



EVENTS THAT MAKE DIFFERENCE

A GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

lead with values
reduce your carbon footprint
leave a legacy

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1 ENERGY

LOOKING FOR A DESTINATION WHERE RENEWABLE ENERGY IS A WAY OF LIFE?

PICTURE A DESTINATION WHERE SUSTAINABILITY IS THE STANDARD, NOT THE EXCEPTION

In Bilbao, 100% of the public power grid runs on renewable energy, moving away from fossil fuels and their harmful emissions. Driven by the City Council's commitment and a clear focus on green mobility, your event begins reducing its carbon footprint the moment it starts.



2 WASTE

Bilbao prioritizes the efficient use of materials in both its day-to-day operations and the events it hosts, aiming to minimize the environmental impact of all resources used.

DIGITALIZATION

Our focus is on reducing consumption by prioritizing digital tools and communication, while advocating for the use of materials with a low environmental impact.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Unavoidable waste is treated and recovered to the fullest extent possible. In Bilbao, nearly 90% of waste is processed to ensure it is diverted from landfills.



3 GASTRONOMY

GASTRONOMY

The culinary scene is a top draw for visitors. Bilbao has evolved to meet contemporary standards in the food sector.

SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING FOR HOTELS, VENUES, AND CATERERS

FOOD WASTE

Our commitment is clear. We actively promote the reduction and recovery of food waste across all events, driving full resource utilization and encouraging the donation of surplus food. Discover these initiatives, developed in partnership with Oreka Circular Economy.

GUIDES FOR RETAIL / HOSPITALITY & FOOD SERVICES

ELIKAGAIK OREKAN: A PROGRAM FOR VENUES



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3 GASTRONOMY



SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Our commitment to responsible gastronomy is founded on excellence and respect for the environment. We promote a food model that balances culinary quality with environmental and social sustainability. To this end, we delve into the following key concepts:

LOW-CARBON MENUS

SEASONAL PRODUCE

DIETARY INCLUSION

LOCALLY-SOURCED PRODUCTS LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

PLANT-BASED OPTIONS

*For further information, please ask about the “Artxanda Hospitality School Training” materials for the HORECA sector

4 MOBILITY

ELECTRIC, HYBRID, AND ACCESSIBLE BUSES



MUNICIPAL BIKE-SHARE SERVICE



3 METRO LINES - TRAM - COMMUTER RAIL



Moving beyond private vehicles is not a utopia; it is a reality. Bilbao provides an exceptional transport network that links hotels, venues, and tourist hubs in a fast and sustainable way. Your attendees will be able to navigate the city effortlessly using:

5 WATER

We are aware of the incalculable value of every drop, which is why in Bilbao we treat 99.3% of our water.

WE PROMOTE SMART AND EFFICIENT USE ACROSS ALL SPACES THROUGH...

SENSOR-ACTIVATED TAPS

LEAK DETECTION AND PREVENTION

PRESSURE CONTROL SYSTEMS

REUSE OF SURPLUS WATER FOR IRRIGATION

6 PEOPLE

AT ITS CORE, EVENTS ARE ACTIVITIES BY PEOPLE, FOR PEOPLE. THEY FOSTER HARMONY AMONG THE EVENT, THE ATTENDEES, AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Universal accessibility

Decent working conditions

inclusion and tolerance for all groups

7 LOCATION

ENJOY YOUR SURROUNDINGS RESPONSIBLY—PROTECT AND PRESERVE THEM.



7 LOCATION



EFFICIENCY AND RECYCLING

Strategically organize waste collection stations to streamline the recycling process.

NATURAL CYCLES AND EMISSIONS

Steward natural resources and respect the most sensitive periods within the natural cycle. Locally offset your carbon footprint.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Mark areas of special concern to restrict access, thereby protecting local flora and fauna.

8 CIRCULARITY

GENERAL

Erronka Garbia Seal: A methodology and standard developed by IHOBE to minimize your event's environmental impact.



ERRONKA GARBIA

EKITALDI EVENTO

JASANGARRIA INGURUMENERAKO
AMBIENTALMENTE SOSTENIBLE

FOOD SERVICES

A focus on reducing waste and food waste through smart procurement, source reduction, and waste recovery.

PREVENTION

REDUCTION

DONATION

REPURPOSING

ANIMAL FEED

BY-PRODUCTS

COMPOST

HOTELS

Promoting the shared use and rental of materials to avoid ephemeral or short-lifecycle purchases for events.

FURNITURE RENTAL

REUSABLE SIGNAGE

RETURNABLE TABLEWARE

SHARED DECOR

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT

SUPPLIER DRECTORY

9 ALIGNMENT & CONSISTENCY

The SDGs are at the core of Bilbao's and the Convention Bureau's strategy. Align your values with those of your suppliers.

EXPERIENCED VENUES AND ORGANIZERS

LOCALLY-SOURCED AND SEASONAL FOOD

LOW-CARBON AND REUSABLE MATERIALS

CERTIFICATIONS: A HALLMARK OF BEST PRACTICES



10 LEGACY

WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON OUR OWN LEGACY PROGRAM

IN THE MEANTIME... IF YOU ARE INTERESTED... FEEL FREE TO ASK US ABOUT

PORTFOLIO OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

A selection of local initiatives, foundations, and organizations demonstrating social, economic, and environmental best practices that you can partner with to create a positive impact on the city.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Tell us your vision. From workshops and open sessions for the local community to any other proposals, we will collaborate to make them happen and weave your event into the city.



11 COMMUNICATION

TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION: CONNECTING THE EVENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVE LISTENING

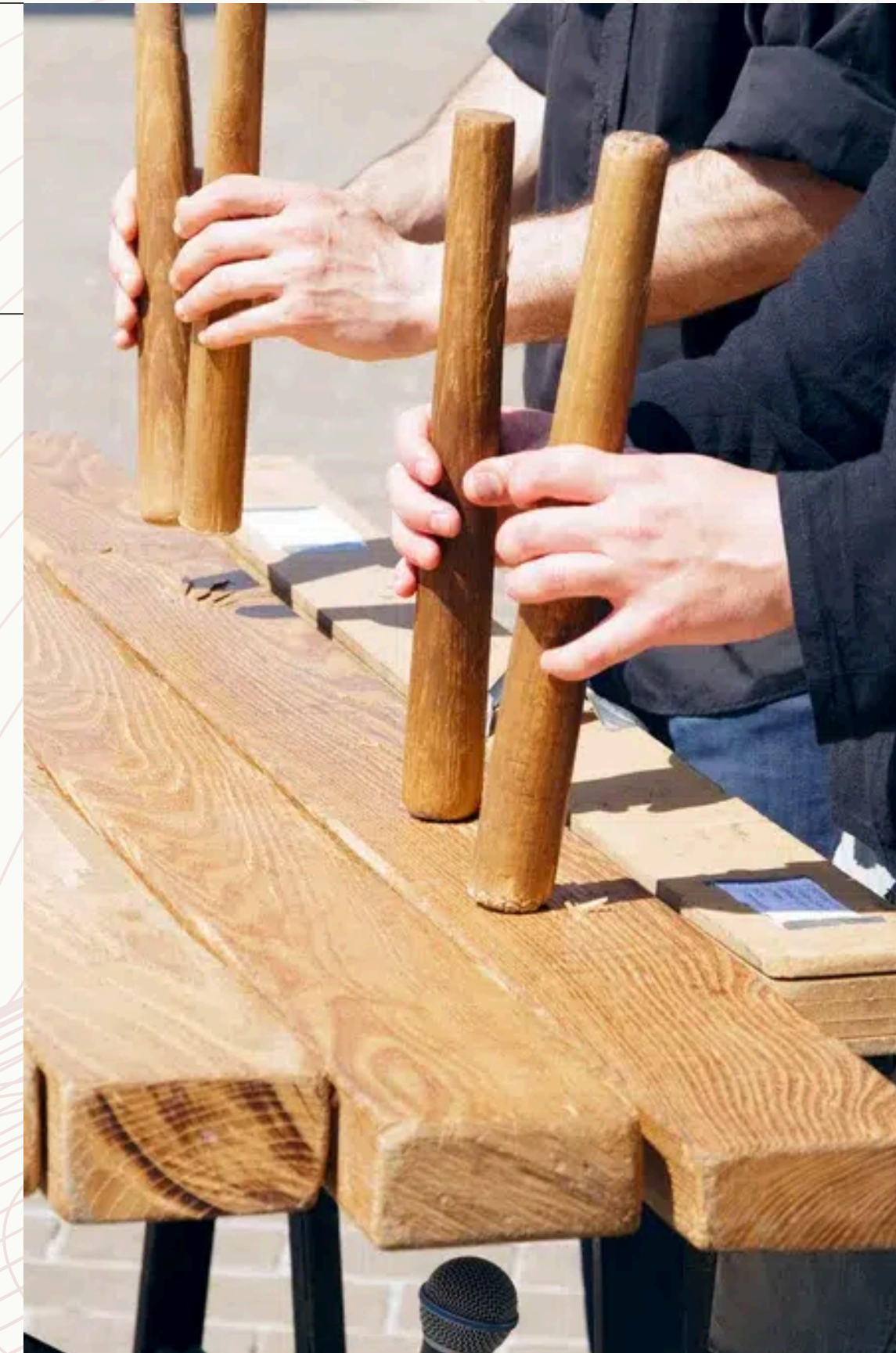
We foster trust with the local community and stakeholders by maintaining an open dialogue and integrating their feedback.

CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

We engage attendees and suppliers by sharing models of responsible behavior and best practices in waste management.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

We collaborate closely with specialized partners and suppliers to guarantee excellence in implementing sustainable practices.



12 EVALUATION



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

At the Bilbao Convention Bureau, we encourage you to assess your event's footprint as well.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Through the BiCB and local organizations such as Lurguia, Formarte, and Troka, we offer concrete programs to mitigate and offset your carbon emissions locally.

SOCIAL IMPACT



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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