connection to the SDGs within its campaigns and to communicate the SDGs better.
- as representative body of young people and as a member of the SDG Watch Austria, advocate the consequent implementation of the SDGs in Austria.

Follow-up

Board, office team and steering committee will evaluate the Action Plan once a year, with the aim to amend missing measures and to remove measures that have become unnecessary.

The evaluation will be done e. g. through surveys, and, in accordance with the management, be complemented by an assessment by the responsible policy officer.

The presidents shall report the results of the evaluation at the general assembly and present, if necessary, a proposal of adaptation to the general assembly for resolution.

