



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ON THE WAY TO BECOMING A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTION



LEIBNIZ CENTRE FOR  
**AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE RESEARCH**  
(ZALF)

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

We, the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), conduct research on the ecologically, economically and socially sustainable agriculture - together with society. As a contribution to overcoming global challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation and resource scarcity, we develop and design crop systems, integrated in their landscape contexts, that combine food security with sustainability.

Our research addresses current scientific and social developments based on international and national strategies, such as the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the sustainability goals formulated therein. Conserving natural resources is a central component of our research and should not only be implemented but also exemplified.

On our way to become a climate-neutral research institution, we orientate our environmental policy along the following guidelines:

- To ensure that we treat the environment with respect and care, we are committed to complying with legal requirements and continuously improving ZALF's environmental performance.
- All environmental aspects of ZALF are systematically recorded by an environmental management system, which we continuously develop further.
- Environmental policy, environmental programme and implemented measures are actively and transparently communicated internally and externally.
- Active participation of all employees and interested external parties is encouraged.
- ZALF is actively committed to the protection and promotion of biological diversity on the institutes premises and the ZALF test sites.
- In our research projects, we pay particular attention to their sustainable implementation.
- The management of our premises and work processes are to become continuously more environmentally and ecologically sustainable.
- We want to use more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies and increase the share of renewable energies in electricity, heating and cooling. By aligning our research infrastructure accordingly, we aim to achieve efficient utilization of the technology.
- We want to increase the use of ecological materials, reduce waste and especially hazardous substances, increase their recycling rate, reduce the water consumption and waste water.
- Traffic-related emissions are to be reduced and attention paid to more ecological friendly means of transport. As far as possible, unavoidable emissions in the course of our research work are to be compensated.
- Ecological and social standards are taken into account in the procurement of materials, products and services.
- We want to define concrete requirements for the climate compatibility of ZALF events and reduce and compensate greenhouse gas emissions through targeted measures.
- When choosing contractual and cooperation partners as well as suppliers, the aspect of sustainability is to be used as a decisive criterion, when other criteria show equal suitability.

As a future-oriented research institution, we give great importance to environmental protection. The principles of our environmental policy were developed by ZALF's environmental team, consisting of representatives from science, Administration & Services, communication and works council. These were communicated to all employees in May 2019 following a decision by the Executive Board.

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