

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

VISION

At Hostel Bearlog, our team is dedicated to environmental conservation and strives to minimize our impact on the environment. We live in one of the most forested and naturally preserved areas, not only in Slovenia but also in Europe, and we recognize the importance of preserving these natural assets in the long term. Our employees adhere to laws, regulations, and other environmental and sustainability recommendations.

Our environmental policy covers areas such as energy efficiency, water consumption and wastewater management, nature and natural resource conservation, responsible supplier selection, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, pollution prevention, hazardous substance control, biodiversity protection, endangered species conservation, and compliance with relevant legislation.

Hostel Bearlog also follows the vision of the Kočevsko destination, which aims to become an internationally recognized and attractive tourist destination for visitors seeking active and experiential getaways in pristine nature. In doing so, we strive to meet the expectations of demanding, active, and ecologically conscious tourists, contributing to the long-term preservation of natural and cultural heritage, as well as the social and economic well-being of the Kočevsko region.

Going forward, we will continue to encourage both employees and visitors to reduce water and energy consumption and minimize waste production, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions. By offering programs related to forests, primeval forests, and the wildlife that inhabits them, we will continue to support high biodiversity conservation. All programs related to primeval forests and wildlife are designed to be as sustainable as possible while also serving an educational purpose. One of their primary goals is to provide experiential learning and foster a positive attitude toward the plant and animal species that thrive in our region.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- Obtaining and maintaining the Travelife certificate for Hotels and Accommodations.
- In 2020, 2021, and 2022, we introduced free vouchers for the use of mountain or city bikes for guests staying at least two nights, encouraging employees and visitors to opt for public transport or cycling. As a result, the interest and actual use of bicycles, especially mountain bikes, increased in 2020. We will continue to promote sustainable mobility in the coming years. To support this initiative, we have also purchased four additional MTB bikes, two children's bikes, and seven MTB e-bikes.
- Continued use of eco-friendly cleaning products, with empty containers returned to the supplier for refilling.
- Replacing plastic laundry bags with reusable cotton bags made from old, repurposed sheets.
- Returning most food packaging to suppliers for recycling (e.g., jars from homemade jams, honey containers, etc.).
- Printing documents double-sided and reusing single-sided misprints for notes.
- Installing visually appealing reminder stickers throughout the facility to encourage employees and guests to use energy and water efficiently. These stickers were reinstalled after the interior repainting.

- To further encourage guests to separate waste, we have provided separate bins in each room for organic waste, paper, and plastic packaging, along with clear disposal instructions.
- Informing and guiding guests to respect and protect nature and the local wildlife. Our hostel has earned the "Bear-Friendly Accommodation" label, and we provide guests with brochures such as *Green Tips for Visiting Kočevsko* and environmental protection recommendations on our destination's website.
- When purchasing a new refrigerator, energy efficiency was one of the key selection criteria alongside size and quality.
- In 2018, we successfully obtained the *Cyclist-Friendly Accommodation* and *Hiker-Friendly Accommodation* certifications, which we successfully updated in 2023 to align with new national standards.

GOALS FOR 2025 AND 2026:

- Renewing the Travelife and Slovenia Green Accommodation environmental certificates.
- Further encouraging guests to support our environmental efforts through signage and communication.
- Continuing to use biodegradable and environmentally friendly cleaning products, optimizing their use, and returning packaging for reuse.
- Further encouraging guests to conserve energy and water.
- Promoting sustainable mobility among guests.
- Encouraging the use of electronic documents wherever possible (e.g., satisfaction surveys) and printing double-sided when necessary.
- Prioritizing energy efficiency when replacing or purchasing new appliances.
- Introducing carbon footprint measurement for our guests and providing offsetting options.
- Planting honey flowers (pollinator-friendly) on windows and around the hostel to support bees.

Signature and stamp:



Date: 10th January, 2025