



Bilaga 1 – Environmental policy Västgöta nation 2020

This document is the translation of **Miljöpolicy Västgöta nation 2020**, it should only be regarded as an attachment to the document. The Swedish version of the policy is the one decision should be based on as this attachment (Bilaga 1) cannot overrule that document.

Background

The environmental policy replaces the earlier environmental plan that was accepted by Nationssammankomsten during the spring of 2018, the name environmental plan will be used to refer to the old document when needed. The environmental policy exists to help the curators, the environmental officer and other officers of the nation that are responsible for the daily activities to work in more environmentally conscious ways. That is to minimize the environmental impact we have and to lower our financial costs. The environment policy describes the ongoing environment efforts already in place and highlights the ongoing biggest environmental challenges for the daily activities. Furthermore, some detailed actions on how the nation, over short and long term, should take on these challenges. Västgöta nation's environment plan was developed by the nation's environment officer in collaboration with the curators of fall semester 2017 and spring semester 2018. This was updated by the environment officer for 2020, the third curator for the fall 2019 and spring of 2020 and members of the environmental group.

Current status analysis

The current status analysis describes shortly the ongoing environmental work and the initiatives that the nation has taken during the last year.

➤ Lowered meat consumption

Ever since the environment plan was approved by Nationssammankomsten during 2018 the nation's third curators have continued to work on introducing more vegetarian and vegan options to all the menus. Many of the kitchen chefs from 2018 on have served more vegetarian and vegan dishes during the nation's gasques. Some of the gasques have been completely vegetarian. The fourth curator has also worked with the rental menu to include more environmentally conscious options for our rental guests.

➤ Sorting of trash

Plastic and compost sorting were reintroduced during the fall of 2017. The plastic sorting currently works underwhelmingly, and there are overall certain challenges with upholding a functioning compost sorting system. Currently we are sorting plastic, compost, paper packaging, corrugated paper, metal, glass and undifferentiated burnable trash.

➤ More environmentally friendly products



The nation strives to use in the ways that it's possible more environmentally friendly options. Västgöta nations third curator of fall 19 and spring 20 examined the purchases of cleaning chemicals. Currently 58% of the chemicals we use are environmental labeled. Articles that are used daily such as machine washing-up liquid, the drying liquid and washing- up liquid are in this category. The nations 3Q should look over if further articles can be replaced by more environmentally friendly options.

Problem identification

The environmental officer and the third curator have together identified two problem areas that are central to the nation's environmental work efforts. These areas are currently the nation's biggest challenges and this section will present a short problem formulation for each of the problem areas.

➤ **Food waste**

Food waste has been a reoccurring problem in daily activities at the nation. Which is something that we have continued to struggle with since the environmental plan was first accepted. Insufficient storage and cooling spaces are seen as a problem and also the fact that it's hard to calculate how much food will be used in the daily activities.

➤ **Insufficient composting**

The nations recycling difficulties lie in not having established a lasting composting system. Insufficient routines in the daily activities in combination with the current bins have led to the compost sorting system to not becoming a routine for a prolonged period of time and across different officers.

A few of the problems that have contributed to the composting system lacking is the fact that the nation currently doesn't have a proper compost bin that would hold larger amounts of compost. We have seen that this potentially discourages those working in the kitchen from composting. There is also an issue with the amount of individuals that are not club workers that are in the kitchen and might not be aware of how the composting works inside of the nation's kitchen.

Actions

Västgöta nation aims to actively improve the nations environment work. Under this section changes that should be implemented to improve the identified problems will be presented. Besides the previously mentioned challenges there are a few smaller problem areas that could also be improved which will be touched upon:

➤ **Reduced food waste**



Food waste should be tracked and lowered in all ways possible. The main responsibility lies upon third curator but there should be a working collaboration and continuous communication with the daily activities. Below are tangible suggestions for actions that should be done.

1. Food inventory

The nations third curator should have an overview of the food that is available in the nations storages and fridges/freezers and could be nearing its expiration date. This should be mediated to the clubworkers which in turn should be encouraged to use this food, which otherwise are at risk of getting old. One suggestion is to have a shelf in the vegetable fridge specifically for left-over vegetables that can be used in soups, among other things.

2. Overlapping menus

Due to the lacking storage space and to lower the risk of unnecessary waste the different daily activities should in the greatest extent possible use the same ingredients. The responsibility of implementing this should fall on the third curator since they are in charge for the daily restaurant activities.

➤ Lasting recycling

In the daily activities all consumable material and food produce in the largest extent possible should be recycled (plastic, paper packaging, corrugated cardboard, glass and compost). The bins should be clearly marked. The third curator in collaboration with the environmental officer should be responsible for ensuring this is upheld by those that enter the kitchen. Below a suggestion is presented on the actions that should be taken to uphold a sustainable recycling system.

Larger containers

On the basis of Västgöta nations kitchen condition one possible solution for the compost problem could be to use a larger container as those used for the recycling of plastic etc. for compost. The container could be easily moved around and used in the dishing room and the kitchen to gather the food waste. The container could have a specific color to distinguish it from the rest of the trash containers.

➤ Nationally produced products

Importation of products has an impact on the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which has negative effects on our planet. Therefor the nation should when it's deemed possible purchase products that are produced in Sweden to lower the nations environmental footprint.



➤ **Inspection of the nation house**

To continue the work that was started during the renovation the summer of 2019 involving the heat leakages at the nation, the real estate treasurer with consultation from the first curator should look over the nation house and investigate which actions are reasonable to pursue to lower the nation's energy use.

Lamps

To lower the nation's energy consumption all lamps should be replaced by energy efficient LED-lamps. This work should be done by the nations house master in collaboration with the first curator.

Maintenance of kitchen appliances

Both from an economical and sustainable perspective it should be in the interest of the nation to every so often conduct maintenance of the kitchen appliances. As a suggestion this should be done once every semester. By taking care of the appliances we ensure that they stay in good condition and do not need to be replaced as often. Hopefully, this will also have an impact on the temperature regulation in the fridges, which could result in less foodwaste due to the food being properly cold.

➤ **Engaging other nation members**

The tasks of the environmental officer should include actively working to engage the nations members in the environmental work. This can be done in a lot of different ways, as a suggestion in collaboration with the curators. The formation of an environmental group for example, could attract particularly interested individuals to engage in this question and in this way carry on the work.

➤ **Education for the club work**

Education of the club work in some kind or form should be held by the environmental officer in collaboration with the third curator. The purpose is to give an insight into the nations ongoing environmental work and understanding why it is important to uphold such work. The environmental aspects that need to be done during the daily activities are easily forgotten due to the other rules the club workers need to uphold. Therefore, it's important to discuss why so much weight is put on to things such as having a waste separation and composting but also to get the officers minds going, so we can improve to become Uppsala's, if not Sweden's, most sustainable nation.

➤ **Environmental policy**

To ensure that the environmental work at the nation is prioritized and the environmental policy reflects the work that is currently done at the nation the environmental policy should be updated regularly. During the time the environmental officer upholds this position they



should in collaboration with the curators that are affected by the policy review the document. If any changes are made the policy should be presented to Nationssammankomsten for approval.

Long-term goals

Västgöta nation strives in the long run to lower its impact on the environment and to work on developing the organization in a sustainable way. The environmental work should be taken in consideration in all the decisions that involve the nation and its activities. The long-term goals that the nation strives to uphold are described below:

- Green agreements and investments
- Continuous check ups on the ongoing environmental work
- Where it is possible calculate carbon dioxide for the food menu in order to reduce the nations emissions and impact on the environment