

Water, Growth and Stability is a REC Sustainable Event

REC as a mission driven organization is committed to sustainability, including events organized by us. We are trying to take steps throughout the planning process of our events, during the events and also after the events to minimize the harmful environmental impacts.

Responsibilities: REC's Conference staff together with the responsible project manager (and if needed project director) jointly plan and implement events in a sustainable way.

To ensure that **sustainability aspects are guaranteed in all cases** REC applies set of activities and measures to all of its events, as described in the following chapters.

Venue



[The REC Conference Center](#) was refurbished in 2008 as a zero-emission building. Electricity is produced by solar cells, heating and cooling is based on heat pumps. Beside these passive elements (natural lights, shadowing) and efficient lighting system, minimized electricity consumption also help reach zero-emission. The energy balance of the building is being monitored, data are available at:

<http://archive.rec.org/conferencecenter/index.php>

Energy saving measures are applied during events as well:

- projectors and other appliances are switched on and off as necessary
- shading is controlled properly
- automatized lighting system can be manually overruled if needed
- proper temperature is provided in the rooms (according to WHO recommendations)
- energy characteristics and performance of the building is being demonstrated/communicated on screens during the event

In the REC premises a selective waste collection system is established. It is a general practice which covers events as well.

The building is a fully accessible venue.

Water

REC implements set of water saving measures:

- In the REC Conference Center waterless urinals, and tap prelaters are installed.



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



- Cleaning is done in an environmentally friendly way, using as little water, detergents/chemicals and energy as possible.

If and when it is feasible REC serves tap water for drinking during events.

Accommodation



WGS Conference participants are accommodated in [The Aquincum Hotel](http://www.aquincumhotel.com) in the Hungarian capital Budapest.

- Address: Árpád fejedelem útja 94.
- H-1036 Budapest
- Telephone: +36-1-436-4100
- www.aquincumhotel.com

The Aquincum Hotel Budapest takes pride in being a modern, environment-friendly workplace and hotel. We consciously protect the environment and take care of our guest's health, by providing them a safe, non-toxic and energy-efficient accommodation.

The Aquincum Hotel Budapest implements:

- “Wyndham Green” environmental protection programme
- Recycled paper-, glass- and plastic usage
- Selective waste management
- Housekeeping uses non-toxic cleaning agents and laundry detergent
- Bedsheets and towels are washed on request instead of on a daily basis
- Serving organic and local-grown food
- Non-smoking workplace and well-separated smoking guest rooms
- Insulated doors, windows and walls
- Energy-saving light bulbs



*Green Hotel
2013-2014 Award*

Catering

REC has good, long-lasting cooperation with catering service suppliers. Catering is planned individually for all events, taking into account the request of the project managers. Basic principles are applied regularly:

- Preference to short distribution channels and locally sourced products. Local suppliers, home-made food, without preservatives and colourants, and season products are given priority whenever possible. But, there are items like sea fish, olive oil, feta cheese, bell peppers, aubergine, couscous, etc. when this is not possible.
- Serve as much vegetarian as possible (lower carbon footprint)
- Only reusable cutlery, plates, cups, bottles are used. (no plastic at all)

- If and when it is feasible REC serves tap water for drinking during events.



Forgó Vendéglő, the catering partner of WGS Conference recognizes the significant impact that catering operations can have on the environment.

Forgó Vendéglő promotes healthy and sustainable practices in all aspects of our food sourcing, production and service whilst taking account of our diverse, international and financially challenged customer base.

We are committed to operating in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way to minimize carbon emissions output and to reduce our environmental footprint at all levels of our business.

Our aim is to supporting local and regional production of fresh produce and meat, and manufactured food products in the supply chain where possible: Organic produce; Fruit; Vegetables; Dairy; Meat; Fish; Bread. All of our products are GMO-free.

Our commitment for sustainable catering service includes:

- Minimize energy and water consumption through efficient administration, equipment selection, usage and disposal, food storage, preparation and cooking.
- Provide meat, poultry, dairy and eggs from sources using practices that conform to high environmental, social and animal welfare standards.
- Seasonally available ingredients will be used where possible, to minimize energy used in food production, transport and storage.
- We recycle all glass, plastic, paper and cardboard and all food waste in our kitchen is composted.
- We consider donating leftover food to a food bank, a campus group or to a charity.

We strive toward reducing unsustainable practices to the absolute minimum. We will continue to identify the challenges and find sustainable solutions.

Communication and Event Materials

REC implements set of measures to minimize negative environmental effect caused by communication activities and production of event materials:

- Invitation and registration to the event is done paperless, communication is by default done through e-mails, documents are stored in electronic format
- welcome bags / gifts are minimised, by default made from recycled materials
- conference materials, presentations are basically shared in electronic format (online)
- materials if printed, are printed on recycled paper using REC printers run on vegetable-based inks.

Transport

REC implements set of measures to improve sustainability of event transport:

- REC for its own staff runs complex mobility services through and connected to the innovative Transport Monitoring Tool (<https://tmt.rec.org/>).



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



- REC encourage also event participants to use public transport as much as possible. Information on possibilities is spread with invitation and registration materials
- When organizing transfers from airport REC offers for participants to share cabs.
- Green taxi service is preferred.
- Special award is offered to the event participants travelling the longest distance by walking, bike or train.

Awareness raising

REC pays high attention to awareness raising measures:

- energy characteristics and performance of the building is being demonstrated/ communicated on screens during the event
- visits are organized during events to present the zero-emission building.

Evaluation

REC evaluates events:

- REC events are always evaluated by the participants at the end of the meeting. Although the risk of receiving less evaluation forms is valid, REC still tries to circulate and collect Evaluation Forms in an electronic way instead of printed versions.