

CRC 1252 „Prominence in Language“

Climate sustainability aims

We, the members of the CRC 1252 “Prominence in Language” at the University of Cologne, recognize that human-caused climate change is threatening the livelihood of everybody on the planet. We aim to reduce the climate impact of CRC activities wherever possible. We have identified key areas where the CRC can improve its climate footprint. In order to facilitate this for all CRC members, the sustainability page of the CRC website contains a list of certified services for carbon offset, food banks and ethical catering, as well as tips for booking international train journeys and suggestions on best practice for organizing virtual and hybrid events. These are the measures we commit to in order to reduce the climate impact of our own activities:

Travel

When we travel for work, we commit to keeping the number of flights to a minimum in general. For destinations that can be reached within 8 hours by train and/or are within a distance of 700 km, we commit to traveling by train whenever this is feasible. For each trip, we commit to evaluating whether it is possible to attend an event virtually, how many members of a project need to attend an event, and whether conference trips can be combined with other activities into longer stays to reduce the number of flights. We recognize that it is very important for early career researchers to be introduced into scientific networks by PIs or other senior researchers, and that this often happens at trips e.g. to conferences. We explicitly do not want to take these opportunities away, and consider them very good reasons to go to a conference with more than one person.

CO₂ Offset

As recommended by the DFG, we commit to offsetting every funded flight by a CRC member and by speakers invited to a CRC event, using offsetting providers that are certified as following the gold standard.

Hosting events

When we organize a CRC event, we commit to considering and assessing the feasibility as well as potential benefits and/or drawbacks of the event being virtual or hybrid. In-presence and hybrid events should take place in university facilities, whenever possible. In all other cases, sustainability factors should play a decisive role in the choice of venue. Vegetarian catering (preferably local) with tap water and reusable vessels should be the default option. Edible leftovers will be donated. Disposable name tags and printed booklets should be avoided.

We consider these measures to be the minimum we can do and we encourage everyone to go beyond them, whenever possible.

Additional information about organic and/or vegetarian restaurants, a guide to international train bookings, etc. is available to SFB members on sciebo in the Z_FAQ folder.