



Laudato Si' Community Project

CO2 reduction measures by EU Embassies to the Holy See



EU wide goals:

By 2030, to reduce
emissions by a minimum
of 55%;

By 2050, to reach
carbon neutrality,
"zero emissions".

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”



[Austria](#) [Belgium](#) [Bulgaria](#) [Croatia](#) [Cyprus](#) [Czechia](#) [Denmark](#) [Estonia](#) [Finland](#) [France](#) [Germany](#) [Greece](#) [Hungary](#) [Ireland](#)



Less plastic,
more differentiated
waste collection



Less cars,
more bikes, walks and
sustainable mobility



Less A/C,
more daylight,
natural ventilation
and attention to
consumption



EU



Less meat,
more fruit and
vegetables



Less pesticides,
more plant
organic herbs



Less printing,
more online
document sharing



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Embassy of the Republic of Austria to the Holy See

The Austrian Embassy to the Holy See is committed to raising awareness: to make the encyclopaedia visible, we use a sign with information and the words of St Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" at the entrance to the garden; we have adopted a completely organic way of looking after the garden, avoiding the use of pesticides to encourage a variety of species that find food and nectar in the garden; in fact, as part of a private initiative started in Austria, we have created a special lawn for bees in its garden.

The staff is committed to recycling and using refillable glass bottles instead of plastic ones, and the hot water is heated largely by solar energy.





Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Holy See

The Belgian embassy has several attentions: the staff pays attention to the separation of waste; we prefer the use of the bicycle to the car; we recycle paper and use only recycled paper; we do not use air conditioning; we use the thermostatic valve to control the heating system; we put attachments in "shared documents" instead of sending them as an attachment in emails.

In addition, the embassy, having space available, has planted 5 new trees in the last 2 years and is committed to using the water from the well for the swimming pool and irrigation of the garden.



Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Holy See

- The Bulgarian embassy to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta in Rome has taken several steps for CO2 reducing measures, reinforced since 2019. The staff is attentive to use less paper, to reuse single-sided paper, to share information electronically and produce primary electronic greeting cards and invitations. The embassy and residence have only LED bulbs. The staff pays attention to the separation of waste.
- We use as much as possible bicycles instead of the car and we prefer less A/C and more natural ventilation and daylight consumption.
- In addition our families feasts are mainly in ecological farms belonging to religious congregations in Rome with preference wherever there is also an inclusive program for refugees.



Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the Holy See

- In order to promote and to contribute to the environmental protection goals the Croatian Embassy to the Holy See pays a lot of attention to clean recycling, energy saving, and reduce paper consumption.
- In fact, it has installed recycling bins to collect and sort waste (paper, metal, plastic, glass, as well as CDs and rechargeable batteries) and has put up posters in offices to remind staff of importance of waste sorting in order to protect the environment.
- The entire staff is asked to reduce paper consumption by using written correspondence instead of printed materials, reusing single-printed papers as well as keeping the normal printer setting on double-sided printing mode.
- Also regarding energy saving, Embassy staff take care always to switch off electrical appliances when they are not in use, encourages use of energy-saving light bulbs, and try, when possible to purchase electrical appliances with a "Grade A" energy label.
- Also, whenever possible Embassy staff is trying to avoid unnecessary driving and use of cars and instead encourages walking, cycling or public transport.



Embassy of the Republic Cyprus to the Holy See

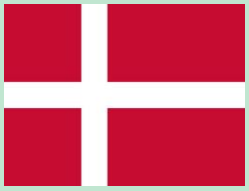
- The Embassy of Cyprus to the Holy See pays attention to reduced consumption and recycling of materials both at the Embassy and at the Residence: in fact, we use only LED light bulbs; we take care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights; single-use plastic has been eliminated; wherever it is possible we print double-sided; we use environmentally friendly cleaning products; we choose electrical appliances with “Grade A” energy label.
- The staff is encouraged to walk, cycle or take public transport.



Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Holy See

The Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Holy See pays a lot of attention to the reuse and proper disposal of used products: in fact, we have entrusted the removal of used toners to a certified ecological disposal company, just as used electrical appliances are disposed of ecologically. The team is sensitized to recycle rubbish, use only natural cleaning products in ecological packaging, do not use harmful air fresheners, prefer water in glass bottles and not plastic.

In addition, inside the embassy, there are only LED bulbs to be used only when necessary; it is customary to do double-sided printing so as not to overuse unnecessary paper; to walk when possible instead of driving a car; to exchange toys, children's clothes, crayons, etc.; and, finally, the embassy has installed water savers in the taps.



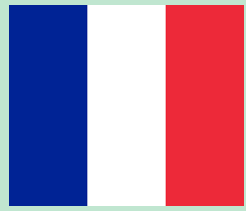
Embassy of Denmark to the Holy See

The Danish Embassy has made a sustainability plan with emphasis on paper, water, energy, hygiene products, waste handling, green and circular public procurement considerations and making space for bicycles. To give some concrete examples, we have started using a digital filing system called F2 – and if printing is necessary, PEFC-certified paper is used. We are trying to convince local authorities to make better space for parking our bikes (instead of cars) and we encourage employees to take the bike when possible. The cooling and heating systems are intelligently controlled and automatically turns off during the night. We no longer use plastic cups or cutlery during our meetings and have improved our waste handling system. When you buy something “new” for the Embassy, you will have to consider if it is green or if there is a greener alternative. Resource and energy efficiency is a priority in our housing policy.



Non resident mission of Estonia to the Holy See

Estonia does not have a physical embassy to the Holy See based in Rome, so we've decided to participate in the project at the Foreign Ministry in Tallinn and further reduce our ecological footprint. Our day-to-day operations are paperless, facilitated by the use of digital-ID for authentication and document signing. We follow strictly differentiated waste collection requirements and avoid the use of plastic bottles. Both the Ambassador and the counsellor actively participate in the global and local waste clean-up actions of the Let's Do It movement (born in Estonia in 2008). The counsellor drives less by private car, preferring to walk and use more public transport (which is free in Tallinn), mainly electric trains and trams. In addition we both have set a personal goal to avoid the use of elevators and to give preference to stairs even if it is necessary to ascend to the highest floors (the ministry building has 10 floors).



Ambassade de la République Française près le Saint-Siège

- **Locaux:** L'Ambassade de France près le Saint-Siège est très attentive à sa consommation: usage exclusif d'ampoules LED, élimination des imprimantes individuelles au profit d'une seule collective, invitations et courriers par voie électronique, rationalisation des déplacements des chauffeurs.
- **Consommation courante:** Utilisation systématique de bouteilles en verre pour les boissons et bannissement du plastique pour les réceptions. Fourniture essentiellement auprès de producteurs locaux.
- **Parc:** Disposant d'un parc de plus de 1 ha, elle concentre ses efforts sur celui-ci : non utilisation de pesticides, au profit de produits naturels (mise en place de nids de chauve-souris et de poissons dans nos fontaines, pour éradiquer les moustiques), consommation des produits du potager. Depuis 2020, installation de 4 ruches pour préserver l'écosystème avec une première récolte de miel à l'été 2021. Utilisation de l'eau du puits pour l'arrosage des jardins. La prochaine étape est la mise en place d'un bac à compost.





Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See

The German Embassy to the Holy See has bought an electric smart as the official car for travel. Most staff prefers to walk and/or use public transport to come to the office. Furthermore, the Embassy is now buying sustainable office supplies from a green firm. In the Residence, the food offered to guests is produced locally and when German products are used, the choice is preferably organic.





Embassy of the Hellenic Republic to the Holy See

The Greek Embassy to the Holy See makes rational use of electricity: before leaving the Embassy premises, we take care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights. Most of the light bulbs in the office are LED. As far as possible, staff avoid using cars and prefer walking. In addition, both the Residence and the Chancellery, as well as the entire staff, make important efforts to promote the recycling of used materials.



Embassy of Hungary to the Holy See

The Hungarian embassy pays special attention to the protection of the environment. In institutional procurements, we pay special attention to the environmental protection aspects. Selective waste collection and recycling is important to us. We prefer the train during our local and international trips. The renovation of the embassy was realized according to newest environmental standards. A modern insulation and heating system has been installed. We take special care for the embassy garden in an environmentally friendly way. For each new employee, we organize environmental education separately so that the embassy will protect its environment with the utmost awareness. We do not use plastic bottles, only redeemable bottles. All light sources are LED at the embassy. Our car fleet is modern and environmentally friendly. We try to use environmentally friendly cleaning products when cleaning the embassy. We are constantly looking for further ways to make the embassy more environmentally conscious.



Embassy of Ireland to the Holy See

The Irish Embassy to the Holy See uses a hybrid as its official car when necessary. In all other cases, we prefer to walk or cycle.

In addition, we are careful about our consumption: before leaving the Embassy premises, we take care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights. Most of the light bulbs in the office are LED. Single-use plastic has been eliminated from the office and official events, where food from plant sources is used for entertainment and, finally, environmentally friendly cleaning products are used.



Embassy of the Republic of Italy to the Holy See

- The Italian Embassy to the Holy See is committed to the adoption of energy saving measures as part of its constant focus on environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the Embassy has equipped Palazzo Borromeo and the Chancery offices of a heating system with thermostatic valves and an A/C system with internal thermostat for each room, along with a new internal and external LED lighting system that emphasizes the volumes and architectural lines while curbing energy consumption.
- The Embassy has adopted the use of a hybrid car for the Head of Mission.
- It also promotes numerous environmental awareness events, the last one being the meeting “Faith and Science: Towards CO26” organized with the Embassy of the United Kingdom to the Holy See together with the Holy See. Held in Rome on 4 October 2021, the event brought together prominent scientist and almost 40 faith leaders, representing the world’s major religions, who signed a joint Appeal to call on the international community to raise their ambition and step up their climate action ahead of COP26.





Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Holy See

The Lithuanian Embassy to the Holy See uses the car only for events taking place more than 3 kilometers away from the Embassy or the Residence of the Head of Mission. In all other cases we prefer to walk.

Moreover, we are very careful to limit our energy consumption: before leaving the Embassy premises, we take care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights.



Embassy of Luxembourg to the Holy See

- The Embassy of Luxembourg to the Holy See has implemented a series of actions aimed to contribute the respect for the environment. In particular, taking into consideration the government guidelines, we have launched a process focused on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and harmful gases through the exploitation of alternative energy sources such as photovoltaics or wind. In addition, to encourage coexistence with a healthy lifestyle in many green areas of Luxembourg but also within the diplomatic headquarters, plants have been inserted which, as we know, are real natural lungs.
- The Embassy has also initiated a process that involves the daily life of each individual. We are enhancing the use of objects with zero environmental impact or that derive directly from ecological and sustainable materials. In addition, the Embassy has decided to exploit zero-emission or hybrid vehicles that help to significantly reduce pollution.



Embassy of the Netherlands to the Holy See



- At the Embassy of The Netherlands to the Holy See we try to limit our energy consumption: before leaving the Embassy premises, we ensure to switch off all electronic devices, heating, air conditioning and lights. We use the printer only when necessary, and then double-sided, and we use LED bulbs. The same applies to the Residence, where gradually electrical equipment is being replaced by more energy-efficient appliances.
- When feasible, visits are made on foot.
- At the Residence, we use local produce (food, wine), serve more often vegetarian and vegan meals, and make efforts to avoid food waste and single use plastics. Waste separation and recycling are standard.
- We discuss options to make our behaviour 'greener' with colleagues from other (Dutch) Embassies, and are open to creative suggestions from others.
- For family reunification of expatriate staff one tries to find more energy friendly alternatives.



Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Holy See

The Polish Embassy to the Holy See is very focused on limiting consumption: before leaving the embassy premises, it takes care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights.

Moreover, it is committed to raising awareness of the issues and encourages its staff to take a walk rather than use the car.



Embassy of the Portugal to the Holy See

At the Portuguese Embassy we:

- separate garbage bins
- changed all electric bulbs into LED ones
- are processing the installation of solar panels
- have changed subscriptions of papers into digital ones
- share printers
- use only natural products in the garden
- use mainly glass bottles
- switch off computers and lights (except for security reasons in the garden) during the night and weekends
- consume vegetables, fruits and flowers from our garden
- the three members of our staff not resident inside the compound of Villa Lusa all use either train, tram, metro, walk or bicycle to commute

We keep committed to this type of approach and alert to improve it.



Embassy of Romania to the Holy See

The Romanian Embassy to the Holy See is very focused on limiting consumption: before leaving the embassy premises, we take care to switch off all electronic devices, as well as the heating, air conditioning and lights. For the latter, only LED bulbs are used.

Moreover, we are committed to raising awareness of the issues and encourage our staff to take a walk rather than use the car.





Embassy of Slovakia to the Holy See

The Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the Holy See pays a lot of attention to energy saving, environmental protection and is taking CO2 measures in a permanent way:

- The computers and air conditioning in the Embassy are switched off during the night and weekends,
- The Embassy uses ecological bulbs and, when putting the new ones, using the LED,
- Ambassador and some members of the staff are living in the premises of the Embassy, so they are not using a car to go to work,
- In the premises of the Embassy and Residence there are places for waste sorting: the waste is separated into different containers and collected through curbside collection of trash,
- Members of the Embassy are invited to reduce paper consumption and to avoid single-use plastic cups and other disposable cutlery in the office and instead of it use more nature-friendly materials.



Embassy of Slovenia to the Holy See

In the spirit of our slogan "*Green. Active. Healthy*", with which Slovenia promotes the awareness that everyone can do something useful for themselves and our Planet and as one of the greenest countries on the planet in 2019, our Embassy tries to be an exemplary student and teacher at the same time. We strive to become active guardians of our disappearing nature.

The Embassy encourages:

- recycling at the office, as well as at home;
- recycling of paper and reuse of paper, if possible;
- reduce use of cars and encourage use of bikes, walking or use public transportation;
- Embassy is equipped with LED bulbs and we reduce the use of electricity;
- use environmentally degradable bags or reuse the bags;
- encourage proper water management among others by careful planning the car washing;
- reduce the use of plastic to minimum also by offering our guests water in glasses;
- all our used electronic devices are disposed of ecologically;
- When we prepare the events we cooperate with companies who follow sustainable management and donate the rest of the safe food.



We are aware that much more can be done and, in the spirit of "Laudato si", we strive to make more efforts for the whole world to become "green, active and healthy" destination. We are aware that we have to start with ourselves first to become a vocal advocate of the common approach.





Embassy of Spain to the Holy See

- The Spanish Embassy to the Holy See is careful about recycling so it has installed recycling bins to collect waste and it has entrusted the removal of used toners to a certificated ecological disposal company.
- The Embassy pays a lot of attention to reduce consumption by the use of LED bulbs and taking care to switch off electrical appliances when they are not in use.
- To reduce electricity and paper waste, we have eliminated individual printers and have suggested to the staff to communicate by e-mails and to prefer electronic greeting cards and invitations.





Embassy of Sweden to the Holy See





EU Delegation to the Holy See

- As Delegations we report regularly in a standardised format on our environmental impact, in particular on energy and water consumption, as well as waste generation. Through measuring we know where we are making progress and where more efforts are necessary.
- In procurements by the Delegation, we include sustainability criteria. We have done so recently for the framework contract for new office supplies, ranging from pens to toilet paper.
- **Energy consumption** for heating, cooling and electrical devices probably represents the biggest share of the Delegation's environmental footprint. We aim at reducing this through:
 - Switching off all appliances (ICT, heating, air conditioning etc.) when leaving the office in the evening, as devices also use electricity when on standby, and in particular over weekends;
 - Use eco-friendly settings for devices, e.g. for printers the default settings could be double sided and black and white,
 - Procure the most energy efficient equipment (LED light bulbs, ICT).
- **Waste generation** provides another opportunity for achieving more sustainability. Measures include:
 - Further encourage waste separation and recycling, for instance by placing recycling bins more prominently.
 - Avoiding the use of single use plastic in the Delegation (e.g. plastic bottles, plates, cups, cutlery etc.);
 - Procure minimal waste stationery based on needs (e.g. reduce consumption, buy recycled, or compostable items);
- **Transport and mobility** are another area where we can make environmental gains.
 - Some staff members come to the office by bike regularly and walking is considered for small distances;
 - Consider the acquisition of an electric car, as soon as a new service vehicle is to be purchased.
- **For conferences and events** organised by the Delegation:
 - Order sustainable, low carbon (e.g. no or little meat, eggs, dairy, plant-based proteins etc.), organic catering;
 - Organise or participate in green events (e.g. VéloMai, Walking Challenge, #EU Global beach clean-up campaign);
 - Minimise the use of business gifts and procure if necessary eco-friendly ones.

The European External Action Service is aiming at obtaining the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme certification (EMAS) in the coming years , all EU Delegation contribute to this effort.





EU Delegation to the Holy See

Climate change is not just something abstract that our leaders will discuss in Glasgow or is approved in the EU Green Deal, it is also about the choices we make in our personal life or at the EU delegation. For instance, walk or take the bicycle instead of the car, buy sustainable office supplies, reduce food waste and eat more plant based, printing less or if necessary, use recycled paper, reduce electricity consumption by turning off the lights when leaving the office and changing to LED. The team at the EU delegation is committed to making this change.



