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FIRST FESTIVAL WITH A GREEN LICENSE: VIENNA SHORTS GOES GREEN EVENT

Events of the VIENNA SHORTS film festival will carry the Austrian Ecolabel in the future – License also entitles the festival to recognize other events as Green Events – Official certificate to be awarded in spring by the Federal Minister for Climate Action

Good news to start the year: The international short film festival VIENNA SHORTS is **the first festival in Austria to receive a license to hold its events as recognized Green Events from 2022**. In accordance with the guidelines of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, the festival fulfills all requirements to certify its cinema screenings or industry events with the [Austrian Ecolabel](#) in the future. This also makes VIENNA SHORTS the first Viennese film festival with certified green events.

The license is awarded for the next four years and allows the festival to not only organize Green Events itself, but also **to label events of other organizers as Green Events**. The necessary licensing process was started in the summer of 2020 and was accompanied by the environmental consultancy agency [Die Umweltberatung](#) with technical expertise. The official presentation of the license certificate **by Federal Minister for Climate Action, Leonore Gewessler**, is scheduled to take place in the spring.

VIENNA SHORTS will take place for the 19th time at the end of May. While the festival attracts about 10,000 visitors and more than 600 accredited professional guests on site, a large part of the approximately 300 short films from around the world are now also offered online. “We carry the Ecolabel because—as an internationally active cultural institution—we are aware of our responsibility for the environment and want to act accordingly,” say festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Ebner.

CONGRATULATIONS: FESTIVAL TAKES ON “A PIONEERING ROLE”

“It is exemplary how the VIENNA SHORTS short film festival has addressed the issue of ecological sustainability,” says Andrea Mayer, Secretary of State for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport, in an initial reaction. “The Ecolabel for a festival is a strong signal for more climate protection in the cultural sector and a good example that other cultural organizers in Austria will surely follow.”

“Green events in the event industry are exactly **the right and important way to achieve more climate action,**” adds Federal Minister for Climate Action, Leonore Gewessler. “Cultural events like the Viennese short film festival make a valuable contribution to this. **With this commitment, you take on a pioneering role and**

show how sustainable event organization can be implemented in practice, saving valuable resources and food in the process, and it's good for our climate, too.”

“I warmly congratulate the entire team on being awarded the Austrian Ecolabel,” Vienna's Executive City Councilor for Cultural Affairs and Science, Veronica Kaup-Hasler, is pleased to say. “The commitment and concrete measures that the VIENNA SHORTS film festival has consistently taken in the area of environmental protection are enormously important, especially since the city has also committed itself to the topic of sustainability and climate protection in many ways with the Climate Roadmap and Smart City Strategy that have just been presented. **The example of VIENNA SHORTS shows that art, culture and a climate-friendly cultural policy can make a significant contribution to the development of our city.**”

USING RENEWABLE SOURCES WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Since 2020, the festival has already been guided by the requirements of the **City of Vienna's [EcoEvent](#) label**. Now it also meets the extensive criteria of the **Austrian Ecolabel's Guideline 62 “Green Meetings and Green Events”**. “For the concrete implementation of certified events, this distinction means that we avoid the unnecessary use of non-renewable resources wherever possible,” emphasizes festival coordinator and Green Event project manager Laura Hörzelberger.

This includes, among other things, environmentally friendly travel to and from the festival by filmmakers and industry guests, waste prevention and energy-saving use of equipment during set-up and dismantling in the venues, sustainably produced (or entirely avoided) printed materials, a CO2-neutral server landscape for the digital infrastructure and regional, seasonal and fair-trade catering.

VIENNA SHORTS is the international short film festival in Vienna and one of the world's most renowned events for films up to 30 minutes in length. The festival is Austria's only qualifying event for the Oscars®, the European Film Awards, the British Film Awards BAFTA and the Austrian Film Awards. **The 19th edition takes place from May 25 to 30, 2022 in Viennese cinemas as well as over several weeks online.**

For detailed press material please visit viennashorts.com/en/downloads.

More information about VIENNA SHORTS as Green Event can be found [here](#).

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