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Joint press release with the Federal Ministry for Environment

Recommendations for ecologically fair event planning

New guide published on ecological organisation of meetings, congresses, and other events

Conferences and other events can influence the environment in a wide variety of ways. This can include the travel activity of the participants or consumption of electricity, water or paper. A new free guide published by the Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) shows how the associated negative outcome on the environment can be avoided. It focuses on ten areas where action is called for, with travel activity being of particularly great importance. Additional aspects of ecological events are low consumption of paper, water, and power as well the reduction of waste. Event planners can also do something positive for the environment when it comes to catering, for example by taking organically produced goods into consideration.

This updated guide is founded on experience gained by BMU and UBA, particularly in the organisation of events hosted on the occasion of Germany's EU Council presidency and G8 chairmanship in 2007. At that time the first edition of the guide had proved useful. According to a survey, the aid met with mostly positive feedback. Most of those polled described the previous edition as very useful. It has now been updated and can be beneficial to any and everyone-- whether in the area of politics, sports, culture, or the economy- in the ecological planning of events. The new edition also has a chapter on environmental management of large-scale events.

The guide is available for download in German on the UBA website at <http://www.umweltdaten.de/publikationen/fpdf-l/3459.pdf> and from the BMU website at www.bmu.de/umweltgerechte-veranstaltungen. An English language version is due to be issued soon.

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