



Environmental Charter

AMSE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RESEARCH

Editorial

Aware of the major environmental challenges facing our society, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (AMSE) reaffirms its commitment to reducing the ecological footprint of its professional activities through this charter.

Our initiative is in line with the broader goals of Aix-Marseille University and reflects a collective ambition to promote more sustainable practices, consistent with the values of responsibility and exemplarity that guide our academic community.

Developed following consultations with the unit members, this charter sets out a clear, realistic, and evolving framework for action, covering the key areas of greenhouse gas emissions: daily operations, event organization, professional travel, equipment management, and consumption monitoring.

AMSE is seeking to contribute, in its own way, to the ecological transition of higher education and research, by integrating energy sobriety and the preservation of resources as essential aspects of its day-to-day operations.

Alain Venditti
AMSE Director

Glossary

- GHG = Greenhouse gas
- eCO2 = CO2 equivalent

Objective

This charter is the result of various surveys conducted among laboratory members to identify:

- the main sources of GHG emissions,
- priorities for action.

Its aim is to propose measures that will enable our entire community to adopt more responsible practices concerning GHG emissions generated by our research-related activities.

Additionally, the charter is intended to stimulate debate, raise awareness among colleagues, and be regularly amended to incorporate new proposals.

Positioning

Through this charter, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (AMSE), as part of the University Research Unit (EUR), along with its members, commits to defining the unit's values and ethical responsibilities regarding the environmental footprint of its activities.

This charter applies exclusively to professional activities and does not extend to the personal activities of UMR members. This charter does not replace AMU's responsibilities. AMSE pledges to work closely with Aix-Marseille University's directory to progressively reduce the GHG emissions associated with its activities.

The charter is divided into different sections, outlining best practices to help achieve the laboratory's carbon footprint reduction goals.

Actions to reduce our GHG emissions



Daily operations

1. AMSE is committed to promoting waste sorting in collaboration with AMU's Sustainable Development Department.
2. AMSE members pledge to turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
3. AMSE agrees to limit paper subscriptions to newspapers and general or scientific journals.



IT investment and consumption

1. AMSE prioritizes maintenance and repair of equipment, promotes second-hand acquisitions, and facilitates resource-sharing.
2. AMSE members commit to responsible use of artificial intelligence, which is highly energy-consuming.
3. AMSE will identify unused equipment for redistribution or donation within the unit or through institutional channels.
4. AMSE encourages the procurement of recycled paper for printing services.
5. AMSE members pledge to limit document printing, favor double-sided printing, and only purchase personal printers under exceptional circumstances.
6. AMSE members will limit email attachments to the essential minimum.



Events organized by AMSE

1. AMSE commits to reducing the use of disposable crockery, prioritizing caterers that provide washable crockery, and encouraging participants to use their reusable bottles. The purchase of plastic bottles is strictly prohibited.
2. AMSE will ensure that a vegetarian buffet is always provided at its regular events and will offer locally sourced and seasonal produce whenever feasible. Participants will be given the option to choose non-vegetarian dishes, provided this can be made available by the suppliers. In addition, AMSE will ensure that the number of meal trays ordered is the same as the number of registered participants at internal seminars and conferences.
3. In the case of large-scale events, AMSE is committed to limiting red meat as much as possible and prioritizing vegetarian dishes, as well as locally sourced and seasonal produce whenever feasible.

Examples : GHG emissions by meal type

- Vegetarian.....	1.12
- Red meat.....	5.51
- White meat.....	2.1
- Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon).....	1.63

Source : Labo1point5

4. AMSE commits to refraining as far as possible from distributing promotional goodies at events.
5. When protocol demands that gifts be made, AMSE will prioritize eco-labelled and/or local products, within the constraints of contractual agreements.
6. AMSE pledges to digitize event communications as much as possible, printing only essential materials.
7. AMSE will assess whether printing is necessary and, when required, print double-sided using appropriate paper weight. AMSE commits to labelling printed conference materials with "PLEASE SORT ME" to encourage recycling.
8. AMSE will systematically collect and recycle conference badge holders.
9. AMSE will design standard reusable signage without date, location, or time details for recurring events (e.g. LAGV, Summer School, Career Day, etc.).



Business travel

Reminder: In accordance with AMU's travel policy, the Board of Directors deliberated on 21 January 2025 and voted on the following sobriety-related measures:

New measures:

- Train travel is mandatory for all trips under 4 hours.
- Train travel is strongly encouraged for journeys exceeding 4 hours.

Renewed measures (until 31/12/2025):

- First-class rail travel is permitted for long journeys exceeding 2.5 hours (subject to authorisation by the Unit's Director).
- The number of trips per day should be limited if a meeting lasts less than 3 hours, depending on travel distance.
- Long-distance travel (e.g. long-haul flights) should be reserved for missions lasting more than 3 nights

1. AMSE members commit to choosing train travel over air travel for journeys of less than 5 hours by train. AMSE will cover first-class tickets for train journeys longer than 2.5 hours.

The website www.chronotrains.com provides useful information on train-accessible destinations within 5 hours across France and Europe.

Emission comparison (Kg eCO2)

	Train	Flight	Car
- Marseille - Lille	7	481	468
- Marseille - Barcelona	13	225	190

2. AMSE members pledge to adopt responsible travel practices where short stays of under 24 hours are concerned and conduct online meetings whenever feasible.

Example : 3-Hour meeting/committee/jury in Paris (not including public transport such as metro, bus or RER).

Mode	Emissions (Kg eCO2)
- On-site (train)	5
- Online (home office)	0.024

Source: ADEME estimates one hour of videoconferencing via laptop emits 0.008 kg eCO2.

3. AMSE will prioritize train travel for external guests (professors and researchers) and minimize cab usage, particularly during office hours.

Monitoring actions

AMSE will track its emissions and publish an annual carbon footprint report.

Unit members commit to annually reporting key travel data, including transport mode, location, mission duration, and home-to-work commute distance.

Organizers of general, thematic, or recruitment seminars will provide data to assess event-related emissions.

AMSE will assess the carbon footprint of its activities and those of its members.

AMSE will improve monitoring of GHG emissions linked to use of consumables, including paper, ink, coffee, and everyday supplies.

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR PLANET.



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