



Energie & Umwelt

Environmental Guidelines

PREAMBLE

Freie Universität Berlin is committed to its goal of becoming an internationally competitive research university on the global market. Direct functions of research excellence are high quality teaching and the promotion of young scientists. Research excellence is a necessary prerequisite for providing a high quality university education, whereby future-orientated research includes basic research aimed at further development of the various disciplines at the international level, as well as applied and contractual research aimed at finding a solution to societal and economic problems and challenges.

(Structural and developmental plans for Freie Universität Berlin, April 2004)

Today, the protection and preservation of our natural resources is generally accepted as being a societal challenge and, therefore, is an integral component of the above-quoted guideline concerning the future development of Freie Universität Berlin. The ecological requirements and options for sustainable development have played a fixed and ever-increasing role in research and teaching over the last few years. This commitment must also be reflected in terms of the environmental impact associated with our activities. This also applies to the students and employees of the various departments, centres and institutions, as well for central university administration, which is responsible for building management, purchasing, occupational health and safety, and other relevant tasks.

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Of course, the basis of our work involves complying with relevant laws, regulations, and official requirements. Furthermore, we also consider environmental management to be a process of continual optimisation,

- which aims to put climate protection high on the agenda: organising the use of electricity, warm water and other resources as rationally as possible and enforcing the use of renewable energies,
- to ensure responsible handling of hazardous materials,
- to document, investigate and minimise the use of resources, related costs, emissions and waste.

Overall, we are working towards the goal of consistently improving operational environmental protection.

OBSERVANCE OF ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA

We pay careful attention to ecological aspects in numerous tasks associated with building managements and obtaining raw materials, operating supplies and equipment. When making investment decisions, it is important that the most environmental friendly options are given priority – with consideration of economical feasibility.

STAFF TRAINING

Environmental protection should not be left in the hands of just a few specialists. Therefore, we motivate our employees to improve their environmental awareness through regular information days and training courses.

ACTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS

We regularly inform employees, students and interested members of the public about developments in operational environmental protection. We are always open to suggestions about how to improve our environmental services.

THE PRESIDENT

CHANCELLOR

BERLIN, 24 MAY 2011