

# Paths to Sustainability in the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research



# Content

<b>Paths to Sustainability in the Bonn Alliance</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sustainable Travel and Mobility</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sustainable Event Management</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sustainability in the Workplace</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Institutional Sustainability Strategy</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sustainable Procurement</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Imprint</b>	<b>12</b>



# Paths to sustainability in the Bonn Alliance

This fact sheet provides an overview of implemented sustainability practices in the partner institutions of the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research. It serves as a source of information and inspiration to implement sustainability strategies into practice. It is divided into five chapters: Sustainable Travel and Mobility, Sustainable Event Management, Sustainability at the Workplace, Institutional Sustainability Strategies, and Sustainable Procurement.



Hochschule  
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg  
University of Applied Sciences

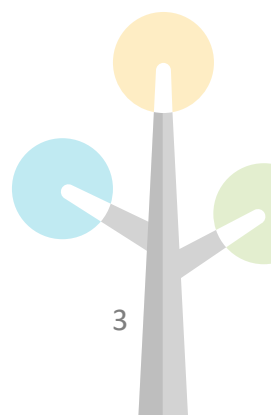


## About the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research

In November 2017, at COP23 BICC (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies), the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS), as well as the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) and the Center for Development Research (ZEF) joined forces under the leadership of the University of Bonn to form the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research with the aim of strengthening knowledge and competences for sustainability research.

The Bonn Alliance takes into account the complexity of the problems and issues in the sustainability landscape through networked science. The common goal is to scientifically support the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 on a local to global level. To this end, the Bonn Alliance and its partner institutions combine university and non-university, applied and basic research.

As the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research, we set topics, make sustainability research visible, collaborate in projects and working groups, have an impact on politics, and participate in local, regional and international projects and committees. In addition, all of our partner institutions strive to make their day-to-day work as sustainable as possible. With this fact sheet, we provide an insight into the implemented sustainability practices of our partner institutions.



## Sustainable Travel & Mobility

Our partner institutions provide multi-faceted advice and implement various sustainable practices in the field of mobility. In addition to sustainability considerations for work and study travel and for business trips, attention is also paid to travel and participation options that are as sustainable as possible when hosting events.

### Public Transport

For their employees' commute to work, the University of Bonn and BICC offer the purchase of a [Job Ticket](#) to make traveling by public transport more attractive.

In addition, the University of Bonn is involved in the City of Bonn's [Jobwärts Initiative](#), which aims to reduce traffic congestion at peak times during the morning and evening "rush hour".

Students of the [University of Bonn](#) and the [Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences \(H-BRS\)](#) receive a semester ticket for public transport that is integrated into their student ID.

### Folding Bicycles, Bike & Car Sharing

The Institute for Technology, Resource Conservation and Energy Efficiency (TREE) at H-BRS offers the [loan of Brompton folding bicycles](#) for business trips, which can be folded to a handy suitcase size. They are a practical addition when traveling by train and in that combination offer an alternative to car use.

A [cooperation](#) with the car sharing provider [Cambio](#) allows employees and students of the University of Bonn to use the cars at special conditions. In addition, university students have 30 free minutes daily when using rental bikes from the [Nextbike](#) bike-sharing service.



### Business Trips & Participation in Events

In the [Guidelines on Sustainability in International Cooperation](#), the University of Bonn presents recommendations for sustainable travel and a checklist (pp. 9-10). E.g., before participating in a remote venue, the guidelines recommend checking whether participation via video conference is possible and reasonable instead.

For online participation, all employees and students of the University of Bonn can access the [video conferencing service ZOOM](#) free of charge, which allows not only participation but also the hosting of virtual events as an alternative to traveling.

In addition, the Bonn [University Computer Center \(HRZ\)](#) at the University of Bonn lends out mobile webcam conference systems for the use of online services.

BICC also enables and supports online participation in hybrid and virtual events to avoid long-distance travel.

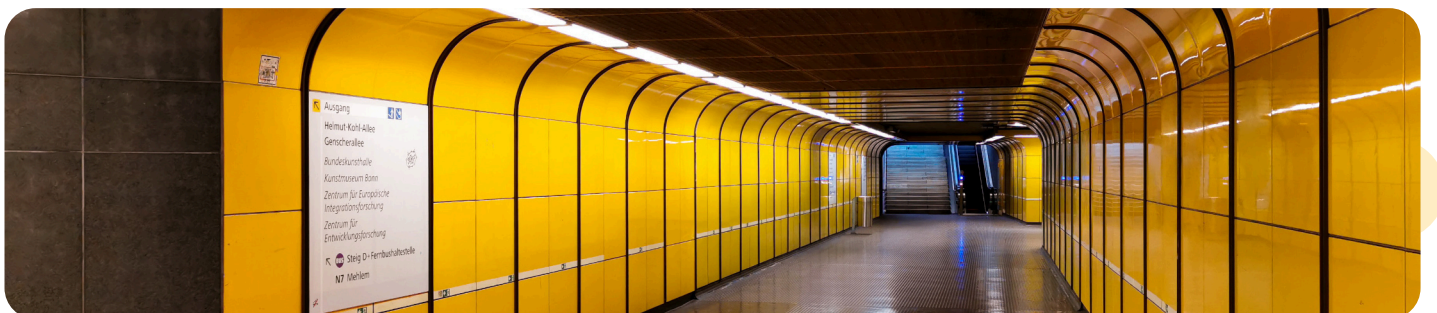
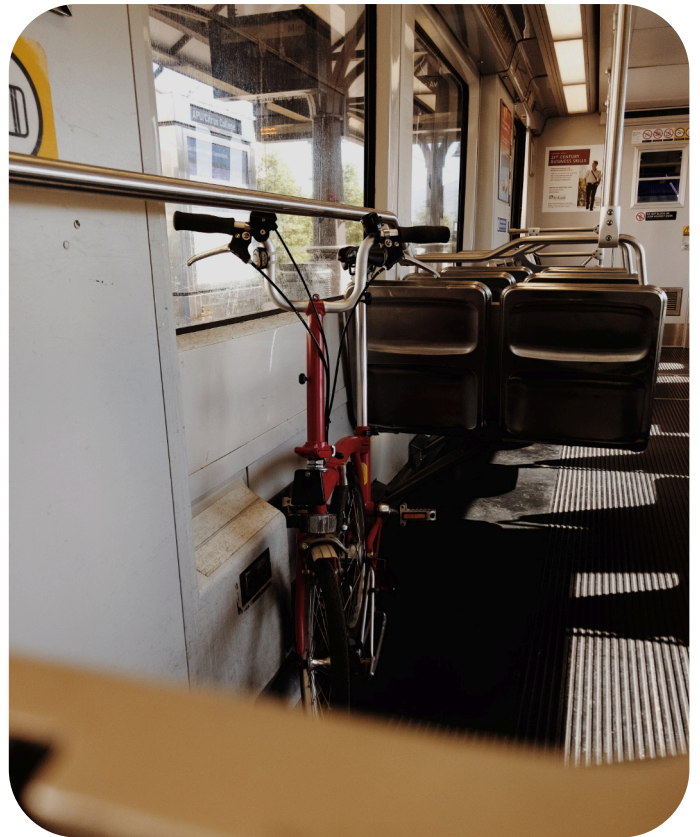
For business trips that require attendance in person, the University's guidelines recommend combining multiple appointments whenever possible and using [train or long-distance buses](#) for travel to and from the event. For unavoidable air travel, it recommends to considering paying for [carbon offsets](#) and checking the [climate efficiency of airlines](#).

BICC also recommends that its employees use means of transport with lower-CO2 emissions such as trains and public transport instead of air travel when traveling on business. This applies in particular to domestic travel.

Information on [sustainable business trips](#) is available to H-BRS employees on the intranet.

## Vernues

For the organization of on-site events and conferences, the University of Bonn is keen to choose venues that are as central as possible and have good connections to the high-speed train network and public transport, to offer [event tickets for public transport](#), and to enable hybrid participation, including via video feed.



# Sustainable Event Management

When planning and organizing events, it is also important to consider a number of aspects for the sustainable execution of events. Here are suggestions and recommendations for sustainable event planning; these include catering, advertising, communication and merchandise.

## Guidelines

The University of Bonn provides various recommendations and checklists for sustainable event management in the [Guidelines on Sustainability in International Cooperation](#). They include the following aspects:

### Advertising, Communication & Documents

At the University of Bonn, conference programs and documents are offered and distributed electronically.

BICC promotes events in a completely paperless manner, e.g. via social media and the website, where event programs are available for download in PDF format.

### Food & Catering

A [checklist \(p. 15\)](#) with recommendations from the University of Bonn for a sustainable catering concept primarily lists regional, seasonal and vegetarian dishes with products from organic farming. Furthermore, these should be served with reusable dishes and cutlery wherever possible. In addition, the catering should be tailored to the target group of the event to avoid food leftovers. If leftovers are nevertheless left over, these should be taken home in lunch boxes.

BICC uses only vegetarian menus for event catering.

## Gifts & Merchandise

For guest gifts, emphasis is placed on environmental and social compatibility in delivery and production. Flowers should come exclusively from fair trade and /or be seasonal and transported in an environmentally friendly manner.

The University of Bonn's [merchandise](#) also follows a sustainability strategy. For example, merchandise such as clothing, mugs and office supplies are produced by the Cologne-based agency [WE ARE CAMPUS](#), which is committed to upholding social and environmental standards in all areas of production. The agency works exclusively with sustainably certified production facilities. The agency works exclusively with sustainably certified production facilities. In online mail order, the agency relies on climate-neutral shipping and recycled packaging materials.



# Sustainability in the Workplace

Especially in our daily work and workplace, we have a number of opportunities for the implementation of sustainable practices, e.g. in regard to food, everyday work life and office life, university and campus life, and energy use.



## Food

The University of Bonn has already implemented several measures to protect the environment and the climate, such as the project "[Sustainable nutrition in everyday study](#)", which promotes a low-waste and climate-friendly diet. At the university's coffee vending machines and the student union cafés, coffee-to-go is now only offered with [reusable cups from the LogiCUP deposit system](#) in order to minimize unnecessary waste.

At H-BRS, too, there are no longer any disposable cups for coffee-to-go, but instead the [LogiCup](#) and [CupforCup](#) reusable and deposit cup systems.

As part of the project "[Neis – Nachhaltige Ernährung im Studienalltag](#)" ([Sustainable nutrition in everyday student life](#)), the H-BRS offers various activities such as competitions and food workshops, but also supports student initiatives such as the establishment of a campus garden and the founding of FoodCoops.

## Everyday Work and Office Life

The [Guidelines on Sustainability in International Cooperation](#) of the University of Bonn include a checklist with recommendations for sustainable everyday work and office life:

Documents should be filed digitally. If it is necessary to print documents, then environmental paper and double-sided printing should be used. In addition, electrical devices should be set to power-saving mode during longer breaks and switched off when leaving the office.

As part of the sustainability strategy, recycled paper is used in everyday office life at BICC and double-sided printing is selected in the settings on all printing devices to encourage a more resource-conserving way of working.

## University and Campus Life

To minimize cigarette waste, H-BRS has been a [smoke-free university](#) since 2018 and offers so-called "[Ballot Bins](#)" in the smoking areas, which are ashtrays with a voting function to encourage students to dispose of their cigarette butts in this environmentally friendly way. The collected contents are passed on to a recycling agency.

As part of the "[Sustainable University](#)" project, H-BRS is committed to making university life more environmentally and socially conscious, for example by using photovoltaic panels, collecting rainwater, and installing [bird guards on glass facades](#).

Furthermore, H-BRS offers a [consultation hour on sustainability](#), which informs students about sustainability topics, helps in getting familiar with the topic, but also with projects such as term papers and theses, and assists in arranging internships.

## Energy Use

The University of Bonn switched its power supply to [100% green electricity](#) in 2019. In winter, it is recommended not to heat above 20° C and to ventilate in surges. In summer, the recommendation is not to cool more than 6 degrees below the outside temperature.

At H-BRS, conventional air conditioning is not used in lecture halls. Instead, the supply air is pre-cooled in summer by means of an evaporative cooling system through an [underground duct](#) and pre-heated in winter by means of a ventilation heat recovery system.

The UN is committed to becoming the [first climate-neutral public organization](#). To meet this goal, for example, the ["Cool UNU"](#) campaign takes place every summer: Air conditioners are set at 28° C and the wearing of breezier business casual clothes is recommended to save energy.





# Institutional Sustainability Strategy

An institutional sustainability strategy describes a sustainability-related mission statement that an institution sets for itself and pursues. Such a strategy can range from obtaining a Fairtrade label by fulfilling the criteria to institution-wide measures. Here we have collected everything from multidimensional sustainability concepts to practical examples.

## Sustainability Concepts

With the multidimensional concept "[Sustainable University](#)", H-BRS aims to implement environmental and social consciousness into procurement, mobility and university life. In putting this into practice, it is supported by a working group of the [International Center for Sustainable Development \(IZNE\)](#). For example, IZNE offers a [sustainability certificate](#) and a [sustainability prize](#) of 1000€ as an incentive for implementing sustainability practices.

In the course of its "Sustainability Strategy 2030", the University of Bonn commits itself to [sustainability in teaching](#) and explicitly names this [guiding principle as a teaching maxim](#).

The UNU-EHS is pursuing a "[Four goals](#)" campaign, the first of which is to make labor practices more environmentally sound, for example by promoting green procurement, compliance with environmental laws, and reducing waste and energy consumption. The second goal is to improve workplace quality, which includes, for example, monitoring air and water quality, health issues, and workplace safety. The third goal is to contribute to global society through research projects and capacity building initiatives. The fourth goal is to contribute positively to the community at the local level through events and activities.

The United Nations University (UNU) follows what is known as the [ISO 14001 standard](#), which sets out the requirements for an [environmental and sustainability management system](#) for organizations and contributes to SDGs 1-15.

## Structural Implementation

Since May 2019, there has been a [Green Office](#) at H-BRS, which is a contact point for students and university employees for queries and engagement on the topic of "environmentally conscious university".

Since October 2021, the University of Bonn also has a [Green Office](#) as a central point of contact for the topic of sustainability and to promote exchange between students, faculty and other employees of the university.

The year before, the university successfully established a new [Vice Rectorate for Sustainability](#), which comprehensively supports the implementation of the sustainability strategy in research, teaching and operations. For example, it offers a "[Sustainability idea mailbox and funding pot](#)" for collecting ideas and suggestions for implementing and establishing sustainability projects.



## Memberships and Networks

The University of Bonn and the Green Office of the H-BRS support the participatory process support [Bonn-4Future](#) and are part of the [interactive sustainability map](#).

DIE, H-BRS, and the University of Bonn with ZEF are also partners in the [Bonn Sustainability Portal](#), an online platform that maps everything to do with sustainability in Bonn.

## Fairtrade-University Label

As a [Fairtrade University](#), H-BRS pays attention to promoting fair trade and conscious consumption and, as part of this, uses fair trade products in the catering on campus and at meetings and official university events.

The University of Bonn is also a [Fairtrade University](#) and makes sure to offer fair trade coffee, tea as well as fair trade chocolate in the premises of the Studierendenwerk and when hosting committee meetings of the university.

## Activities

To promote a culture of sustainability at the University of Bonn, the Vice Rectorate and the Sustainability Office offer sustainable [quarterly campaign months](#). For example, in the [Sustainable September](#) campaign in 2021, activities such as upcycling workshops, Rhine Clean-Ups, fair goal wall shooting, and the distribution of free potatoes, apples (Wiesengut), and rescued food took place. During [Sustainable November](#) 2021, the university offered a cell phone recycling drive and a vegan [Healthy Campus Meal](#) in the Campo cafeteria, among other events. For [Fair February](#) 2022, the university organized an online cooking workshop, a "Sustainability-to-Go!" city walk, and a digital flea market and more. Activities planned for [Mighty May](#) 2022 include the first University-wide Sustainability Day.

In 2022, the University of Bonn launched the [Bonn Program for Sustainable Transformation \(BOOST\)](#) to bundle projects for the implementation of the mission statement "WE for Sustainability".

The Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) regularly hosts events on sustainability-related days of action (e.g., World Environment Day), such as the [Rhine Clean-Up](#), in which alumni and students team up for a trash collection drive.



# Sustainable Procurement

Environmentally friendly purchasing decisions have an influence on the market. Therefore, sustainability efforts in the procurement of products and services are an important component of sustainability practices in the partner institutions of the Bonn Alliance.

## Climate Neutrality and environmental Consciousness

BICC's procurement practice is to include sustainability considerations into the selection process of services and products.

UNU-EHS follows [sustainable procurement practices](#) in which it commits to green procurement of services and goods from carbon-neutral vendors or vendors that specialize in environmentally friendly materials.

## Science-based Consulting

As part of the research project "[Impulses for Socially Responsible Public Procurement by Municipalities in Global Value Chains \(ISOPP\)](#)", DIE offers practical recommendations for implementing sustainable procurement practices in the public sector. The aim is to promote socially responsible public procurement practices.



## Eco-Label

The [Guidelines on Sustainability in International Co-operation](#) of the University of Bonn contain recommendations on sustainability in procurement. When procuring, it is recommended to use products and services that fulfill the "[Blue Angel](#)" eco-label or the [European Eco-label](#) and, when ordering office supplies, to order those with "eco-filters", ideally directly from eco-suppliers.



## Imprint

University of Bonn  
Head Office of the  
Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research  
Genscherallee 3  
D-53113 Bonn

[www.bonnalliance-icb.de/en](http://www.bonnalliance-icb.de/en)  
[www.twitter.com/bonnalliance](https://www.twitter.com/bonnalliance)  
[www.facebook.com/bonnalliance](https://www.facebook.com/bonnalliance)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/bonn-allianceicb](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bonn-allianceicb)  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCTp1k5z9P-Qom8ShwBjsFng](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTp1k5z9P-Qom8ShwBjsFng)

### Editors

Roza Helin Dere, Una Kliemann, Dr. Sandra Gilgan

### Photocredits Frontpage (f.l.t.r.)

Photo by Jonathan Kemper on Unsplash

Photo by Maya Schwarzer on Unsplash

Photo by Nick Page on Unsplash

### Photocredits

(in the order of their appearance)

Photo 1: Photo by Jonas Junk on Unsplash

Photo2: Photo by Henry Guan on Unsplash

Photo 3: Photo by Tim Russmann on Unsplash

Photo 4: Photo by Maya Schwarzer on Unsplash

Photo 5: Bonn Alliance / B. Frommann

Photo 6: Studierendenwerk Bonn / Michael Meinhard

Photo 7: Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

Photo 8: Photo by Jonathan Kemper on Unsplash

Photo 9: Bonn Alliance / Una Kliemann

Photo 10: Photo by John Cameron on Unsplash

Photo 11: Photo by Edward Howell on Unsplash

Photo 12: Photo by Nick Page on Unsplash

Published in May 2022

