Environmental and climate protection, energy efficiency, sustainability

We are committed to environmental and climate protection and the economical use of resources

Compliance with high environmental standards was already a corporate objective in the statutes of the Carl Zeiss Foundation. The careful use of resources (including energy and water), continuous improvement of environmental performance and ongoing improvement of energy efficiency are central factors in our business activities.

What is important to us and how do we implement it:
In our business activities, we strive for CO_2 neutrality (Scope 1 and 2 emissions*). Our approach: avoid, reduce, and offset.

Careful handling of the environment, economical use of resources, regulated recycling and disposal are important components of our corporate philosophy – this claim also applies to our business activities and our products.

These principles play an important role throughout the entire product life cycle – e.g., in development, production, packaging, shipping, use by customers, recycling and disposal.

In addition, we also take environmental issues, energy efficiency and water consumption into account when planning building facilities and products.

Maximum efficiency in the use of resources, taking into account economic feasibility, and Compliance with applicable relevant laws and regulations are important to us.

We want to avoid or minimize negative impacts on the environment as well as on the reputation of ZEISS.

* Scope 1 emissions: CO_2 emissions from direct combustion of fossil fuels (e.g., gas, heating oil). Scope 2 emissions: CO_2 emissions from indirect energy purchases (e.g., electricity, district heating) which in turn are generated from the direct combustion of fossil fuels (e.g., gas, heating oil, coal).

This is what we expect from you:

- Use resources (water, materials, electricity, etc.) economically and carefully.
- Recycle and dispose of waste in accordance with regulations and in an environmentally sound manner.
- Implement environmental protection and energy efficiency measures relevant to your work area while maintaining cost effectiveness.
- Report potential environmental risks to internal contact persons to prevent environmental damage.
- Immediately notify internal contact persons if environmental damage has occurred.
- Inform our suppliers that environmental protection and energy efficiency are part of our selection and evaluation criteria.

The aspiration of ZEISS:

- We create sustainable products and value chains.
- We introduce closed water cycles as far as technically possible.
- We minimize environmental impacts on water bodies.
- We support the procurement of energy from renewable sources and the use of energy-efficient equipment, products, and services.
- We operate an environmental and energy management system and continue to develop it.
- We ensure the availability of the necessary resources and data to achieve the defined environmental and energy targets.
- We comply with the relevant laws and regulations on the environment, climate, energy, and sustainability.

Andreas Pecher | Sven Hermann | Stefan Müller | Dr. Frank Rohmund | Dr. Marc Wawerla

EN_90_050_0014I CZ-01/2026