

Volt's Internal Environmental Policy

As a movement that places great emphasis on the protection of the environment, Volt Europa and its member associations have a duty to minimise their environmental impact in all their activities.

I. Political Campaigning

A. Vision

Volt Europa and its member associations will campaign for elections. Since election campaigning can have a negative impact on the environment, Volt Europa and its member associations strive to limit the impact on the environment whilst conducting its campaigns.

B. In Practice

- Make use of recycled paper for any leaflet or poster produced by Volt. On the bottom of the poster/leaflet, the following text shall be written: "Printed on recycled paper."
- Avoid the handing out of plastic gifts to voters, such as bios

II. Travels

A. Vision

Due to the pan-European nature of the movement, travelling is a necessary for the members of Volt Europa and its member associations. Whenever travelling, Volt members must do so with full consideration of the environment.

B. In Practice

When possible and reasonable, and when travelling for Volt activities or needs, members should:

- make use of trains, coaches and busses, while refraining from using cars (unless green) and air transport;
- aim to offset the carbon dioxide produced as a result of their journey when using air transport or cars. This can be done by means of climate compensation through environmental organisations, such as Climatecare;¹
- use e-tickets with scannable barcodes or QR codes downloadable to a smartphone for transport, to avoid needlessly printing paper.
- stay at other members homes instead of hostels/hotels. Indeed, wasteful hotel practices and oblivious guests are harmful to the environment,² or
- choose hostels or hotels that demonstrate environmental commitment (when financially feasible). Climate compensation for hotel/hostel stays are also available.³

III. Events

A. Vision

The hosting of events is an inherent part of the work of Volt Europa and its member associations. The environmental impact before and during the events should be kept minimal. Therefore, the venues should be chosen and the event should be planned accordingly. All attendees should be encouraged to act with respect towards the environment.

B. In Practice

When possible and reasonable, members should:

- separate the waste and recycling are a must during the events.
- avoid any unnecessary packaging when purchasing any food or drinks for attendees e.g. fresh croissants instead of individually packed, reusable water bottles instead of plastic bottles etc.

¹ The following website can be used to offset your emissions: <https://climatecare.org/calculator/>

² Hotels produce 60 million tons of CO₂ per year and use 219 billion gallons of water per year. See Eco Traveller, The Environmental Impact of Hotels: The Future is Green, available at <http://www.ecotravellerguide.com/2012/06/environmental-impact-hotels-future-green-infographic/>

³ The following website can be used to offset your emissions: <https://climatecare.org/calculator/>

- encourage all attendees to limit their impact on the environment by turning of lights and electronics when they are not needed and removing plugs from sockets when the equipment is not needed/charging.
- avoid plastics and paper (e.g. in the form of cutlery and plates).
- Encourage attendees in advance to bring water bottles, coffee mugs and thermos flasks to avoid the need for disposable items. If Volt offers coffee mugs, ensure that they are reusable, or if there is no alternative, environmentally marked disposable paper mugs should be chosen.
- Print agendas and other documents only if considered essential for the functioning of the event.

IV. Other Purchases

A. Vision

Volt Europa and its member associations aim to ensure that all purchases that are made are done so with consideration for the environment.

B. In Practice

- The most sustainable products should be purchased, ideally from European producers to reduce emissions through transport or third countries when the product is a “fair-trade” product.
- Disposable goods are to be avoided.
- Exaggerated consumption is to be avoided.