

CARE SOSTENIBILE SUSTAINABLE NEWS FROM 2015

Sustainability for
a bright
future!

*"Of course I am interested in
the future. Eventually I want to
spend the rest of my life there."*

Mark Twain

Considerations of sustainability have been a guiding principle for political, economic, and ecological action for many years. One of the most commonly accepted definitions of sustainability comes from the **1987 United Nations Brundtland report**, which states:

„Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable - to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.“

For CARE Austria, sustainability in our development cooperation projects and humanitarian assistance is a requirement donors also insist on. The Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy states that:

Our main goals are reducing poverty and promoting human rights, the rule of law, and democracy; securing peace, protecting the environment and gender equality, and providing effective support for education, and strengthening inclusive and sustainable economic development.

The **“2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** expands upon the 2000-2015 United Nations Millen-

nium Development Goals to include considerations of sustainability – respecting the three pillars of social, environmental, and economic sustainability in equal measure – and the principal of universality.

In keeping with the above goals that apply to our development cooperation, we aim to work sustainably within **CARE Austria**. We use the **ISO 26000 guidelines** as a benchmark, as they are compatible both with United Nations and International Labour Organization guidelines.



care®

70 Jahre CARE-Paket
Hilfe – damals wie heute



An important first step in our sustainability efforts was finalizing the “three into one” process: the “psychological stress at the work place” and “knowledge management” working groups were successfully integrated in the Los Sostenibles (Spanish: the sustainables) Team. The newly founded sustainability team, which includes team members from all departments (Program Development, Program Emergency Assistance, Finance, Marketing, Communication, and the Works Council) got right to work with our pro-bono

consultant **Alexandra Adler (Weitsicht – Office for Future-Oriented Economy)**. In line with CARE Austria’s social responsibility development strategy, we focused on the three pillars of social development: **economy, ecology, and social issues.**

Several issues related to ISO 26000 that emerged in the course of two employee meetings and at regular Los Sostenibles meetings (every three months) are presented in the following.



Bi-weekly obligatory **Stand Up Meetings** were established, during which **Department Heads and the Management** inform employees about current topics (new project proposals, fundraising results, upcoming events, developments at CARE International, etc.). The meetings take place in the office lobby and last no longer than twenty-five minutes.

Four out of five departments introduced themselves and their work in (staff organized) **All Staff Breakfast Meetings**. In addition to gaining insight into colleagues’ work, employees feasted on (mostly) organic treats and (as always, fair-trade) organic coffee and tea.

An informal coffee break from 15.00-15.30 with organic fair-trade espresso was established to encourage lively **professional exchange**.

Since the beginning of the year, new employees may choose a mentor to help decipher and discover the somewhat complex CARE world.

All employees had the opportunity to fill out a very detailed, anonymous “Management Feedback”

questionnaire, the results of which were discussed in individual departments.

A representative of the public accident insurance institution (AUVA) optimized employee work spaces (screen height, correct seating position, etc.).

Since autumn 2015, a box of seasonal organic fruit has been delivered to the office at the beginning of every week for all employees to enjoy. Protected bike racks are available in the garage.

Questions regarding **advancement opportunities and employee further education** that arose out of employee workshops were discussed by Department Heads and their teams. Ideas, suggestions, and resulting offers made by the Management were recorded in the (mandatory) employee orientation meetings. Employees from the Program, Marketing, and Communications departments were either sent on foreign assignment or to (inter) national further education and skill-sharing workshops. Additionally, employees attended a series of lectures and conferences presented by the umbrella organization Global Responsibility in Vienna and its surroundings.

Economy

Organizational
leadership and
human rights

Since the beginning of 2015, a **suggestion/ idea/ complaint box** has been placed next to the entrance. In several constructive meetings attended by Department Heads and representatives of the Works Council, a clear policy for employing Interns was developed, according to which only interns put forth by the Public Employment Service (AMS) or those taking part in compulsory practical training will be employed.

As an organization committed to human rights, we comply with the CARE Gender Policy. **Gender Trainings have been developed for new employees.**

CARE Austria also sees **accountability to donors** as part of its sustainability efforts as a humanitarian organization. CARE Austria commits to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid outlined by the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Prevention Office (ECHO).

It states that:
Speed and quality are both of crucial importance for the effective provision of humanitarian assistance.

As donors, we are responsible for ensuring that the assistance provided is always the best possible option, and that it is suitable for the goal to be achieved. Therefore, in providing humanitarian aid, a set of internationally accepted standards and policies shall be adhered to. Such standards and policies were stipulated in the code of conduct developed by the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief, and adopted in the "Humanitarian Charter". The Sphere Project has prescribed widely recognized general and sector-specific minimum standards for disaster relief. These principles for aid provision correlate to the internationally accepted OECD-DAC criteria for the evaluation of humanitarian aid.

CARE Austria has developed a strategy and a **corresponding budget plan** dedicated to long-term, sustainable development and prioritization. The budget is set for a period of five years and will be adjusted yearly.



CARE Austria has been compensating flights with climate projects for years.

In 2015, 127 t of CO₂ were invested in projects with a value of EUR 3,379. A CARE Climate Policy aimed at improving our climate balance is being developed and should go into effect in autumn 2016.



All printed materials are green certified and the majority (annual report, of which 22,000 copies are printed) are produced using cradle to cradle design – the most ecological method available.



We made the **change to green energy** in 2010. All work spaces are equipped with toggle switches, and all of our cleaning materials comply with the highest ecological standards. CARE Austria received the **Eco-Bonus Waste Management Certification** in 2013.

Ecology

Environment

Carbon offsetting with atmosfair - dealing with CO₂ emissions that can't be avoided or reduced

CO ₂ offsetting costs for your travel sectors		
	CO ₂ emissions [in t, RFI + 2.7]	Offsetting costs in EUR ¹
Flight	147	3,379

atmosfair offset project examples



Biogas from cow dung (Kenya):
The project supplies small biogas units to dairy farmers which produce regenerative biogas.



Efficient fuel wood stoves (Nigeria):
The efficient stoves save about 80% of energy and help to reduce deforestation and indoor air pollution.

Why offsetting?

Offsetting is an essential part of a comprehensive carbon strategy that aims at reducing your company's climate impact. It is an effective way to deal with those emissions that can't be avoided or further reduced through other measures. As a flexible instrument that is always available, offsetting minimises uncertainties within your carbon strategy and supports your organisation in reaching your self-set emission reduction targets. Furthermore, offsetting is a highly visible climate protection measure that can easily be communicated not only to your employees, customers and rating agencies but to all your stakeholders.

atmosfair - award winning offset projects

We offer the compensation of your CO₂ emissions from business travel via atmospheric projects by installing renewable energies in developing countries. All projects are UN-certified and additionally comply with the Gold Standard. Since 2005 atmosfair has been ranked the No. 1 quality offset provider in international comparative studies eight times. The assessed criteria were the quality of the offsetting project and organisational as well as financial transparency.

¹atmosfair is a non-profit organisation. You receive a tax-deductible donation receipt for offset payments to atmosfair (valid at a German tax office).



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



The Gold Standard
Premium quality carbon credits

Reporting period: 01.01.2015 - 31.12.2015

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Report in compliance with VDR CO₂-reporting standard



Social Issues

Employees at our Vienna office and other CARE members were identified as stakeholders. Project partners, political and religious dignitaries in project countries, institutional donors, companies, and private donors all play an important role in ensuring the success of CARE's work, and thus for project beneficiaries.

Our most recent survey of 1,800 donors brought interesting results. 51% of respondents feel very well, 46% well and only 3% moderately well

informed about our work. Based (among other things) on feedback from donors, we are working to reduce unsustainable incentives in donor mailings.

The CARE-Symposium **"Climate change here and there. Who cares?!"**, held in November 2015, fulfilled the strict criteria of a Green Meeting and raised awareness for climate issues.

Domestic refugee support is not part of CARE Austria's "core business", but we launched a CARE package gift certificate campaign to support hundreds of unaccompanied minor refugees in Austria – and will do so again in 2016/17 (learn more on page 16!).

SHORT & SIMPLE SPENDENAUSLÖSER	
Katastrophen & Notsituationen, Medienberichte und Briefe sind Auslöser für SpenderInnen.	
♥	83% befürworten den Einsatz für syrische Flüchtlingskinder in Österreich.
💡	12% haben Interesse an Informationsveranstaltungen von und für CARE.
♥	CARE SPENDERINNEN spenden vor allem aus Solidarität mit Armen und Schwachen.
💡	65% der CARE SPENDERINNEN wissen, dass sie CARE im Testament berücksichtigen können.

skyunlimited

Survey among Private Donors

Symposium
„Klimawandel hier und dort! Who cares?“
26. November 2015
Fachhochschule Vorarlberg, Dornbirn

FH Vorarlberg
care
Das CARE-Paket
für Ihre Spenden

Invitation for our Symposium „Climate Change here and there! Who cares?“

GOALS FOR 2016

CARE Austria plans to become climate neutral in 2016! We are busy collecting all of the required data. At the time of publication, our office furniture has been moved so that climate-friendly linoleum flooring can be installed to replace our decades-old carpet. We have already remodeled, and all concerned employees were involved in optimizing our office space.

Since we don't have a fully air-conditioned office, we're hoping for a mild summer. We wish the same to you and are looking forward to your feedback to our sustainable news.

Los Sostenibles

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