



# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter

*Guidance material*

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture  
Directorate C – Innovation, Digital Education and International Cooperation  
Unit C2 – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*E-mail: [EAC-MARIE-SKLODOWSKA-CURIE-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-MARIE-SKLODOWSKA-CURIE-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu)*

*European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels*

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021.  
© European Union, 2021

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented based on Commission Decision 2011/833/EU (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

# **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter**

## Guidance Material

This guidance document is aimed at assisting beneficiaries and researchers supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. It is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to replace the consultation of any applicable legal sources. The European Commission (or any person acting on its behalf) cannot be held responsible for the use made of this guidance document.

## Table of Contents

|      |                               |   |
|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.   | General guidelines.....       | 5 |
| 2.   | Institutional practices ..... | 7 |
| 2.1. | Green practices.....          | 7 |
| 2.2. | Travel Guidelines.....        | 8 |
| 2.3. | Sustainability Charters ..... | 8 |

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter<sup>1</sup> *Guidance Material*

The material referred to hereunder is a compilation of guidance documents and best practice examples prepared by the European Commission or external stakeholders and complements the measures outlined in the [MSCA Green Charter](#). The guidance material has been largely selected on the basis of input from experts on greening and sustainability in higher education institutions and systems. It is provided for information purposes only and the European Commission (or any person acting on its behalf) cannot be held responsible for the use made of this guidance document.

## 1. General guidelines

In order to reduce the environmental impact of their research project, MSCA beneficiaries and fellows are encouraged to:

- Implement the European Commission's guidelines for the **organisation of sustainable events**:

[European Commission guidelines on organising sustainable meetings and events \(2018\)](#)

This Guide is designed as a practical tool to help event planners maximise the positive environmental impacts and minimise the potential negative ones in the course of planning and delivering meetings and events. It has been produced for European Commission staff, but many of the ideas and approaches are equally relevant for any event planner. The Guide provides easy to use checklists to help assess the sustainability of venues, promotional material and catering, as well as the environmental friendliness of accommodation and transport, and provides practical advice on ways to reduce/reuse/recycle or share environmental awareness.

- Opt for **Ecolabel/EMAS hotels** while organising professional trips/conferences/events:

[The EU Ecolabel for Tourist Accommodation Catalogue](#)

Surf the EU Ecolabel Tourist Accommodation Catalogue to find out more information about environmentally friendly services and to locate an accommodation. Established in 1992 and recognised across Europe and worldwide, the EU Ecolabel is a label of environmental excellence that is awarded to products and services meeting high environmental standards throughout their life-cycle.

[www.bookdifferent.com](http://www.bookdifferent.com)

Bookdifferent.com is a social enterprise, committed to making travel – and the impact of the tourism industry – better. The website allows travellers to book hotels based on their carbon footprint and certifications.

---

<sup>1</sup> Version: 2, Date of release: 10 June 2021, update: 07 September 2021

## Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Register

The EMAS register is an online database hosted by the European Commission which lists all EMAS registered organisations and sites. Only those organisations and sites that have achieved EMAS registration are listed in the register, so you can feel confident that organisations found there are committed to improving their environmental performance.

- Register for the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS):

## Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) User's Guide

The EMAS User's Guide, developed in 2013, is a user-oriented tool which translates the EMAS Regulation into practical steps. The Guide provides clear and concrete advice for organisations interested in EMAS to facilitate and encourage their registration and make participation in EMAS as simple as possible.

## EMAS Implementation Tools

EMAS leads to improvements in management processes and environmental performance for all types of organisations. To help make the process of implementing EMAS even easier, especially for small and medium organisations, the EMAS Helpdesk has designed four pilot tools to assist with introducing EMAS.

- Obtain the international standard for environmental management:

## International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14000 family Environmental management

For companies and organizations of any type that require practical tools to manage their environmental responsibilities.

- Implement the European Commission's Green Public Procurement guidelines and toolboxes:

## Buying Green! - A Handbook on green public procurement

This Handbook is the European Commission's main guidance document to help public authorities buy goods and services with a lower environmental impact. It is also a useful reference for policy makers and companies responding to green tenders. The third edition of the Handbook includes a) guidance on how environmental considerations can be included at each stage of the procurement process; b) practical examples drawn from contracting authorities across EU Member States, and c) sector specific Green Public Procurement (GPP) approaches for buildings, food and catering services, road transport vehicles and energy-using products.

## Green Public Procurement (GPP) training toolkit Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria for 18 major product families

- Use the European Commission's Consumer Footprint Calculator

## Consumer Footprint Calculator

This Calculator allows EU citizens to calculate the environmental impacts of their consumption patterns and to evaluate how changes in their lifestyle may affect their personal footprint.

- Participate on a personal level in the **EU Climate Pact**:

[EU Climate Pact](#)

## 2. Institutional practices

### 2.1. Green practices

[Greener Mobility Best Practices by Movetia](#)

Compilation of greener mobility practises in higher education in Europe by Movetia, the Swiss agency for exchange and mobility. This guide addresses 3 categories of players: the policy level (how to design greener mobility and cooperation programmes), higher education institutions (how to implement greener mobility and cooperation programmes), and mobility grant beneficiaries (how to contribute as student or staff).

[Best Practice in Campus Sustainability – Examples from ISCN and GULF Schools \(2014\)](#)

This report by the International Campus Sustainability Network (ISCN), in collaboration with the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF), provides an overview of sustainability initiatives by leading universities and colleges, particularly programmes that seek to embed research and education into a “living laboratory” for sustainable development that includes the whole campus and its students, faculty and staff.

[Green Guide for Universities by the International Alliance of Research Universities \(2014\)](#)

This Guide presents key issues, recommendations and lessons learned by the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU), a network of research-intensive universities working together to address major global challenges. It addresses key areas for sustainability at universities, ranging from laboratory design to managerial and organisational aspects, and includes 23 inspiring cases.

[Green Team at Politecnico di Torino](#)

A dedicated team made up of professors, students, administrative staff and researchers that encourages the Politecnico di Torino in Italy to address environmental and social challenges. Have a look at their webpage to see what kind of activities they implement.

[Sustainability Office at KTH Stockholm](#)

KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm has set up a Sustainability Office to work with the integration of environment and sustainable development in education, research and collaboration, and is responsible for KTH's environmental management system and environmental issues surrounding the campus.

[The Little Book of Green Nudges \(UN Environment Programme\)](#)

The Little Book of Green Nudges is a quick guide to reducing your campus' environmental impact through behavioural change in the form of a concise and user-friendly publication. It summarises the evidence around what nudges work best while seeking to encourage more sustainable practices among students and staff across several behavioural categories. It also provides simple guidance on how to implement and evaluate behavioural interventions in a variety of contexts.

## 2.2. Travel Guidelines

### Travel Guidelines by the University Alliance for Sustainability (UAS)

Within the framework of the University Alliance for Sustainability (UAS), Freie Universität Berlin and its four strategic partner universities from Israel, China, Russia and Canada, implement travel guidelines to bring their mobility programmes in line with their sustainability commitment. These guidelines can be used to inform and inspire the wider academic sustainability community to take appropriate steps of their own.

### Travel Guidelines by Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)

These travel guidelines apply to all staff and guests associated with LUCSUS, with an eye to creating a working and learning environment in which environmental sustainability is prioritised. They can be used to inform LUCSUS teaching and inspire students to take corresponding steps of their own.

### Tyndall Travel Strategy

The Tyndall Travel Strategy was developed by researchers at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. It aims to help individual researchers and the Centre as a whole to reduce their emissions through time. It includes a code of conduct, and a system to monitor and justify travel emissions and to support individual commitments to reducing emissions.

### Sustainable Travel Policy by Ghent University

This Sustainable Travel Policy summarises different measures implemented by multiple departments at Ghent University in Belgium, such as choosing not to fly to cities easily reachable without an airplane, by compensating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and by adding an extra check-up when it comes to the value of faraway conferences.

### Sustainable Mobility and Transport Policy by Politecnico di Torino (PoliTO)

PoliTO in Italy promotes sustainable mobility from and to its university campuses and its five metropolitan poles by guaranteeing to all employees and users the availability of various transport modes. PoliTO is not only committed to propose new vehicles, services and systems, technologies, innovative ICT applications for urban mobility plans, but also to promote them in mobility management activities of Turin City Council.

### CO<sub>2</sub> offsetting by KU Leuven

As of the academic year 2020-2021, all staff members of KU Leuven (Belgium) who travel by air for work-related trips will be required to pay a CO<sub>2</sub> compensation. The money raised through these contributions, which were voluntary until now and amount to €40 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted, will be invested in KU Leuven's Climate Fund, which supports various sustainable initiatives.

## 2.3. Sustainability Charters

### Sustainable Campus Charter by ISCN (2018)

The Sustainable Campus Charter of the International Campus Sustainability Network (ISCN) reflects the guiding principles of the ISCN, that is, that organisations of research and higher education have a unique role to play in developing the technologies,



strategies, citizens, and leaders required for a more sustainable future. Signatories to the Charter commit to follow and support five calls to action.

### [Sustainability Charter for Further Education Colleges in London \(2017\)](#)

This Charter sets out the main sustainability themes taken from the environment policies set out in the London Plan (LP) – the Mayor’s spatial development plan for London. Colleges and their project partners should focus on these themes in developing their own sustainability plans and measures, linking to the curriculum where appropriate. The Charter includes some example sustainability measures and case studies for guidance.

### [Sustainability Charter of the University of Westminster](#)

General statement of intent of the University of Westminster’s commitment towards sustainable procurement practices and of the expectations they have of their suppliers.

### [Sustainability Commitments Charter of the University of Padova \(2018-2022\)](#)

This document defines the University of Padova’s sustainability commitments. It goes beyond environmental considerations and covers sustainable development more broadly, taking into account the United Nations Agenda 2030.

### [Code of Ethics of the University of Oviedo \(2020\)](#)

The Code of Ethics is directed at everyone within the University of Oviedo in Spain. Its aim is to guide their relationships as well as staff relationships with external organisations and companies that provide services or collaborate with the University of Oviedo. It encourages the inclusion of environmental and social sustainability clauses in all procurement procedures, and stipulates that research staff shall be free to run their projects and, as far as possible, within a context of environmental and social sustainability.

### [Climate Emergency Declaration of the Freie Universität Berlin \(2019\)](#)

Freie Universität Berlin declared a state of climate emergency in December 2019. The Executive Board of the university passed a resolution acknowledging the university’s responsibility for climate protection and formulating far-reaching goals. Among other things, the university aims to become climate neutral by 2025 and to anchor the topic of climate protection in the curricula of all subjects.

## **Green Charter and success stories**

Several researchers and beneficiaries supported by the MSCA have already successfully implemented some of the measures foreseen in the MSCA Green Charter. For an overview of these success stories consult the dedicated Green Charter’s webpage.

**For more information:** [https://ec.europa.eu/msca/green\\_charter](https://ec.europa.eu/msca/green_charter)



Publications Office  
of the European Union