

Greening of Stockholm +50

Based on the UNEP UNFCCC Sustainable Event Checklist

(22 June 2022)

Stockholm +50 facts:

Nr of participants in person: 5000

Nr of countries participating in person: 155

Nr of online viewers for main sessions: 136 305

Estimated CO₂ emissions from air travel: 3,300 tonnes CO₂

Number of meals sold: 4022 (excluding coffee)

Average CO₂ emissions per meal: 0.512 kg CO₂eq

Estimated total CO₂ emissions from sold meals: 2058 kg CO₂eq

Electricity used by venue during the meeting: 21 MWh

0. Introduction

Like all large events, Stockholm+50 had an environmental impact. To reduce the environmental impact of the international meeting, the UNEP UNFCCC Sustainable Event Checklist has been used as a tool. The following report summarizes the efforts made. The aspects considered in the list are organizational management, climate action, air quality, community and social equality, waste management, energy management, water management, supply chain management and marketing and communication. The actors involved in organizing the event were UNEP, the UN secretariat, the Government of Sweden, and the venue Stockholmsmässan.

1. Organizational management

The main organizers of the event all have an environmental policy and plan with objectives and targets. UNEP and the UN secretariat are part of the UN system initiative "Greening the Blue" and respond to the UN System Strategy for Sustainability Management. Organizers have designated staff members for sustainability issues. UNEP and Stockholmsmässan provide environmental training for their staff. The organizers collaborated with the venue, which is ISO 20121 certified (Sustainable event management), and with hotels that have sustainability policies.

2. Climate action

As part of the commitments referred above, each of the organizers have their own environmental action plans, that includes climate, to reduce their emissions related to their operations, including events. In particular, the venue Stockholmsmässan purchases climate-neutral electricity, cooling, gas, and diesel. The venue's climate plan also focusses on energy and resource efficiency in line with the City of Stockholm's plan to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

The largest impact of Stockholm+50 with regard to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, was transportation to and from the event. CO₂ emissions from air travel has been calculated by UNEP and was estimated to 3,300 tonnes of CO₂. UN delegates and UN sponsored participants' travel will be offset as per usual practice in the UN system.

To reduce emissions from the local VIP transportation, vehicles that use renewable fuels were arranged. Additionally, the majority of Stockholmsmässan's internal logistic vehicles are electric.

3. Air quality

The venue is well located in terms of access by public transportation from the Stockholm city centre and the airport. The venue Stockholmsmässan provided participants with information about using public transportation when traveling to the venue. The Government of Sweden provided information about public transport of the logistics website belonging to the meeting and included information about public transport in the information sent to embassies. The venue's parking is equipped with charging stations for electric vehicles.

4. Community and social equality

The venue, Stockholmsmässan, is adapted to attendees with special needs, for example with mobility ramps. Furthermore, the venue offers its employees the opportunity to volunteer, and the venue's head of sustainability is part of the Swedish Association for Sustainable Business' mentorship program mentoring younger professionals. The venue supports its local community by making donations to sport clubs and organizations.

5. Waste management

The event reduced waste by renting furniture and decor, and by being a paperless event. Single-use plastics was avoided, and water refilling stations were available in the venue. Recycling opportunities were available in the venue and 98 percent of the venue's waste is recycled, or energy recovered by incineration to minimise waste sent to landfill. The Government of Sweden did not hand out any goodie bags, only an aluminium bottle for using tap water at the venue but also for continued use after the meeting.

6. Energy management

The venue Stockholmsmässan has an energy management plan. Examples of actions in the plan include automatic heating, cooling and ventilation system and the change to LED lighting. Stockholmsmässan uses climate-neutral electricity, cooling, gas, and diesel.

7. Water management

Stockholmsmässan has a water management plan including measures such as high-efficiency water fixtures (toilets, urinals, sinks, showers) in rooms, back of house, and public areas.

8. Supply chain management

To reduce the impacts from procurement, the venue only uses ISO 14001 (environmental management) certified cleaning and waste management services. Regarding food, all restaurants at Stockholmsmässan are [KRAV labelled](#)¹. Furthermore, the restaurants plan their menus to reduce food waste, eliminate single use products, carefully sort their waste, and strive to choose as much organically produced food as possible. The menus consisted of vegetarian options, fish or chicken, no beef was served. The meals offered during Stockholm +50 were especially climate adjusted and their carbon footprint was calculated by the company [Klimato](#). Average CO₂ emissions per meal was 0.512 kg CO₂eq and total CO₂ emissions from the meals sold during the meeting was 2058 kg CO₂eq.

9. Marketing and communication

The communications at the event were paperless and digital. UNEP and the UN secretariat are communicating progress on environmental performance yearly by the Greening the Blue report.

¹ KRAV labelled restaurants guarantee that at least 20% of the food is organically produced.