

# Sustainability programme

Our sustainability programme was developed in an iterative process during target discussions. Within the framework of these discussions, we identified area-specific focal points based on the EVN materiality matrix and – based on these findings – defined sustainability goals and related measures. An important objective was, and is, to ensure that these goals and measures make a concrete contribution to realising the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Our focus is on SDG 6, 7 and 13.

ESG details	Definition of goals	SDG	Developments and progress in 2022/23
<b>Society and community</b>	Protection of network stability, while guaranteeing supply security and the integrating of volatile renewable generation		<p>Concepts were prepared for various regions in Lower Austria to increase network capacity and support the further integration of renewable energy. These network concepts will now be implemented in stages up to 2030. Specific projects involve the new construction or replacement of roughly 40 transformer stations together with the related connecting power lines. In the low- and medium-voltage range, the number of substations, cable diameters and underground cables will be increased.</p> <p>We completed the following high-voltage projects in 2022/23: replacement of the 110-kV power lines from Pottenbrunn to Bergern (ca. 38 km) and reinforcement of the transformer stations in Lasse, Deutsch Altenburg, Traisen and Hainfeld.</p>
	Protection of supply security and the quality of drinking water through expansion and other measures		<p>We guarantee supply security, on the one hand, with the integration of our supply system and 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water reserves in elevated tanks and, on the other hand, through continuous expansion. Our projects include the expansion of elevated tanks and the construction of additional emergency generators. Construction has also started on the second and third sections of the new transport pipeline from Krems to Zwettl, and completion is planned for 2025.</p> <p>Our projects to improve the water quality include the commissioning of the sixth natural filter plant in 2022/23, which is located in Bisamberg. Planning has already started for the construction of further natural filter plants.</p>
	Protection of supply security and the quality of district heating through expansion and other measures		<p>We guarantee sufficient failure reserves and the necessary peak load coverage by equipping our district heating generation equipment with redundant aggregates and using two different fuels (primarily biomass). Moreover, we are evaluating opportunities to use substitute fuels (untreated scrap wood) in place of natural biomass and expanding our round timber storage capacity by roughly 30% to manage possible supply shortages (biomass storage).</p> <p>The existing high quality of our certified district heating plants is ensured by regular audits (EMAS and ISO 14001).</p>

ESG details	Definition of goals	SDG	Developments and progress in 2022/23
<p><b>Society and community</b></p>	<p>Improvement of stakeholders' digital and sustainability knowledge</p> <p>4 8</p>		<p>EVN supports the stronger inclusion of sustainability issues in education. We regularly develop programmes for children and young people ranging from three to 18 years old and, as part of our EVN School Service, provide a broad portfolio of free workshops, learning resources and events throughout Lower Austria. The free-of-charge learning kits are available for download under <a href="http://www.young.evn.at">www.young.evn.at</a>.</p> <p>Our offering for school classes also includes energy savings courses and visits to power plants (hydropower plants, wind and solar parks, biomass district heating plants, thermal power plants, waste utilisation plants and storage power plants).</p> <p>kabelplus holds workshops at schools in Lower Austria and Burgenland that are designed to strengthen young people's digital competence. We have also developed specific formats for senior citizens, and kabelplus offers special online courses to increase the media skills of this target group.</p>
	<p>Active stakeholder dialogue on sustainability</p> <p>8</p>		<p>The Strategy 2030 – which is illustrated by the motto “More sustainable. More digital. More efficient.” – confirms EVN's commitment to make an active contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thereby containing climate warming. The EVN Climate Initiative with the following three focal points was developed in 2020/21: concrete CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction goals (coordinated with the Science Based Targets initiative), climate neutrality for selected Group companies and a contribution to climate protection by EVN's research and development.</p> <p>In order to meet these challenges, EVN took several steps in 2022/23 to improve the structure and content of project communications: Additional staff was added to the project communication and climate dialogue team that was established in the previous year, and an extensive training concept was launched under the title “Project Communication 2.0” to support the managers of infrastructure projects. The core of project communications is formed by the “EVN for the climate” campaign that was introduced in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ “EVN for the climate” defines the content-related foundation for all presentations to political decision-makers and information events for infrastructure projects. It explains why we plan our projects, what they are designed to achieve and why they are reasonable.</li> <li>→ “EVN for the climate” is an integral part of our external communications (PR, social media, customer magazine) on all relevant activities.</li> </ul> <p>The EVN Climate Initiative is also a central element of EVN's management development programme in the “Summer University”.</p>
	<p>Demand-side management for e-mobility and industry</p> <p>2 4 6</p>		<p>A first-time option introduced by EVN enables the postponement of communications for e-autos within the framework of an automated trading system and the marketing of these flexibilities over the short term on the energy market.</p> <p>For this purpose, more than 100 charging points at locations operated by EVN and EZN (Energiezukunft Niederösterreich) were equipped with joule optimisation assistants and aggregated into a large storage facility.</p>

**Areas of activity**

- 1 Sustainable increase in corporate value
- 5 Attractive employer
- 2 Supply security
- 6 Climate protection
- 3 Customer orientation
- 7 Environmental protection
- 4 Innovation and digitalisation
- 8 Stakeholder dialogue

ESG details	Definition of goals	SDG	Developments and progress in 2022/23
<b>Expansion of renewable generation</b>	Expansion of renewable generation; targets defined by the Strategy 2030: increase in wind power capacity to 750 MW and photovoltaic capacity to 300 MWp <b>2 6</b>		In order to meet this ambitious target by 2030, we completed, continued and started numerous wind power and photovoltaic projects in 2022/23: → Wind parks: Japons (repowering; 12.6 MW), Palterndorf-Dobermannsdorf (42 MW), Grosskrut-Altlichtenwarth (12.4 MW), Prottes 2 (18 MW), Sigless-Pöttelsdorf (repowering; 8.4 MW), Paasdorf (22.2 MW) → Photovoltaic equipment: floating photovoltaic plant in Grafenwörth (EVN share: 12.3 MWp), Trumau (10 MWp), Dürnröhr (23.4 MWp), two plants in North Macedonia (approximately 15 MWp in total), two plants in Bulgaria (4.5 MWp in total)
	Widespread construction of conventional and non-conventional photovoltaic capacity <b>2 6</b>		The EVN solar initiative in Lower Austria is a focal point of continuous expansion. We made the following progress in 2022/23 with the construction of additional photovoltaic capacity: → Solar cooperating power plants: additional three; in total, six as of 30 September 2023 → Solar contracting: additional seven; in total, 72 as of 30 September 2023
	Revitalisation of small hydropower plants <b>2 6</b>		In line with the measures defined by the National Water Management Plan (NGP), the small hydropower plants operated by EVN Naturkraft are regularly revitalised and modernised. We made the following progress in this area during 2022/23: → The run-of-river power station in Ochsenburg was almost completely rebuilt and commissioned, whereby the standard capacity was increased from roughly 2.7 GWh to 3.7 GWh per year. This power plant now supplies nearly 1,100 households with clean electricity. → We successfully regained the water rights for the Grüner Baum power plant; the entire facility was adapted to meet the latest technical standards and expanded to include an innovative fish lift (Denilpass).
<b>Innovation and new prospects for the environment</b>	Increased focus on e-mobility through widespread charging infrastructure <b>2 3 6</b>		With a focus on Lower Austria, EVN is currently installing additional public charging points and strengthening the charging network with roaming partners. The charging infrastructure is under construction along the major traffic axes and also in the surrounding areas. Our charging network covers the entire province of Lower Austria. Customers with more than 14,600 active EVN electricity charging cards can now recharge with electricity from renewable sources at nearly 13,500 charging points throughout Austria (status: 30 September 2023). Plans call for the consolidation of the charging station system through cooperation with numerous regional energy providers.  Another initiative involves the gradual expansion of the EVN fleet at all locations, and we are also intensifying our cooperation with the Austrian Federal Association for Electromobility ("Bundesverband Elektromobilität Österreich") and Oesterreichs Energie (which represents Austria's electricity industry).

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<b>Energy efficiency</b>	Energy efficiency measures for waste utilisation and heat generation <b>6</b>		EVN is working to improve the energy efficiency of its waste utilisation and heat generation plants. We are also increasing the coverage of our internal electricity requirements from renewable energy.  Photovoltaic equipment was installed at five locations in 2022/23, in addition to the 12 power plants where this equipment is already in operation. The expansion originally planned for 2021/22 was delayed by delivery problems. At our waste utilisation plant in Dürnröhr, we are taking numerous steps to improve energy efficiency: The overhaul of the primary fans on Lines 1 and 2 results in energy savings of approximately 157 MWh per year. In addition, gas consumption caused by malfunctions was reduced with strict receiving inspections.
<b>Society and community</b>	Strengthening of the principle "focus on customers" <b>3 4</b>		Examples of the ongoing measures are the articles in the EVN Intranet on "Impulses for customer orientation" and the annual customer service week in October with EVN employees from Austria, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Croatia. The focus is "We are here to help our customers".  EVN's customer service was successfully recertified in accordance with ISO 18295-1 during spring 2023.  Measures with a focus on the digitalisation of products and services in 2022/23:  → Classification, prioritisation and recommendations for routine responses by the point of contact for email processing (AI support) → Trials for the use of a voice bot for limited application in an automated customer conversation → Installation of an online panel as a platform for digital customer feedback → Creation of the EVN energy help fund → Expansion of the automated handling of customer issues on the website to include a service for the "preparation of a photovoltaic purchase agreement (solar electricity)" → Best possible customer support for the discontinuation of the Klassik tariffs and the new "Garant 12" offer with an info bus tour across all Lower Austrian communities to supplement existing contact channels (website, telephone, email and personal) → Individual presentation of currently available subsidies on the customer portal to improve the overview → Introduction of an option for monthly invoicing to give customers the advantage of only paying for the energy actually used
<b>Product responsibility</b>	Focus on data protection throughout the entire customer contact management system <b>3</b>	Not SDG relevant	The number of data protection requests remains low, but EVN has implemented various measures to minimise potential errors in the information process. For example: We have integrated the data used to provide information in an automated report.

**Areas of activity**

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ESG details	Definition of goals	SDG	Developments and progress in 2022/23
<b>Dealings with employees</b>	Location-independent, autonomous work; work-life balance <b>5</b>		<p>Measures introduced in 2022/23 to further improve the mobile working hours model that makes location-independent work possible at EVN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Evaluation of the model with external support and with a view towards the effectiveness of teamwork; recommendations for improvement were developed in management workshops and will now be implemented.</li> <li>→ Implementation of a pilot project on desk sharing; to stabilise desk sharing, a further pilot test will follow under different conditions for the flexible use of seating in the training centre.</li> <li>→ The roll-out of MS Teams was completed; stabilisation and support for employees in the use of various formats (“Clever MS Teams Tips” and “digital morning coffee”)</li> <li>→ Survey of corporate culture: The gradual expansion of the EVN mood barometer will continue with a focus on the effectiveness of the mood barometer and follow-up issues.</li> <li>→ Resilience-supporting measures were presented or identified in various formats: lecture by occupational psychologist, seminars in the EVN Academy, management workshops.</li> </ul>
	Barrier-free e-learning <b>5</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Analysis of the feasibility to create barrier-free e-learning courses for employees in Austria</li> <li>→ Implementation of a suitable course (e-learning “Onboarding”) for new employees</li> <li>→ Evaluation and collection of experience in 2023/24</li> </ul>
	Feedback and orientation discussion in the onboarding phase <b>5</b>		Roll-out of feedback and orientation discussions in the onboarding phase scheduled for 2023/24; plans call for a feedback discussion with new employees in every phase of the onboarding process to support rapid integration.
	EVN Executive Programme for established managers in an international context <b>5</b>		The goals of this Group-wide management development programme include international networking and the exchange of experience as well as technical and personal development with a focus on management content. The programme helps to harmonise the understanding of leadership and technical and personal skills. EVN can, as a result, draw on this management pool when needed to quickly fill vacant positions and safeguard the Group’s ability to act.
	Avoidance of work accidents through protective measures (and reduction in Lost Time Injury Frequency) <b>5</b>		<p>Efforts to prevent work accidents include the purchase of state-of-the-art work and protective clothing and tools. Managers are increasingly integrated (among others through training and safety meetings) and specialist seminars on occupational safety are offered. Special issues (e. g. in connection with occupational medicine) are also regularly emphasised to support the continuous reduction of work accidents.</p> <p>Our preventive measures include the following: a continuous focus on awareness through regular internal communications (e. g. Intranet, employee newsletter), measures to prevent falls (e. g. protective equipment, training for involved employees) and an extensive training programme (also for external firms) on general issues that also includes the smart meter exchange. We also participate in relevant committees of Oesterreichs Energie, a branch association.</p>

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<b>Dealings with employees</b>	Delegation of persons to support the organisation and guarantee safety <b>5</b>		EVN maintains a central database for each company which includes, for example, planning and construction site coordinators, waste management officers, fire protection officers, occupational physicians, responsible employee representatives and/or safety ombudspersons for occupational safety etc.  We comply with all legal requirements and implement additional safety measures in areas with a greater risk potential, e.g. through more first-aiders than legally required. To ensure the availability of sufficient first-aiders at all times in organisational units with shift work, all employees in these areas have received appropriate training.
	Digital learning offering <b>4</b>		ELI, EVN's internal online learning platform for employees, was successfully implemented. We also regularly offer digital training courses (e.g. on energy issues and project management as well as compliance training, safety instructions and cyber security webinars).
	Raising environmental awareness of employees in North Macedonia <b>7</b>		Information on environmental protection is available on Dnevnik, an internal platform for the exchange of information and cooperation between the employees of EVN Macedonia and its companies.
	Training and support for university degrees <b>5</b>		EVN has implemented the following measures to meet this target: → Employment offers to all apprentices after the completion of their training programmes → Comprehensive support for university and school students through long-term cooperation with universities, colleges and schools  Support and qualification of existing employees for specific positions through further academic training.
	Support for and cooperation with future talents at the international level		WTE is serving – for the 12 <sup>th</sup> time – as a Golden Sponsor at the IWA Eastern European Young Water Professionals Conference; this platform promotes an international dialogue between young professionals on issues involving water management and energy efficiency.
<b>Diversity and equal opportunity</b>	Programme to support and improve diversity <b>5</b>		Measures in 2022/23: → Mentoring programme as preparation for women in management positions successfully completed → Continuous support for all employees in the use of gender-sensitive language; overview page with suggestions, explanations and additional information in the EVN Intranet

**Areas of activity**

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<p><b>Natural resources</b></p>	<p>Protection for ecosystems and biodiversity, safeguarding of species protection</p> <p>7</p>		<p>In North Macedonia, we have implemented measures to protect biological diversity in cooperation with the environmental NGO Macedonian Ecology Society. The related measures are intended to reduce bird losses due to electric shocks and collisions and include the insulation of masts and voltage elements. Additionally, stork platforms are installed on the masts in our distribution network.</p> <p>EVN also has ongoing actions in Bulgaria to prevent bird losses, and power poles involving incidents with birds are reinforced. Newly installed stork nests are protected in line with regular observations.</p> <p>Our goals up to autumn 2023 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 800 secured power poles in connection with the project “Safe grids for the lakes in Burgas”, financed by the EU programme LIFE; this means 80 km of secured overhead power lines</li> <li>→ 245 secured power poles in connection with the project “Protection for saker falcon species in Bulgaria”, financed by the Operational Programme Environment (OPE); this means 25 km of secured overhead power lines</li> <li>→ 850 secured power poles in connection with the project “Protection for imperial eagle species in Bulgaria” financed by the Operational Programme Environment (OPE); this means 85 km of secured overhead power lines</li> <li>→ 150 secured stork nests on power poles in the electricity distribution network of EP Yug through the installation of nest platforms</li> </ul> <p>In connection with the implementation of the National Water Management Plan in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, numerous fish lifts were installed at existing hydropower plants throughout the EU. Various types of lifts are used, depending on the characteristics of the power plant location. In Austria, EVN is currently working on plans for the installation of five fish lifts in accordance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Water Management Plan. The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Water Management Plan, which covers the planning period up to 2027, will require the installation of nine further fish lifts.</p> <p>Netz Niederösterreich has provided financial support for the Life Plus Eurokite project to protect the red kite since 2020. GPS transmitters, which were partly financed by Netz Niederösterreich, were attached to young red kites and will collect data up to 2023 on the habitats of these birds. The goal is to reduce the man-made mortality of birds of prey. To ensure the protection of these species, Netz Niederösterreich will include the collected data in the selection of its cabling projects.</p>
	<p>Commitment to restoration of former locations</p> <p>7</p>		<p>We are currently dismantling – on our own initiative – a thermal power plant that was decommissioned in 1987. All pollutants will be removed to recreate a meadow area. After this transformation is completed, we will evaluate concepts for the further use of the location to generate renewable energy (e.g. enlargement of the biomass round timber storage area and construction of a photovoltaic plant).</p>
	<p>Circular economy as part of location management</p> <p>7</p>		<p>Concrete foundation elements that have no further functional use as a result of replacement investments are always removed so the ground area can be restored and put to a new use. We transport the used concrete to a building materials recycling firm to enable its reuse. The component parts of our power plants, equipment and networks that are technically no longer functional are correctly separated, optimally utilised and transferred to building material or metal recycling as far as possible.</p>

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<b>Natural resources</b>	Motivation for customers to donate their bonus points for biodiversity or animal protection measures <b>7 8</b>		As part of the EVN Bonus World, EVN encourages its private electricity and natural gas customers to donate their bonus points. These donations can be used to plant trees in a selected community or to support animal protection associations. EVN acts as the broker for this programme, and customers make the donations.
	Safeguarding soil and ground water protection <b>7</b>		The project initiated in 2021/22 to restore a former location that was used during the 1940s and 1950s to impregnate wood power poles has now been completed. The excavated earth was transported by lorry to a special washing installation where the pollutants were removed. The excavated material can now be used, for example, in road construction and transfer to a landfill area is not required. The related work was completed in November 2022 and all contamination was eliminated.
	Environmentally friendly and economical utilisation of sewage sludge <b>7</b>		WTE was commissioned with the planning, construction and commissioning of a fully functional, legally compliant, turnkey and operational sewage sludge utilisation plant in Berlin-Wassmannsdorf for Berliner Wasserbetriebe (BWB). The facility is designed to accommodate a planning horizon up to 2040 and will ensure future-safe operations for a sewage sludge volume of 64,000 t and an additional 4,000 t of screenings per year. The planned 360° concept for optimal energy supplies includes modern multi-level flue gas cleaning, heat recovery for feed-in to the district heating network and a highly efficient reaction turbine for independent energy supplies.  EVN Wärmekraftwerke is also planning to construct a sewage sludge mono-incineration facility on the grounds of the former Dürnröhr power plant. In line with the principles of the circular economy, this will permit the recovery of phosphorus from the incineration ash. Sewage sludge treatment will take place in a stationary fluidised bed aggregate with an annual capacity of 140,000 t. The recovered energy will be fed into the Dürnröhr energy network. This project is subject to an environmental impact assessment, and the documents required by the related legal regulations are currently in preparation. According to the current schedule, completion is expected in 2028 but this will depend on the legal framework (effective date for the obligation to recover phosphorus from municipal sewage sludge).
	Protection of water resources <b>7</b>		Work on the Umm Al Hayman wastewater treatment plant in Kuwait started in summer 2020 (following a corona-related delay). WTE, as the general contractor, is responsible for the planning and construction of a wastewater treatment plant and – together with partners – for a sewerage network with pumping stations. As of 30 September 2023, the wastewater treatment plant was nearly complete and two-thirds of the wastewater infrastructure was finished.
	Expansion of emission measurements <b>7</b>		The existing emission measurements in the Dürnröhr waste utilisation plant were expanded to include continuous ammoniac measurement which, in turn, helped to optimise the ammoniac dosage in the flue-gas denitrification.

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<p><b>Innovation and new prospects for the environment</b></p>	<p>Innovation supports the system transformation toward renewable energy and the protection of resources</p> <p>4</p>		<p>Selection of the projects pursued by EVN in 2022/23 as part of its innovation activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Development and roll-out of a virtual power plant with private customers' flexibilities (Green the Flex)</li> <li>→ Projects to optimise renewable energy communities (NETSE, Hybrid LSC)</li> <li>→ Bi-directional charging for e-vehicles and greater flexibility through demand-side management (Car2Flex): bi-directional charging stations were developed by the project consortium and tested by AIT; installation in three use cases (fleet, private, car-sharing) currently in progress; test operations begin in the fourth calendar quarter of 2023</li> <li>→ Integration and use of flexible loads in industrial operations on the energy and control reserve market (Industry4Redispatch)</li> <li>→ Pilot project by RAG for the large-volume seasonal storage of renewable solar energy, which is converted into green hydrogen through electrolysis and stored in former natural gas storage facilities in pure form (Underground Sun Storage); construction of the electrolyser has been completed; the storage facilities will be filled beginning in 2024.</li> <li>→ Development and realisation of an innovative hybrid storage system consisting of a thermal and an electrical battery storage system: This project involves the expansion of an existing electrical heating system (5 MW) that is connected with a large thermal storage facility to include a battery storage system (5 MW) and combination with a new large photovoltaic plant. Improvements also include expanded forecast concepts for photovoltaic energy generation and intelligent monitoring concepts for the storage system (hybrid storage facility in Theiss).</li> <li>→ Conversion of biomethane electrification to biomethane network feed-in to reduce the dependence on natural gas over the near term and to support decarbonisation in the gas sector; development of a long-term EVN hydrogen roadmap up to 2024 (renewable gases)</li> <li>→ Construction of electricity supply points for Danube River ships – so-called landside aggregates – by June 2024; this will prevent emissions at centrally located piers (Electrified Danube)</li> <li>→ Research project to increase the volume of photovoltaic electricity fed into the system, e.g. through new technologies and methods, innovative business models and social acceptance (Engage PV)</li> <li>→ Research project by WTE and EVN Wasser on the extraction of biological nitrate from pollutants that were removed from water by reverse osmosis; realisation in a semi-technical test facility at the drinking water plant in Obersiebenbrunn (NERO)</li> <li>→ Further development and testing of microbial fuel cell technology for energy and resource recovery from wastewater by WTE</li> </ul>
<p><b>Circular economy</b></p>	<p>Upcycle products through cooperation with other firms</p> <p>7</p>		<p>kabelplus cooperates with Refurbed, an online marketplace for certified and carefully selected traders who market refurbished products. Used equipment (for example routers) is extensively overhauled and upgraded to meet the latest technical standards.</p>
<p><b>Contain environmental pollution and optimise waste management; reduce emissions</b></p>	<p>Continuation of environmental management systems</p> <p>7</p>		<p>Our waste utilisation plant in Dürnröhr is certified under ISO 9001 quality management, ISO 14001 environmental management and EMAS. It is also a registered waste management facility. These certifications are updated regularly.</p>

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<b>Contain environmental pollution; reduce emissions</b>	Prevention of contamination; process optimisation and reduction of emissions in thermal utilisation <b>7</b>		We met the target for the reduction of emissions in our district heating plants by installing primary circulation in the biomass equipment. An analysis is currently in progress to determine whether there is a need or possibility to install this equipment in other plants. In the district heating plants in Tulln and Korneuburg, the incineration process was optimised by mechanical modifications in the firing room and the flue gas path.  To reduce the emissions from household heating, we are continuing to construct new biomass heating plants for district heating supplies. Projects in 2022/23 included the commissioning of a new biomass cogeneration plant in Krems, plans for a similar plant in St. Pölten and the expansion of tanks at the biomass plants in Wiener Neustadt Civitas Nova (completed), Bruck an der Leitha and Guntramsdorf (in planning). Planning for additional plants is currently in progress, among others, for Bad Vöslau, Leobersdorf, Spillern, Pyhra and Waidhofen an der Thaya.
	Bicycles for plant traffic <b>6</b>		Bicycles were purchased for travel at the plant location in Dürnrohr. This will reduce automobile traffic – and the related emissions – in the future.
<b>Responsible supplier management</b>	Sustainable orientation of all procurement procedures at EVN <b>1</b>		Our strategic supplier management is based on two pillars: merchandise group management and supplier management. This system was implemented throughout the Group in accordance with the EU Taxonomy.  Merchandise group management involves the annual assessment of risk for all merchandise groups according to market, ESG, legal and supply security criteria in order to develop a merchandise group score. On this basis, the procurement strategies in the purchasing chessboard are applied and improved.  The sustainable procurement strategy will be coordinated with corporate goals in a final step in 2023/24 and gradually implemented in operational procurement.  Necessary compensation measures, for example specific audits (e.g. ESG on-site audit, self-declaration etc.), are in preparation and will be gradually implemented in the coming financial year.  Supplier management ensures that all suppliers are screened by a well-known rating agency to identify potential risks (e.g. in the areas of sustainability, social minimum standards, compliance).  All suppliers and bidders are required to accept the EVN Integrity Clause. This acknowledgement can take place after login, during the registration process in EVN's procurement portal, or in connection with the conclusion of a contract.
	<b>Biodiversity</b>	Development of biological compensation areas <b>7</b>	

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<b>Emissions</b>	Development of goals together with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions <b>6</b>		The goals were submitted to SBTi at the end of the 2020/21 financial year and accepted at the beginning of 2021/22. The base year for the five goals to reduce various Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions is the 2018/19 financial year, and the target year is 2033/34. By reaching these goals, we are making an important contribution to realising the “well below 2°C goal” set by the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2022/23 we took further steps to reach these long-term goals.
	Climate neutrality in selected Group companies <b>6</b>		In 2022/23 kabelplus became the second Group company to receive certification for climate neutrality under PAS 2060. Plans call for other Group companies to become PAS 2060-certified climate neutral in the future.  EVN Wasser plans to expand its existing photovoltaic equipment from the current capacity of approx. 1 MWp to approx. 10 to 15 MWp by 2027.

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This sustainability programme, which is continuously being updated and extended in close cooperation with all our departments, is an expression of our efforts to connect the areas of activity in our materiality matrix with concrete project goals and measures. We want these areas of activity to have a significant influence on our daily activities as a company, just the same as the core strategies which place our responsible and sustainable orientation in a medium- and long-term context. The communication of our sustainability programme in concrete terms is also intended to strengthen the commitment of our employees further because we want our actions to always be in harmony with our strategy and in the best interests of our stakeholders. These goals and measures are intended to make a concrete contribution to meeting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.

- For the EVN materiality matrix, see page 17
- For information on the SDGs and the individual targets, also see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Maria Enzersdorf, 21 November 2023

EVN AG  
The Executive Board



**Stefan Szyszkowitz**  
Spokesman of the Executive Board



**Franz Mittermayer**  
Member of the Executive Board