

Caritas Germany's Targets for the implementation of the Climate and Environment Charter

Environmental Awareness is the requirement. Environmental Stewardship is the ambition.



Target 1: Natural resources are used wisely, waste is minimized, and all projects demonstrate environmental awareness

- We incorporate the internal environmental guide in the design and review of all projects.
- We review planned project activities against their environmental impact, promote sustainable use and management of resources as well as active restoration activities in the regular regional peer reviews.
- We facilitate conversations with partners about potential negative environmental impacts and outline joint strategies to address them.
- We define and incorporate indicators that show the extent to which the intervention was sustainable and whether the project participants used climate-smart energy technologies.
- We define environmental criteria for purchasing decisions in the internal procurement handbook, aiming at procured products that can be recycled, have recycled content, are energy efficient, reduce emissions, are reusable, biodegradable, organic, have an ecolabel etc.

Target 2: The Caritas Environmental Stewardship Tool (EST) is used with selected projects

- We conduct regular courses for instruction and training on the EST.
- We establish a focal point for enquiries who is available throughout the year.
- We determine and agree on criteria for the application of the EST, such as the level of environmental risk, the degree of interface with the environment, or a budget above 1 million EUR.
- We introduce the topic actively in discussions with partners and offer guidance on EST.
- We assess and learn from selected projects as well as from mitigation measures.

Target 3: Institutional embodiment of the topic

- We decrease emissions by rationalising staff travel, especially by air, and increasing energy efficiency for vehicles, and engage in a process which leads to climate neutrality by 2030.
- We initiate a climate working group which safeguards the topic and keeps it on the agenda.
- We compensate and offset inevitable greenhouse gas emissions, for example via Klima-Kollekte by realizing climate protection projects.
- We are actively engaged as a member of Germany's Civil Society Alliance for Climate Protection.
- We expand the deployment of climate specialists through the personnel cooperation provider Agiamondo and incorporate Global South perspectives through exchange.

