

# Code of Conduct

for a Sustainable Club Culture.

# Impressum

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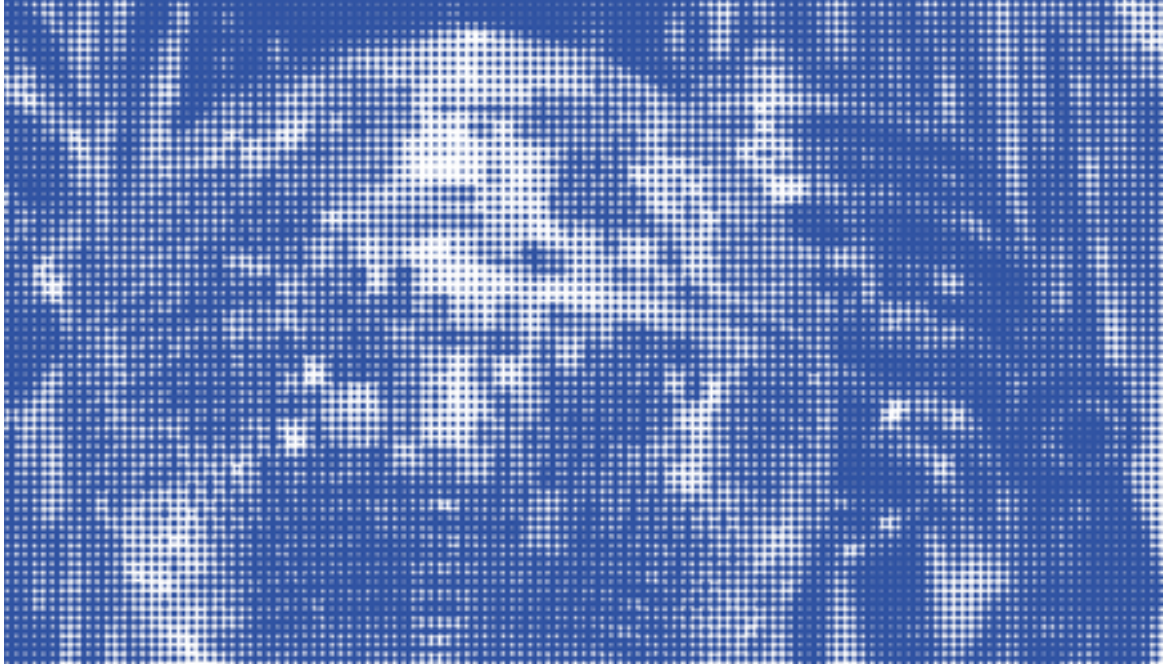
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# Foreword.



A club with 300 guests consumes about as much electricity on a weekend as a single household uses in a year. Clubs can save several tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year just by purchasing certified green electricity. Let's imagine that all clubs nationwide would run on green electricity. This would be a massive contribution to necessary climate protection in urban areas. If we take it one step further, imagining that all club visitors would also be motivated to switch their energy supplier and tell friends about it, then sustainable change in the city would really take off.

The hard truth: the way we've been partying up until now is causing considerable damage to the environment. And this is despite the fact that sustainable club operation brings many benefits. For example, long-term implementation of environmental protection measures not only conserves resources but can also lead to financial savings. So why isn't this already the norm? Unfortunately, lease agreements, political decisions and a lack of financial reserves often stand in the way of clubs implementing these changes.

However, cultural venues such as clubs play a key role in determining whether sustainable change can succeed. They serve as free spaces, places of recreation, and sources of inspiration—all the things that a sustainable society needs in order to be able to develop and thrive.



On one hand, we need to look at how we can preserve these places in the long term, and on the other hand, how we can operate them sustainably. In concrete terms, this means that we have to find a way to satisfy our current needs for club experiences in such a way that future generations will also have the opportunity to have the same, or even better, experiences. We can do this on an individual level, by acting as sustainably as possible. However, we also need the necessary political framework so that our actions can have an even greater impact.

Let's create inspiring sustainable spaces together so that we have the strength to help shape sustainable change. Let's create an equal playing field—working together to make political demands for what we need in order to achieve success when it comes to sustainable development.

This Code of Conduct describes our vision for sustainable clubs—highlighting different areas that can be addressed and providing you with concrete examples of actions you can take to be more sustainable (that go beyond just changing your electricity provider). Curious about how you can make a positive impact? Then get inspired and join in!

**Rummelsbucht, SchwuZ & clubliebe e.V.**





# Origin of the code of conduct

Berlin club operators and event organizers have been meeting regularly since March 2019 to jointly develop the contents of the Code of Conduct (CoC). By signing the CoC, club operators, cultural professionals, and event organizers commit themselves to adhering to selected goals that contribute to making club culture (more) sustainable, with a special focus on climate protection.

The roundtables are part of the Clubtopia project, which is dedicated to climate and environmental protection within the club scene. Clubtopia is a cooperation between **BUND Berlin e.V.** and **clubliebe e.V.**, as well as the **Clubcommission Berlin** and is funded by **the Senate Department for Environment, Transport and Climate Protection**. This project is also supported by **the University for Sustainable Development**, **the Center for Sustainable Tourism** and **Livekomm.**

1 Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection (2021): The Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Program (BEK 2030). <https://www.berlin.de/sen/uvk/klimaschutz/klimaschutz-in-der-umsetzung/das-berliner-energie-und-klimaschutzprogramm-bek/> (retrieved 08.06.2021).

The Code of Conduct was created within the framework of Clubtopia and is therefore a measure of the Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Program (BEK 2030). With the help of this program, the city of Berlin aims to become a climate-neutral city by 2050 and thus respond to the worldwide challenges of global climate change (Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection 2021<sup>1</sup>). A nationwide adaptation of the CoC is being sought.

The initial signatories include: Rummels Bucht, Suicide Club Berlin, SchwuZ und Yaam. After developing the common vision, the participants agreed on various target agreements, which are outlined below.

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# Why celebrate as if there will be a tomorrow?

**The time to act and stand up for climate protection is now.**

We believe that culture, and the club scene in particular, can be a key driver of sustainable change in Berlin and nationwide. If all 280 official clubs and event organizers just in Berlin alone (Clubcommission Berlin e. V. 2019<sup>2</sup>) adhere to the goals of the Code of Conduct, then the city will have taken a huge step towards being more sustainable, in turn inspiring thousands of people to behave in a more environmentally friendly and socially responsible way.

<sup>2</sup> Clubcommission Berlin e.V. (Ed., 2019): Clubkultur Berlin. <https://www.clubcommission.de/clubkultur-studie/> (p. 21)

We want to make climate protection more attractive, not only by demonstrating how it can work, but also by pointing out the benefits of doing so – maintaining profits while simultaneously saving natural resources and reducing/removing climate-damaging substances. Similar to the No-Future Punk movement of the 80s, we point out grievances, but we also want to show how beautiful the future can be and that's why we say:

**„We want to celebrate the future as if there IS a tomorrow.“**

We want to make it clear: sustainable action is worthwhile. Framing the future as positive motivates us to work harder towards achieving goals and developments that makes a positive future possible.



# Who can participate and how?



The Code of Conduct is primarily aimed at club operators, organizers and collectives who agree with the common vision and implement the agreed goals in their own club or event operations. The CoC can be signed after an initial meeting with the Clubtopia team. Contact can be made via the CoC website [www.zukunft-feiern.de](http://www.zukunft-feiern.de) or via [www.clubtopia.de](http://www.clubtopia.de).

The signatories will be provided with a free material package to highlight the Code of Conduct and their own contributions to a sustainable club culture, and to position themselves as pioneers in this regard. The material package includes digital files (logo, Code of Conduct, and imagery for social media) as well as analog resources (posters, flower seed postcards, environmental stickers). If desired, signatories can also be listed on the website [www.zukunft-feiern.de](http://www.zukunft-feiern.de).



In addition to implementing actions in order to achieve the agreed goals, there is also the possibility to actively participate in the green club culture roundtables. The aim here, is to establish a pool of experts on sustainability measures in clubs, whilst further developing the Code of Conduct together and building a network of relevant contacts within the green club space for special initiatives. Signatories are encouraged to nominate themselves (or a person from their team) for this pool in order to remain up-to-date, and, upon request, to receive support and guidance from clubliebe e.V. In addition to club employees, environmental associations, clubs and institutions, as well as green companies, will also be represented. E-mail addresses will be listed on the CoC website ([www.zukunft-feiern.de](http://www.zukunft-feiern.de)); therefore, the person nominated for this pool of experts should be willing to be contacted via email.

The club scene is, in and of itself, a creative pioneer—a more environmentally friendly club scene can provide impetus and inspiration for rethinking the standard approach in other areas. In addition to clubs, many other actors are involved in night culture. Therefore, it is our goal in the future to see an expansion of the CoC for bars, Spätis (late-night convenient stores), festivals, open air venues, etc.,







Vision &  
attitude



# Our vision

**Together, we want to change the club landscape to be sustainable and climate-friendly.**

In the future, our clubs and events should protect the climate and preserve natural resources for future generations. Long-term economic action, ethically correct behavior, and consideration of the common good form the foundations of our drive to increase sustainability.

For us, „Celebrating the future!“ means aligning our own behavior in the club landscape with a climate-friendly and sustainable approach, taking into account the economic and social components. In addition, we communicate our actions to the outside world and advocate for far-reaching, sustainable change in society.



3 The mention of CO<sub>2</sub> in the following text includes consideration of all greenhouse gas emissions.

In concrete terms, this means that we take the most effective sustainability measures in the areas of communication, resources, waste, energy, mobility, CO<sub>2</sub> compensation<sup>3</sup>, social aspects, and nature conservation into our club and event operations, keeping the following three principles in mind:

- **Increase Efficiency:**

Fewer resources are consumed for the same output.

- **Consistent Approach:**

Instead of repairing damage after the fact, processes are designed with nature in mind. We make a point to focus on the optimal solution, not just the status-quo.

- **Observe Sufficiency:**

We believe that „less is more“ and regularly ask ourselves „What do we really need to live well?“ and „Why do we live the way we do?“

Our common goal is to create clubs and events that respect the limits of our planet and use natural resources responsibly, keeping future generations top of mind. In order for this to happen, social justice and fair economic viability must also be considered.

The extent to which these aspects are all interrelated becomes clearer when you look at climate protection projects, as they have a greater chance of success when socio-ecological components are also taken into account. For instance, urgency to act on climate protection varies greatly, depending on whether or not the need is highly visible where the climate protection project is being implemented. So why should we focus on clubs running sustainably when elsewhere the sea level is already rising, and livelihoods are threatened?




Figure: Our representation based on Pufé, 2014, p. 122,

It is our global social responsibility to pursue climate protection everywhere, and this commitment should remain at the forefront of all we do.

We see culture as a driver for all these factors with regard to sustainable development (see Fig. X). We need a change in society that is accompanied by culture, and clubs offer great communication potential to do just that.





# How do we want to achieve this vision?

## Commitment.

We are committed to making the shared vision of sustainable and climate-friendly clubs and event operations a reality. In order to achieve this, we agree to act in accordance with the target agreements.

## Transparency and measurability.

The target agreements contain concrete, measurable indicators that transparently show (both internally and externally) how implementation is progressing. The aim here, is to have the ability to demonstrate implementation successes (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub> savings). Company secrets remain confidential.

## Continuous improvement.

We understand sustainable action as a permanent, ingrained way of thinking. Efforts toward creating a climate-friendly club are ongoing and require continuous evaluation, meaning that we regularly ask ourselves questions such as, „What have we already achieved? „ and „What still needs to happen? „ Our goal, is to maintain this process, ensuring we are continually striving for the most sustainable solutions possible.

## Community.

In order to achieve the goals set out in the Code of Conduct, we must act together and support one another. Our pool of experts supports us in doing this. We agree to regularly exchange ideas, sharing knowledge and experiences within the community, as well as other resources, if required.

## Openness.

We agree to approach this project with an open mindset – a willingness to change internal processes and adopt new ways of doing things. We agree to embrace ‘failures’ as part of the learning process, adapting our approach accordingly, and to push on, despite any perceived set-backs.

## Guests.

We provide guests with a platform to express their wishes regarding sustainability measures. We believe sustainable development to be a joint process and make every effort to communicate on an equal level. We aim to remain approachable, communicating with guests in the same way guests approach the club – openly and honestly—which, in turn, provides us with a reliable way to take guests’ wishes into account.



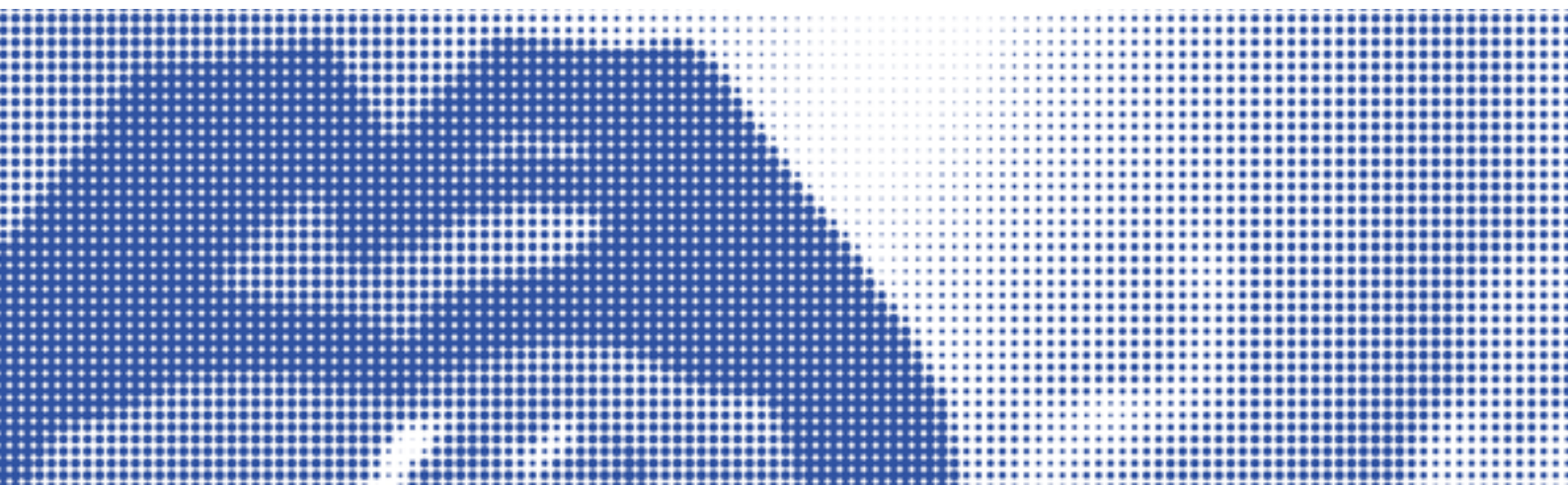
## Communication.

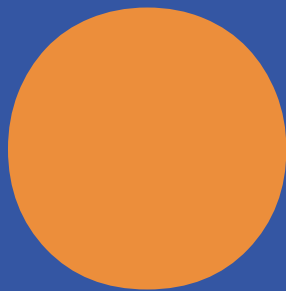
We communicate our efforts both internally to our team, as well as to our direct network (supplier companies, cooperation partners, artists, booking agencies, etc.) We also agree to support joint communication around our common vision, in order to gain additional supporters for the Code of Conduct.

Climate protection initiatives like ours thrive because we talk about it together, generating community support and awareness, whilst also providing concrete solutions and demanding political action. Our main communication is via the website [www.zukunft-feiern.de](http://www.zukunft-feiern.de), which is hosted on the BUND Berlin server and powered by certified green electricity. Additionally, we have the ability to manually switch the website to an energy-saving mode.

## Commitment and openness: our common goals.

Signing the Code of Conduct indicates your commitment to implementing the common goals outlined within. While we respect the range of different possibilities and requirements of the signatories of the Code of Conduct, the goals are binding. An openness to technology and individual prioritization of measures will help support and assist you in achieving these goals. As long as the chosen approach does not have a negative impact in any other way, the path to achieving the jointly declared goals, is open.





# Target agreements

These goals are the basis of the Code of Conduct. They were developed jointly and are considered mandatory. More details on how these goals can be achieved, can be found In Chapter 3.





# Target K: Communication

Goal K1: Sustainability concept

**We will pursue a sustainability concept that is club- or event-specific.**

The Code of Conduct can be used as a sustainability concept, or as a reference to one. Depending on the club, further action areas can be added. The Code of Conduct was designed in such a way, that it allows us to contribute to effective climate protection in the club and sustainable change in society, achieving the goals outlined within, in the most efficient way possible.

Goal K2: External communication

**We will create a concept for our sustainability communication in order to ensure we are engaged, involved, and committed to a sustainable club scene...and prepared to talk about it.**

This concept includes all the steps and actions we are going to take in order to communicate our sustainable commitment to the outside world. We will list all activities and channels that involve our employees, guests, suppliers and other stakeholders from our community (neighborhood, politics, etc.).

Goal K3:  
Internal communication

**We will put together a sustainability team that is committed to implementing the sustainability goals.**

In order to fulfill this function, the person responsible for this (or a team consisting of several people) prepares an internally agreed timeline, complete with milestones and budget allocation, outlining who has the authority to make decisions or initiate the decision-making process. The responsible person (or team) can change at any time, as long as it is agreed up-front. It may also be worth considering whether or not a „sustainability role“ needs to be filled in this instance, to diffuse the responsibility of individuals.



## Target E: Energy

Goal E1:  
Green electricity

**We will purchase green electricity from an electricity provider that meets the standards of the Grüner Strom or OK Power Plus label.**

If, due to contractual or rental conditions, an immediate change of electricity provider is not possible, we agree to switch providers at the earliest possible opportunity. For a club, switching to certified green electricity is the most efficient climate protection measure available.

## Goal E2: Lighting

**When selecting lighting, we will take energy efficiency into account.**

When purchasing new lighting fixtures, we will choose the most energy-efficient technology with the lowest levels of toxic materials/pollutants. We will immediately replace less efficient light sources (incandescent bulbs/halogen and older fluorescent bulbs), with more efficient alternatives. In addition, we will train our employees (technicians, bar and cleaning staff) on how to use lighting in an environmentally friendly way. And last, but not least, we will be sure to dispose of old lamps/bulbs responsibly.

## Goal E3: Refrigeration technology

**We will either operate refrigeration equipment with the best energy efficiency class, or we will optimize the operation of our existing equipment. Only refrigerators that can no longer be optimized, will be disposed of.**

We will contact our beverage suppliers to get them on-board, and work towards a similar replacement/optimization solution together. We will adjust our cooling capacity so that only the necessary amount of refrigeration is being used, and will avoid/minimize drastic temperature differences, to help save energy (e.g., gentler cooling curves). Old and unused refrigeration equipment will be disposed of in a professional and environmentally friendly manner, and our employees will be regularly trained in the energy-saving use of refrigeration equipment.

## Goal E4: Insulation and heating

**We will heat the premises in an energy-efficient, climate-friendly and demand-oriented manner.**

We will continuously record our energy consumption for heating and identify poten-

tial savings. We will implement energy-saving heating measures and reduce our heating energy consumption by at least 10% per year. When feasible, simple insulation measures (such as checking all doors and windows to eliminate drafts), will be implemented immediately.

#### Goal E5: Indoor climate control

**We will cool the premises in an energy-efficient, climate-friendly and demand-oriented manner.**

This includes the energy-efficient use and maintenance of air conditioning and ventilation systems or manual ventilation using windows and doors. We will continuously monitor and record energy consumption of the air conditioning/ventilation system in order to implement energy-saving measures and reduce our consumption by at least 10% per year. We will regularly train our employees in the efficient use of air conditioning and ventilation systems.



## Target R: Resources

#### Goal R1: Clean water

**We will conduct ourselves, and operate our club, in a manner that reflects our commitment to water preservation. Moving forward, we will only purchase and use cleaning products and textiles that are free from microplastics and other chemicals that are harmful to people and the environment.**

In doing so, we avoid contaminating the water due to chemicals and microplastics released during washing. We will regularly



conduct internal trainings on environmentally friendly cleaning, involving not only our cleaning team, but purchasing and bar staff as well.

#### Goal R2: Save water

**Water is a precious resource and should be used with care. We will drastically reduce our water use by as much as possible (up to 40%, depending on the situation).**

We will implement measures to reduce water consumption at all sinks and toilets, and in the bar area. We will use drinking water only where absolutely necessary, and explore other sources/alternatives (e.g., rain-water harvesting to support climate change adaptation).

#### Goal R3: Tap water

**We will promote the consumption of tap water as a climate- and resource-friendly alternative to bottled and packaged water.**

We recognize water as a human right and a public commodity.



## Target A: Waste

#### Goal A1: Waste separation

**We are introducing a waste separation system with immediate effect, which will be implemented in all areas of the club. This will reduce our residual waste by 50%. In addition, we are developing a zero-waste mission statement with our team.**

We will have separate containers for paper, packaging (Wertstoff), organic waste (BioGut), glass, and residual waste. We are also implementing measures to avoid waste all together.

Goal A2: Reusables instead of single-use

**We will use reusables instead of single-use items in our bar operations.**

Moving forward, guests will only receive drinks and food served in reusable dishes and glasses, along with reusable utensils.

Goal A3: Built to last

**We will factor in reparability and durability before making a new purchase.**

Before making any purchase, we will first determine the extent to which existing items can be used, repaired and/or borrowed. If we purchase something new, we will ensure that environmental standards (such as those of Blue Angel) are adhered to. We will also do due diligence, checking to ensure that the products can be responsibly recycled/disposed of after use. All old equipment (including small appliances) will be disposed of correctly.



## Target M: Mobility

Goal M1: Guest mobility

**We will encourage our guests to travel in an environmentally friendly manner. In all communication channels, we will focus**

**our communication primarily/exclusively on environmentally friendly travel options, such as public transport or bicycles.**

We will support the environmentally friendly travel of our guests with further communication and incentives, regularly asking them about their mobility behaviors, in order to provide optimal support.

#### Goal M2: Logistics

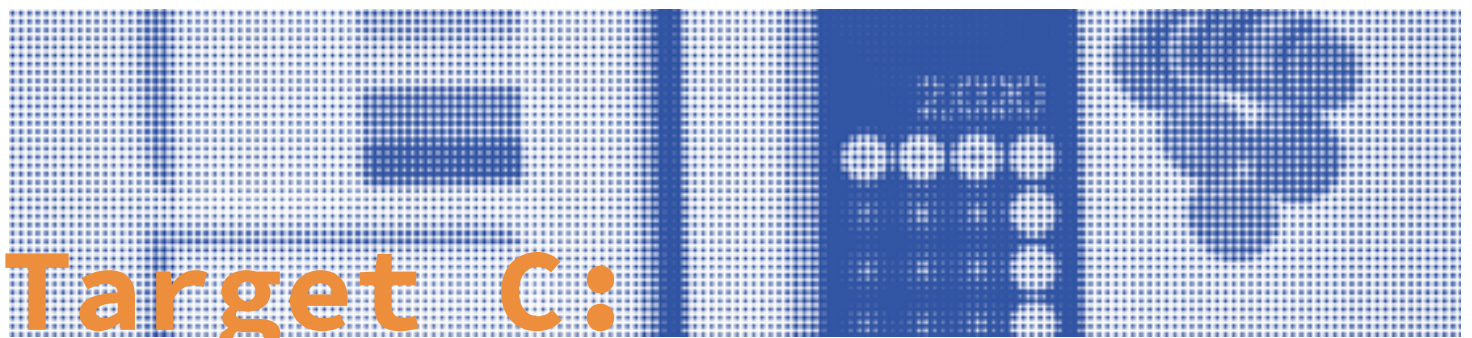
**We will record our transport-related CO2 emissions from our own transport journeys, and, if possible, CO2 emissions of our deliveries.**

We will reduce our logistics-related emissions by 10% per year.

#### Goal M3: Booking

**We will record CO2 emissions as a result of artists' travel.**

We will reduce these emissions by 10% per year, compensating as generously, and as locally, as possible.



## Compensation

#### Goal C1: Avoid and reduce

**We agree that avoiding greenhouse gas emissions locally by implementing climate-friendly alternatives is preferable to offsetting global emissions.**



If avoidance is not possible/efficient on a permanent basis, we will do everything within our power to consciously reduce our CO2 emissions, in particular, by increasing energy efficiency and/or changing our energy sources.

#### Goal C2: Compensate

**If it is not possible to avoid or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we will generously calculate the amount emitted and compensate for it.**

When offsetting, we will take care to find suitable providers who can provide us with the 'Gold Standard' when it comes to compensation projects -offsetting emissions as locally (in the immediate region of the club/event), efficiently (direct, with a timely turn-around and ample safety buffer), and transparently (clear visibility of the projects being invested in), as possible.



## Target S: Social aspects

#### Goal S1: Raising Awareness

**We will discuss as a team, what “being more aware” means to us and how we can achieve it.**

We will create an internal concept, outlining who the contact persons are for awareness topics during club operations, and will provide our guests with an anonymous feedback option, in order to gather additional insight on various awareness topics.

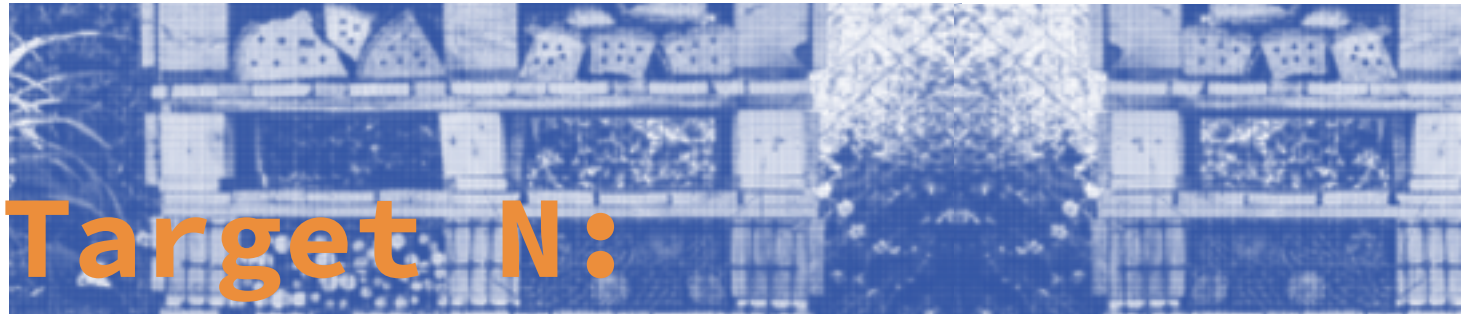
**Goal S2: Fewer inequalities** **Through our club and/or event operations, we will support the pursuit of fewer inequalities in our society.**

We take into account social aspects such as reducing poverty, promoting accessibility, strengthening diversity among club guests and staff, gender equality, and combating racism.

**Goal S3: Championing education**

**We will share responsibility for the well-being of our guests and employees.**

Providing training and educational opportunities pro-actively, helps us to address a range of issues—from climate protection to drug use. We will provide education free of charge and will also offer our venue as a learning and knowledge platform.



## **Target N:** **Nature conservation**

**Target N:**  
**Nature conservation**

**If applicable, we will contribute to local (and therefore, global) nature conservation.**

We will utilize our club areas and buildings to enable nature conservation measures. We will inform ourselves about the options available to us on a local and global scale, implementing those that are relevant for us.

# 3.

selection of potential actions.





This is a selection of suggestions and potential action steps for implementing the above target agreements and making them a reality. Signatories are free to choose the measures they want to put into effect, as long as they achieve the laid-out objectives. The suggestions listed here do not claim to be exhaustive and can be chosen and added to as desired. This selection of measures and action steps will be updated regularly, on an on-going basis. Further ideas and suggestions that contribute to the achievement of the objectives are welcome at any time and can be sent to [kontakt@zukunft-feiern.de](mailto:kontakt@zukunft-feiern.de).

**The complete Code of Conduct, including its entire pool of measures and the associated checklist, is made freely available when signed.**