



**GREEN POLICY
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LATVIA**

The ability of the present and future generations to live in a favourable environment depends on everyone's willingness to contribute to sustainable development. Positive action to prevent harm can and should be implemented at both individual and institutional levels.

What is sustainable development?

Sustainability is one of the constitutional principles aimed at the protection of the objectives and values enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia.

Article 115 of the Constitution establishes the State's duty and confirms its commitment to protect everyone's right to live in a benevolent environment by providing information about environmental conditions and by promoting the preservation and improvement of the environment. The right to live in a benevolent environment protects a person's ability to live in an environment in which he or she can exercise his or her rights fully and in accordance with human dignity. Even more, the third sentence of the fifth paragraph of the Introduction to the Constitution states that each individual takes care of the environment and nature. Namely, the individual is bound to society, and therefore has duties towards it. This does not only mean refraining from activities that could harm the environment, but also requires a positive action needed to prevent harm. According to the precautionary principle, environmental protection is not limited to protection against imminent dangers and dealing with the consequences that have already occurred, but also includes taking proportionate and effective measures to prevent potential harm from occurring, or at least to reduce its impact.

Our resources are finite, and only by managing them now can we ensure their availability for future generations. Sustainable development is the integrated and balanced development of social well-being, the environment and the economy, which meets the current social and economic needs and ensures that environmental protection requirements are met without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their needs.

Why is it important for the Constitutional Court to be sustainable?

The Constitutional Court already complies with the external normative acts, which include requirements regarding the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources. For example, the principles and requirements set out in the Public Procurement Law and Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 353 as from 20 June 2017 „Requirements for Green Public Procurement and Procedure for their Application” are applied to public procurement.

In order to ensure sustainability on a practical level, other measures that do not directly result from external legislation are also to be taken in consideration, as everyone's participation and positive action in preventing environmental damage is important at both individual and institutional levels. At institutional level, this means identifying the key actions needed to achieve environmental sustainability and taking specific steps to achieve this goal. However, many of these measures have to be taken directly at the individual level, as they involve repetitive daily activities, the impact of which would be very difficult, if not impossible, to balance or eliminate at the institutional level. Even seemingly small everyday actions, such as separating waste or

reducing the font size of a printed document by one size, if done consistently, can help save the environment in the long run without creating a disproportionate burden on daily basis.

Directions for sustainable action by the Constitutional Court

The environmental policy is designed with sustainability in mind. Its aim is to outline the main directions of action required by the Constitutional Court to ensure environmental sustainability and to define the minimum actions to be taken in order to achieve this goal. Constitutional Court is committed to reduce the amount of the generated waste, including printed paper, and to recycle the rest of it as much as possible, to save resources and to promote other environmentally friendly individual behaviour.

Every employee of the Constitutional Court is invited to assess their current habits from the point of view of sustainable development and, where possible in accordance with the individual situation, to act in such a way that the negative impact on the environment is minimised as much as possible.

Sustainable actions

Activity
Printing and computer work*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on documents is to be carried out mainly electronically whenever possible. • Carefully consider the need to print each document. • For documents that need to be printed, choose the character size where possible "11" or "12"; line spacing of "1" to "1.3" and reduced page margin spacing. • Set automatic duplex printing in printer settings. If this is not possible, the documents shall be printed manually on both sides. • Before printing court representations, educational and other material, the practical necessity and the number of prints shall be assessed.
<i>* This Chapter does not apply to the final versions of pleadings or in other cases where this would not be consistent with the purpose of the document.</i>
Getting around
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sustainable travel to and from work. • Ensure the availability of a bicycle pump at the workplace and provide other assistance with bicycle maintenance, if necessary. • Where possible, in line with the Court's duty to ensure continuity of work, support flexible working, where possible allowing employees to travel to work at times other than rush hour.
Food chain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that disposable utensils and cutlery is not used at events as much as possible. Choose biodegradable utensils where necessary. • Where possible, in accordance with the provisions of the event label and epidemiological safety considerations, ensure that the drinking water required on the premises is bottled in carafes or reusable bottles • When organising events, consider the type and quantity of food needed to ensure that there are no leftovers and no excessive food waste.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When organising events, care should be taken to ensure that the menus selected include organic and seasonal products of local origin.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that menus at events include plant products wherever possible.
Working environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion-responsive lighting shall be installed in the corridors and stairwells of the Court.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When replacing an outdated light fixture, wherever possible, adjustable lighting shall be installed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, choose portable workstations over desktop computers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refill existing cartridges before purchasing new ones, as far as this is compatible with the sustainability of the printers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase LED bulbs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the need to switch on lighting and air conditioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the working day, make sure that electrical appliances that are no longer needed are switched off.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the working week or before the start of the remote working period, the radiator thermostat in the study room shall be set to "1" if no one will be working in the study room at that time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the dishwasher to save resources. For the dishwasher, environmentally friendly capsules.
Representation materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court's souvenirs and representation materials shall take into account, inter alia, the principles of sustainability and efficiency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When organising events, ensure that name cards, signs, logos and other materials are reusable or made from environmentally friendly materials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When purchasing representation materials, consider the quantity needed.
Purchase of goods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet of Ministers' Regulation as from 20 June 2017 "Requirements for Green Public Procurement and Procedure for their Application" shall also be taken into account in the purchase of other goods within or outside the procedure established by the Public Procurement Law, to the extent possible, taking into account the requirements of regulatory enactments and the principle of proportionality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asked to buy or provide an item, and before buying it, assess whether the item is really needed, in what quantity and whether alternatives can be found.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When choosing goods, suppliers and services shall take into account, as far as possible and in accordance with the individual characteristics of each good and its necessity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eco-labelling; • energy efficiency; • the amount and material of the packaging; • the environmental impact of the raw materials used in the product (e.g., buying recycled unbleached paper towels); • the environmental impact of using the product (e.g., by buying eco-friendly cleaning products and accessories); • the future of the product - recycling or a new use;

- the place of origin of the good, covering the distance over which the good is transported and the impact of the place of origin on the efficiency of the good's production;

whether suppliers care about the environment.

Waste management

- Participate in efforts to reduce overall waste as substantially as possible.

Avoiding waste

- Prefer to purchase goods, including treats, gifts and takeaway food, that are packaged in packaging that is as small as possible or as easy to recycle as possible.
- Ensure that office equipment and stationery that is still useful but no longer in use is available for use by other staff.

Waste sorting

- At work, waste is carefully sorted into the following containers, among others:
 - plastic, paper, metal;
 - glass.
- The Court documents are sorted separately.
- Waste sorting containers shall be placed in locations easily accessible to staff and the number and frequency of their removal shall be adapted to need. Information on where and what type of waste sorting containers can be found.
- Information shall be displayed on or near the containers, in as conspicuous manner as possible, indicating what waste may and may not be disposed in the container.
- Comply with the principles of waste separation and only dispose of waste in individual bins and household waste containers that cannot be separated in those containers.
- If necessary for the amount of waste produced, bio-sorting is also provided. In this case, a bio-waste container is placed in the kitchen. At the end of the working day, the cleaning staff takes the waste to the biodegradable garden waste container in the courtyard.
- Individual bins are collected regularly, but the bin bag is changed only if the cleaning staff or an employee identifies the need of doing so.
- Ensure that waste electrical goods, batteries and light bulbs are collected and recycled.

Evaluation

- Every six months, a staff survey on the implementation of the Environmental Policy evaluates the policies contained in this document and analyses the improvements needed.

Annex No. 1. Information material on eco-labels

	<p>European Union Eco-label. Covers cleaning products, hygiene products, paper products, furniture, electrical goods, among others. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/</p>
	<p>Forest <i>Stewardship</i> Council eco-label. Covers wood and its products, including paper, cardboard, furniture. Certifies that the wood raw material has been sourced from responsibly managed forests. https://ic.fsc.org/en</p>
	<p>Eco-label from the Programme <i>for the Endorsement</i> of Forest Certification Schemes. It certifies that the wood raw material has been harvested from forests managed according to sustainable development principles. http://www.pefc.lv/</p>
	<p>Eco-label of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Covers paper, cleaning products, packaging, furniture, electrical appliances, among others. Demonstrates that the impacts of the product are taken into account throughout its life cycle. https://blauer-engel.de</p>
	<p>TCO (Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees) eco-label. For mobile phones, office furniture and office equipment. This points to the longevity and recyclable design of IT equipment, for example. http://tcodevelopment.com</p>
	<p>ECOCERT Group Eco-label. Covers detergents and cleaning products. It aims to promote behaviour that shows respect for the environment and that available energy and natural resources (water, air, soil fertility) are managed in an environmentally friendly way. http://www.ecocert.com</p>
	<p>Nordic <i>Swan</i> Ecolabel from the Nordic Council of Ministers. Covers cleaning products, office paper, stationery, among others. Demonstrates that the product's development takes into account its impacts throughout its life cycle. http://nordic-ecolabel.org</p>
	<p><i>Rainforest Alliance</i> Eco-label. Covers coffee and tea, among others. It certifies that the products have been produced in an environmentally and human-friendly way. https://utz.org/</p>
	<p><i>Fairtrade International</i> eco-label. Covers coffee, tea, sugar, among others. Social and environmental criteria are taken into account, e.g., responsible treatment of water and waste. https://www.fairtrade.net/</p>
	<p>European Union label. For organic products. Certifies that products have been produced in a natural and sustainable way. https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming_en</p>
	<p>European Union Energy Label. https://www.label2020.lv/</p>

ESI ATBILDĪGS UN ŠĶIRO ATKRITUMUS PAREIZI!

Stikla pudeles →
Stikla burkas →



**PIRMS IZMET –
VIEGLI IZSKALO
AR ŪDENI!**

Dzērienu kartona
iepakojumu →
Plastmasas pudeles
un kārbas →
Maisiņi, plēves
u.c. plastmasas
iepakojumi →
Skārdenes, metāla
kārbas un vāciņus →
Papīra un kartona
iepakojumu →
Papīri →



**Iepakojumam jābūt sausam,
tīram, bez ēdienu atliekām.
Nemest putuplastu.
PIRMS IZMET –
SAPLACINI!**

Virtuves pārtikas →
atkritumi
Ēdienu atliekas →
Termiski
apstrādāti gaļas,
zivju produkti →
Dārza atkritumi →



**TIKAI BIO,
bez iepakojuma, nemest
sadzīves atkritumus,
šķidrumus un termiski
neapstrādātus gaļas un
zivju produktus!**



Lūgums, nemest šķīrotos atkritumus melnos, aizsietos maisos, jo tie tiek klasificēti kā sadzīves atkritumi un netiek šķīroti!



Šķīrotu atkritumu konteineros nedrīkst izmest dažādus sadzīves izstrādājumus, sadzīves atkritumus!