



Sustainability Report 2024
„DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT“



IMPRINT

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1 PHILOSOPHY

Our Philosophy

Surrounded by forests, ponds, and moors, Heidenreichstein is a small town in the north-west of the Waldviertel. Nestled within this picturesque landscape is DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT, where the world of cheese becomes an experience for cheese lovers of all ages. DIE KÄSEMACHER are producing a variety of cheeses and antipasti specialities, according to longstanding tradition and a lot of passion. The slogan *'Love and passion in fine taste'* reflects not only our dedication to exquisite taste but also our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility.

For us as an excursion destination, sustainability means designing our operations to be ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable in the long term. This means that in ongoing planning and implementation of all business processes, we ensure the protection of nature and the environment, the careful use of resources, and respect for the needs of the community.

For example, we prioritize environmental friendliness by using renewable energy, minimizing waste, and implementing nature-oriented measures to preserve the landscape and wildlife. Additionally, we strive to promote eco-friendly travel to and from our destination, encouraging visitors to use public transport or bicycles.

Beyond ecological and economic considerations, the social dimension of sustainability is also important to us. We are not just a popular regional excursion destination with our showcase factory—we are also an attractive employer. We create local jobs, support the regional economy, and foster meaningful dialogue between visitors and the local community.



2 VISION

Our Vision

We want to be a place where enjoyment, responsibility, and sustainability come together in harmony. Our goal is to serve as a role model for sustainable practices in the tourism and food industries. We are committed to aligning our ecological, economic, and social responsibilities in a way that resonates with both our employees and visitors.

At DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT, our values guiding our actions in the right direction. Respect for nature is particularly important to us—we are dedicated to preserving the unspoiled landscape of the Waldviertel. This commitment drives us to use resources responsibly and protect the environment throughout our operations. Deeply rooted in the traditions and regional character of our homeland, we see it as our mission to strengthen the local economy and preserve the craftsmanship that defines us. Beyond fulfilling our own responsibilities, we also embrace our role as an excursion destination by educating visitors on the importance of handling food and other resources with care.

In addition to conserving resources, ensuring food quality is a top priority for us. As an excursion destination for DIE KÄSEMACHER, we take responsibility for safeguarding the health and safety of our customers. At the same time, we strive to minimize our environmental impact and reduce waste continually. The careful selection of suppliers for our shop, the *Waldviertler Schatzkammer*, is another crucial aspect of our commitment to quality and sustainability. Visitors can discover a wide variety of cheese and antipasti specialties from DIE KÄSEMACHER, along with other regional Waldviertel delicacies and handcrafted products.

Finally, we have a strict zero-tolerance policy against corruption and discrimination in all our business processes, reflecting our commitment to fairness, transparency, and ethical practices.



3 MISSION

Our Mission

What are we doing to achieve our goals?

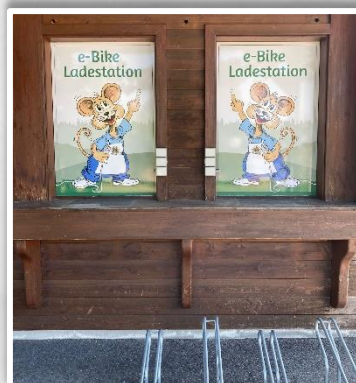
We implemented targeted measures to continuously reduce our energy consumption and conserve resources in our daily operations. We place great emphasis on the efficient use of water, energy, and materials. To promote sustainable mobility, we provide e-charging stations for cars and e-bikes, along with convenient access to public transport. Additionally, our outdoor areas are designed following the principles of *'Natur im Garten'* to actively support biodiversity and create vital habitats for local flora and fauna.

How do we realise these goals?

To encourage environmentally friendly mobility, we provide e-charging stations for cars and e-bikes. Moreover, using public transport is seamless and convenient. Our outdoor area is carefully designed following the principles of *'Natur im Garten'*, for which we have proudly earned the corresponding certification. We also prioritize resource-conserving practices, such as waste separation, avoiding single-use products, and reusing packaging materials for our online shop. Additionally, our in-house photovoltaic (PV) system and LED lighting throughout the shop area enable us to consistently reduce electricity consumption.

How do we measure our sustainability goals?

We gather annual sustainability indicators in line with the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) standards to systematically review our progress. This process involves critically examining our actions to identify areas for improvement and to understand any potential deteriorations.



4 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Sustainability is not only a core aspect of DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT but permeates the entire company DIE KÄSEMACHER GmbH. Since last year, we have been publishing an extensive annual sustainability report according to the internationally recognized Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards. This document offers an overview of our sustainability efforts, with this extract focusing specifically on DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT.

Our sustainability team includes Doris Ploner (managing director of DIE KÄSEMACHER), Rainer Koller, Stefan Aigner (Quality Management), and Marlene Fidi. Weekly product development and CIP (Continuous Improvement Process) meetings provide a platform to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss innovations. Within these discussions the primary environmental impacts are always considered.



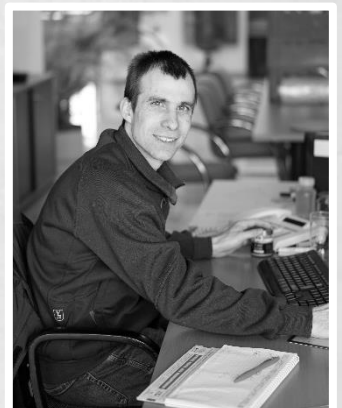
Doris Ploner



Stefan Aigner



Marlene Fidi



Rainer Koller

5 SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

Regionality

Supporting local businesses is a top priority for us. In our shop, *Waldviertler Schatzkammer*, you can not only purchase the delicious products from DIE KÄSEMACHER but also a selection of hand-picked items from our local area. This allows us to support many small businesses, ensuring that the added value stays within the region.

Additionally, by sourcing locally, we avoid long transport routes, further reducing our environmental impact.

Cooperation

We believe the younger generation also deserves support. For example, we are proud to be the partner company of a class at the Vocational School for Business Professions in Gmünd.

Through this partnership, we offer students valuable insights into our company, provide support with in-kind donations, and assist with various projects.

Waste Management

We ensure that waste is getting sorted according to its type. We separate materials into glass (both white and coloured), paper/cardboard, cans, organic waste, residual waste, and plastic. Our employees strictly stick to these separation guidelines to maintain efficiency and sustainability.

Mobility & Arrival

Die e-mobility is an increasingly important part of our sustainability efforts. That's why we offer a charging station for e-bikes, e-cars and hybrid vehicles directly at our parking lot. Public transport is also a viable option for visitors.

<https://www.vor.at/fahrplan-mobilitaet/fahrplan-bus-bahn/linienfahrplan>



Biodiversity

One of the highlights of DIE KÄSEMACHERWELT is undoubtedly our expansive outdoor area, which spans 15,000 m² of green space and over 7,000 m² of water. The existing pond plays a vital role as a habitat for a variety of amphibians, fish, insects, birds, and mammals.

In line with our commitment to sustainability, we don't use any chemical-synthetic pesticides and fertilisers. This approach helps maintain a healthy ecological balance between 'vermin' and 'beneficial organisms'. To further support our local ecosystem, wild shrubs and bushes are planted throughout the grounds to encourage biodiversity.



Insect hotels

In addition to natural shelters, we have installed insect hotels on our site. These unique hotels were handcrafted by the day care centre *Zuversicht*, a service and support organization for people with disabilities in Kleinpertholz. The insect hotels are now thriving, with a variety of beneficial insects making them their home.



Natur im Garten

We also have been focusing on sustainability in the design of our outdoor areas and gardens. We are proud to have been awarded the 'Nature in the Garden' badge as a result! Encouraging wild growth, managing invasive species (neophytes), and minimizing soil sealing to promote rainwater infiltration and soil aeration.



Accessibility

Our entire site is fully levelled to ensure easy access for all visitors. Both pushchairs and wheelchairs can navigate the paths and various areas of the site without any obstacles.

PV System

Last year, we installed a photovoltaic system on our roof areas with a capacity of approximately 220 kWp and a bottleneck output of 200 kW. The system is expected to generate around 210,000 kWh of electricity annually. With a self-consumption rate of 70%-80% (approximately 147,000 kWh), this will help us to save an additional 30 tonnes of CO₂.



Employees

Certainly, our employees are educated to handle our resources with care and responsibility. The ecological, economic, and social aspects of sustainability have been integrated into our company policy, making them mandatory for all employees. We also aim to encourage our visitors to be mindful of resource use. For example, we emphasize the reuse of rapeseed oil in which our antipasti products are pickled. Additionally, we ensure that the disposable tasting bowls used during tastings—made exclusively from wood—is handled carefully throughout our tours. Visitors are encouraged to use their tasting bowls for the entire duration of the tour.

Lighting

To further reduce electricity consumption, our *Waldviertler Schatzkammer* shop is equipped with energy-saving LED lamps.

Cleaning

We have completely eliminated the use of chlorine-based cleaning products. We use easily biodegradable alternatives only. This helps preventing environmental pollution from wastewater.

Ecovadis

The Ecovadis sustainability ranking is a comprehensive evaluation of a company's sustainability performance. DIE KÄSEMACHER earned the bronze medal in the overall ranking. However, we are always striving to develop further and improve.

6 FUTURE-ORIENTED MEASURES

Planned Measures

Plan of Action

We have developed a comprehensive action plan to ensure sustainable development, which includes short-term and long-term measures, resource planning, set targets, monitoring, and a detailed sustainability and waste management concept.

Water-saving taps & flush stop button

In our toilet facilities, we will replace outdated taps with more efficient, water-saving models. We also strive to educate our guests about the careful use of this valuable resource, such as encouraging the use of the flush-stop function in the toilets. Additionally, we provide waste bins in the toilet cabins to prevent waste from being disposed of in the toilets.

Birdhouses and nesting Boxes

In addition to the insect hotels we've installed, we also want to offer birds a comfortable home. Therefore, we have decided to invest in new birdhouses and nesting boxes.

Flower meadows and climate trees

We plan to expand our flower meadows by planting more seeds and to add more climate trees and beneficial plants to our grounds.

AMA GENUSS REGION Partner

At our shop, *Waldviertler Schatzkammer*, we place special emphasis on local and regional products. As our product range includes several AMA GENUSS REGION products, we would like to emphasise this with the AMA GENUSS REGION Partner award.

7 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Responsible for Sustainability

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Through the following link, you can access our comprehensive sustainability report in accordance with the GRI standard:

<https://www.kaesemacher.at/de/info/news/nachhaltigkeitsbericht-20222023>



➔ Our sustainability report in accordance with the GRI standard



Erleben Genießen Wohlfühlen

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