

Sustainability and EMAS verification of COP 23

To achieve the overall goal of climate neutrality, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated in connection with the conference will be reduced to the extent possible. It is planned to offset unavoidable emissions (such as those associated with travel, which is responsible for the lion's share of the overall footprint).

The following aspects will be considered in the organization of COP 23 as a sustainable event, in close cooperation between the Government of Germany, the City of Bonn, the secretariat and other stakeholders:

1. **Venue management and operations:** Among other things, this includes the sustainable management of resources such as **energy, waste and water**, the use of reusable materials for temporary structures and a shipment allowance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Catering:** Apart from a focus on **low-carbon**, seasonal, regional, organic, fair trade, free-range food and sustainable fishing, and conscious of the obligation for organizational aspects of UN Climate Change Conferences to support the objectives of the Convention and to reduce the carbon footprint of COP 23, it is planned to serve a higher share of vegetarian and vegan food than at past UNFCCC sessions.
3. **Accommodation and transportation:** This area covers highlighting eco-certified hotels, use of the existing public transportation network (complemented by shuttles running on renewable energy) and bicycles (depending on the weather).
4. **Virtual participation and paper reduction:** This includes video transmission of meetings and speakers, digital communications, the sustainable organization of side events and exhibits as well as UNFCCC's paper reduction recommendations.
5. **Sourcing and procurement:** Apart from the underlying principle of green sourcing and procurement, this initiative aims at strengthening the commitment of providers and third parties to adhere to sustainable and ethical practices, such as through the [UN Supplier Code of Conduct](#).
6. **Measuring and reporting:** To evaluate the performance of the conference, key indicators such as energy, water, waste and emissions will be measured and the footprint of the conference reported.
7. **Offsetting of unavoidable emissions:** To offset unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions, it is planned to purchase CER credits from CDM projects in small island developing States. In estimating travel emissions, a "safety factor" of 3 will be applied to account for non-CO2 effects and contribute further to climate action in developing countries.
8. **Climate Neutral Now:** For emissions not covered by the previous focus area, UNFCCC's [Climate Neutral Now initiative](#) offers organizations, companies and individuals (including conference participants) the possibility to offset their unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing certified emission reduction (CER) credits through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
9. **Communications and stakeholder management:** This includes proactive communication with key stakeholders, including public advocacy and outreach to civil society.
10. **Following the successful certification of the sustainability management systems of COP 21 and COP 22** under the [ISO 20121 standard](#), it was decided to have the environmental performance of COP 23 verified and then registered under EMAS ([Eco-Management and Audit Scheme](#)), an environmental management system based on an EU regulation. As EMAS builds on and covers the requirements of the [ISO 14001](#) standard for environmental management systems, the COP will also be certified under that standard.