

Travel Policy Rewilding Europe

Dated 19 April 2023

We know that the carbon footprint of travel is substantial and that staff travel contributes to increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As a foundation, we minimise, monitor, manage and mitigate our CO₂/GHG emissions. This policy focuses on decreasing our carbon footprint and provides guidelines for sustainable travel.

Carbon footprint can be defined as “the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organization, or community”.

OUR MOTTO: TRAIN BEFORE PLANE

We encourage our staff and partners to choose train travel as an alternative to flying wherever possible. Switching to rail can be the most important single thing an individual can do to cut their carbon footprint. The benefits of rail travel go beyond simply reducing your carbon footprint as CO₂ emitted into the upper atmosphere is thought to be two or three times as damaging to the environment than the same amount emitted at ground level.

GUIDELINES FOR AIR TRANSPORT

Regulations and guidelines for the use of planes for travel:

1. Always first assess if a virtual meeting or other digital option is possible instead of travelling.
2. If travelling is required, then first look for a ‘ground alternative’ for travel. Rewilding Europe collaborates with the carbon neutral travel agency Diversity Travel. Diversity Travel is in the process to offer rail options as an alternative to flying for a number of destinations.
3. Staff needs to consider air travel alternatives if a destination is within 8 hours by alternate transport options. Short flights emit more than double emissions than long flights because most of kerosene is spent getting the flight to cruise altitude.
4. If flying is the preferred option, staff is encouraged to select non-stop flights whenever possible, as these have a lower carbon footprint in comparison to multi-stop flights.
5. Staff is requested to book their flights with Diversity Travel (see separate guidelines). Diversity Travel provides Rewilding Europe with the CO₂ emissions for each journey.
6. Try to merge trips whenever possible, carrying out less but longer trips per year.

STAFF TRAVEL

- Staff should attempt to increase efficiency of their travels, trying to combine meetings if possible, in order to avoid traveling twice to the same place, or making two persons traveling to the same place.
- Coordinate event attendances to make sure that only the optimum number of colleagues is going.
- When booking a venue/event, look for a reachable destination, with the least travel time.
- Staff should avoid taking car services (like taxis and Ubers) if public transport is safe and reliable.
- Rewilding Europe has provided all its staff members with durable water bottles to avoid the usage of single use plastics on our travels.
- If car rental is necessary, please check with the car rental company if electrical or hybrid vehicles can be rented. Diversity Travel is in the process to offer car rental solutions as well.

Note: Due to lack of regulations and international taxing systems, flights are usually cheaper than trains. Rewilding Europe is taking this into account in its annual budget and funding proposals.