

Climate Economics Chair Eco-responsibility Charter

Environmental issues, particularly climate change and biodiversity loss, present our society with unprecedented challenges. The Climate Economics Chair (CEC), as a research institution, studies the economic issues related to the ecological transition. This commitment extends beyond theory and analysis. The CEC is dedicated to implementing daily practices aimed at reducing the environmental footprint generated by its research activities.

In the research world, many initiatives have already been launched to align academic practices with the emission reduction requirements necessary to limit global warming, in accordance with the Paris Agreement (e.g., Lab 1.5). These initiatives recognize that academic institutions must take their share of responsibility in this common struggle.

Indeed, the research sector, like any other sector, exerts environmental pressures on our ecosystem. Digital technology, the primary tool for economics researchers, accounts for 2.5% of greenhouse gas emissions in France, according to ADEME¹. User devices (e.g., smartphones and computers), data centers, and connection networks have the most significant impact on emissions in this sector. The organization of scientific events can sometimes require long-distance travel, and the means of transport used, particularly air travel, can be among the most polluting.

Finally, food is a source of pollution that must also be considered when organizing events with meals and during lunches taken at the workplace. In France, take-out food represents approximately 220,000 tons of single-use food packaging per year, compared to 719,000 tons for the entire fast-food sector (on-site consumption, take-out, and deliveries)². Vegetarian meals have an average carbon footprint of 0.5 kg of CO₂e compared to 1.6 kg of CO₂e for a chicken meal and 7 kg of CO₂e for a beef meal³.

Through this charter, the CEC aims to implement measures to combat these emission sources. In particular, this commitment is organized around four main axes: energy sobriety, food, waste management, and transportation. An CSR committee has been established to ensure compliance with the measures outlined below. The development of this charter aims to take concrete steps to transform daily practices and act as a model of sustainability for the academic community and society as a whole.

The Climate Economics Chair

¹ <https://infos.ademe.fr/magazine-avril-2022/faits-et-chiffres/numerique-quel-impact-environnemental/>

² https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/20230402_Make%20org%20Foundation_Emballages%20responsables_Guide%20VF.pdf

³ <https://impactco2.fr/repas>

CSR Committee

The Chair has a CSR Committee responsible for:

- Conducting an annual carbon footprint assessment of the Chair;
- Proposing updates to this charter based on the results of the carbon footprint assessment and scientific advancements;
- Ensuring compliance with this charter.

The Committee is composed of two members:

- A representative of the doctoral students on the Scientific Committee, responsible for reporting and validating all elements of the Charter with the Scientific Committee annually, especially in the case of updates.
- A volunteer from the Chair's staff, also responsible for ensuring the Chair's carbon footprint is assessed and updated each calendar year.

Food

- During on-site meals, the use of reusable containers and cutlery should be preferred over disposable utensils when purchasing take-out food;
- During on-site meals, vegetarian (or vegan) meals should be prioritized over meat-based meals;
- The use of personal water bottles should be preferred over the purchase of single-use plastic bottles;
- The CEC engages ethical and eco-responsible catering providers for meal deliveries during 'Friday Lunch Meetings' and other organized events;
- For meals organized by the CEC, the offering of vegetarian meals exceeds that of meat-based meals.

Energy Consumption

- Staff is required to manage temperature-related consumption in offices, both for heating in winter (maximum 19°C) and air conditioning in summer (minimum 20°C);
- Staff is required to properly manage lighting consumption by systematically turning off lighting systems when they are not needed;
- The CEC adopts a rational approach to the energy consumption of digital equipment:
 - Deleting unnecessary emails;
 - Preferring audio calls over video conferences when possible;
 - Implementing a rational management of shared 'cloud' spaces;
 - Limiting the sending of large attachments;
 - Using energy-saving modes when tasks do not require high computing power;
 - Deleting unnecessary or duplicate files;
 - Regularly updating the operating system;
 - Regularly uninstalling unused software;
 - Favoring double-sided black-and-white printing;
 - Systematically turning off unused devices (desktop computers and monitors).

Waste

- Subject to the availability of a sorting system organized by Palais Brongniart, staff will adhere to sorting instructions;
- The CEC aims to implement, as much as possible, a near-zero waste policy during meals organized by the CEC: non-recyclable single-use containers such as cans and plastic packaging are prohibited for beverages other than water;
- For external members invited by the CEC to its events at the Palace, use of large format (bag-in-box: reduction of single-use plastic) and carafe;
- The purchase of refurbished digital devices and/or products with a high repairability index is preferred over non-responsible equivalents;
- The CEC manages Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and bulky items in a rational manner, favoring repair, extending lifespan, donation, and second-hand options;
- The CEC promotes the purchase of equipment made from recycled materials for staff use, particularly recycled paper and eco-labeled ink cartridges.

Transportation

- CEC staff should favor low-carbon and eco-friendly mobility options for daily commutes and business trips;
- CEC staff is required to prefer calls and video conferences when physical presence is not essential;
- Refer to the interactive map of trips that can be made by train in less than 6 hours <https://www.chronotrains.com/fr/station/2988507-Paris/6> Beyond 6 hours, air travel is a possible option⁴.

⁴ As a reminder, the Paris-Nice journey takes around 5 hours 40 minutes.