



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE bcc

Events at the bcc stand for the use of sustainable technologies and the effective use of resources. As a private company in the event industry and its wide-ranging value chain, the bcc is an essential building block for Berlin. Numerous workplaces in the tourism, hotel and service industries profit from the events that take place at the bcc. Goods and service partners come primarily from the region. Every year the bcc makes considerable investments in its property, equipment, technology and employees, ensuring the sustainability and long-term existence of the company.

Sustainability Management System

The bcc is a certified Sustainable Partner of visitBerlin and has been rated as a "High Performer" in the areas of governance risk & compliance, economy, environment and society as part of the "Sustainable Meetings Berlin" programme. It is based on a complex catalogue of criteria and is oriented towards internationally recognised frameworks and standards, such as the German Sustainability Code, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and various ISO standards. The programme has also been recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). As a result, the bcc has implemented a structured sustainability management system, which is reviewed and certified in annual audits.

For more information on "Sustainable Meetings Berlin" and the overall performance of the bcc, please visit <https://convention.visitberlin.de/en/meetingguideberlin/locations/bcc-berlin-congress-center>



Building and Equipment

- The bcc set a goal for itself to use resources and energy sparingly. This started with the initial renovation of the existing building, which represents an exemplary use of existing substance. What emerged from this listed building between 2002 and 2003 was a highly effective event venue which stands its ground in comparison to new construction. The use of high-quality materials and the systematic care and maintenance of the facility and equipment guarantee long-term stability.
- The bcc is heated with district heating which comes from the lost heat from the nearby power plant.
- A modern ventilation control with heat recovery enables energy-conscious use. With automatic programs, the ventilation systems use the cool air in summer nights to keep the temperatures in the building comfortable while saving energy. The event rooms will not be heated above 20°C or cooled below 6°C compared to the outside temperature upon request.

- Most of the technology, furniture and other equipment used in the bcc is already on site and owned by the bcc. The equipment used, such as technology, dishware and furniture, is available in the bcc so that the transportation of equipment can be avoided. This way organisers can drastically reduce their own effort, set-up and dismantling times are shortened considerably, process reliability is increased and the risk of damage is reduced.
- The event-related equipment and IT infrastructure in the bcc allows events to be held as hybrid events. Video conferences and live streams are also possible. In many cases this means that guests or speakers do not have to travel long distances to attend the event.
- Energy-efficient lighting using the latest fluorescent materials with ballasts, central lighting control and LED technology, the use of induction cookers and industrial dishwashers with energy recovery and low water consumption all help to reduce energy use. In addition to daylight in 90 % of the rooms, heat-reflecting external shades and other measures contribute to energy efficiency. The bcc covers 100 % of its electricity requirements from renewable energy sources.
- Sensor-controlled taps and urinals as well as decentralised hot water generation reduce water and energy consumption.
- By optimising the cleaning technology, cleaning in the bcc can be carried out more efficiently and with reduced cleaning agents. Preference is given to the use of environmentally degradable cleaning agents. The use of stabilized ozonised water enables surface cleaning and disinfection without chemical agents.

Arrival and Departure

- The bcc is centrally located in Berlin and easily accessible by public transport. Due to the large number of surrounding hotels, the participants can come to the event by foot and visit the surrounding sights.
- The bcc is also easily accessible by bike or e-scooter. Suitable parking areas for these are available directly on site.
- The driveway in front of the bcc offers a good opportunity for shuttle buses.
- The bcc can also be accessed barrier-free and is designed to be handicapped-friendly.

Gastronomy

- The bcc has its own modern kitchen. The dishes are freshly prepared on site. Seasonal food is mainly sourced from the region and local suppliers are used. This avoids thousands of truck kilometres per event and supports the regional economy.
- The food quantities for the events in the bcc can be calculated very well in advance due to many years of experience.
- By producing directly on site, the quantities can be kept tight, since additional dishes can be prepared quickly and on site if necessary.
- On request, ecologically produced boxes can be provided to take away leftover food.
- If possible, leftover food will be donated to charitable organisations.
- In the main catering area foyer B 01, Berlin tap water is offered from water dispensers with a filter system. Pre-dispensed glasses of mineral water from glass bottles will be provided at all other beverage counters. Alternatively, Berlin tap water from carafes can also be used at these counters.
- A fully vegetarian or vegan menu is possible on request. Depending on availability, organic meals can also be offered.

Waste Management

- For years, the bcc has been using reusable dishes and bottles both in the internal facilities and in the event areas. To further minimise waste, beverages are be poured into glasses from large bottles in the event area. A water dispenser provides staff with still and sparkling tap water.
- Reusable products and materials are preferred for exhibition and decorative construction. When purchasing goods, the bcc pays attention to suppliers with reusable or ecologically advantageous packaging.
- The bcc largely abstains from using printed materials and promotional items for its own marketing and prefers the use of digital presentation methods.
- By means of electronic data management (paperless office), offers, contracts and invoices as well as internal documents are sent exclusively electronically. The amount of paper in the office is reduced to an absolute minimum.
- Recyclable materials such as wood, glass, metal, packaging and paper are disposed separately at the bcc. The organic waste is processed by the disposal company into biogas and then into electricity and heat. In many cases, objects or materials that have already been used are recycled or used in some other way. For example, used carpets and exhibition walls are reused as a base underlayer or for protection.
- Thanks to the sustainability concept of the bcc, almost no waste is generated by the participants in the event areas so that a large number of waste bins are not needed. Bins are provided in the event areas only for the small remaining amount of waste.

The bcc as an Employer and as a Part of Society

- For its employees, the bcc focuses on continuity, a high level of satisfaction and identification with the company.
- The management positions are occupied equally by women and men. An equally balanced ratio can also be found among the employees.
- Various models such as part-time, home office, flexible working hours and early vacation planning offer employees the opportunity to balance work and private life well.
- The bcc secures skilled workers in the long term as an apprenticeship company with six different professions and two dual study programmes.
- Lunch from the in-house kitchen with regional products, professional development opportunities, travel allowances for public transport and the option to charge electric vehicles (e.g. e-bikes, e-scooters) are further building blocks for employee retention at the bcc. The bcc offers a variety of occupations so that everyone can be offered a job regardless of their qualifications or origin. People with impairments and severely disabled people are given special consideration if they are equally qualified.
- The bcc refrains from outsourcing in order to secure jobs at the bcc.
- Non-profit associations and organisations are supported by providing premises inexpensively under certain conditions (e.g. DRK blood donation service).
- Inquiries from schools, universities and associations for support with internships, guided tours and information in the area of educational support are fulfilled whenever possible.
- Functional inventory and work materials left over from events are donated to social institutions.