Sustainability mission statement

Alex Lake Zurich is part of “The Living Circle” group - a hand-picked group of first-class hotels and restaurants in the most uncompromisingly beautiful locations, run by passionate hosts.

Rice, vegetables, fruit, honey, wine and other fine produce - everything is conjured up garden-fresh directly on the table by the hotel’s own farms. That is The Living Circle - luxury hotels fed by nature. Whether located directly on the Limmat in the heart of Zurich, in a private park on Lake Maggiore or on adjacent heights with breath-taking views - all members of The Living Circle have a strong connection to nature and offer their guests unparalleled experiences. Alex Lake Zurich has also been part of the group since summer 2020. It is a member of Relais & Chateau.

Located just a few minutes outside the city and directly on Lake Zurich, the five-star Hotel Alex Lake Zurich in Thalwil impresses with its unique location. The elegant stone and glass building is flooded with light. Soft colours and selected furnishings give the hotel a maritime flair. The 41 modern studios and two penthouses boast lake views, spacious layouts and kitchenettes that invite guests to linger. Culinary delights are available at the Alex Restaurant with its terrace, which is a popular summer meeting place. The Alex Bar is also the perfect place to relax with a cocktail or snack. You can also unwind in the hotel's spa, which has a steam room, sauna, vitality pool and direct access to the lake. For those who prefer to work out, there is a state-of-the-art fitness centre. The hotel's own boat takes guests on the most beautiful route to the centre of Zurich and back.

Alex Lake Zurich has been ISO certified since 2022 (ISO 9001:2015). The hotel also participates in the project "My Climate - cause we care" and is classified as "Swisstainable II" in the environmental programme of Switzerland Tourism. The hotel is aiming for level III, which should be achieved automatically once the Earth Check Certificate (currently under development) has been obtained. Since the beginning of 2023, the hotel has been free of single-use plastic in the guest area (with a few defined exceptions for which no suitable substitute product has yet been found - such as adhesive tape).

The plastic waste that is nevertheless generated (mainly films, containers, packs,...) is collected separately, weighed and measured in the form of a "plastic footprint". The amount of plastic waste that cannot be recycled is compensated through a cooperation with CleanHub, a company that will correctly dispose of the same amount of waste in Asia (or even collecting from the sea).

The environmental policy of Alex Lake Zurich is an important part of the quality and environmental management system. In doing so, we rely on the following guiding principles:
Quality and Environment Circle - Green Team

• Under the leadership of the Environmental Manager, the Green Team members meet regularly to define goals for the operation. They are responsible for implementing these goals on the basis of a clearly defined annual target map approved by the GM. The Green Team follows the suggestions of "EarthCheck" and "My Climate".

Management:
• We set the environmental virus in the company and promote environmental awareness among employees.
• We reward good ideas and suggestions for improvement from our employees in the area of environmentally friendly use of resources with recognition.
• We keep ourselves informed about developments and innovations in our field of expertise in order to make a further contribution to the sparing use of resources.
• We ensure that the quality and comfort for the guests are not affected by the environmental management system.

Staff members:
• We treat the environment carefully and mindfully by limiting energy and water consumption and the amount of waste, and we use environmentally friendly and renewable materials.
  • We bring suggestions on how we can further improve our environmental performance.

Guests:
• We inform our guests about our sustainable actions on the environmental issue (e.g. on the website).
• We do not actively ask our guests to change their behaviour, but we try to sensitise them through our behaviour.

Suppliers:
• An annual screening of our suppliers allows us to define which suppliers support our environmental philosophy.
• Environmental targets are defined in an annual meeting with the main suppliers.
• We encourage our suppliers to the environmentally friendly use of resources and express our expectations for active support and assistance in the area of environmental protection.
• When planning purchases, we take the environmental aspect into account and seek advice from an independent expert on future-oriented technologies.
Publicity:
• We communicate our contribution to environmental improvement to the public discreetly with style, showing what we are already doing and where we are improving.

Alex Lake Zurich takes external and internal influences into account when implementing the quality and environmental management system. These external and internal influences are defined within the framework of the regular board meetings as well as the annual target planning.

Our goal is to promote and specifically implement ecological and social sustainability. In doing so, we are also guided by the “Sustainable Development Goals”, the 17 goals for sustainable development that are to be achieved globally and by all UN member states by 2030.

We are actively working to reduce our environmental impact in collaboration with all our stakeholders and partners. We develop clear targets and commit to meeting them in the following areas:

• Reduction of food waste
• Protecting our natural resources
• Preference for local employees, products, suppliers and companies
• Compliance with the principles of fair trade
• Compliance with all legal requirements
• Raising awareness among our employees, guests and partners
• Constant striving for improvement

The entire process is dynamic and stony. We are convinced that this will create a clear added value for our and future generations to preserve our nature, which will also give us success and advantages on the market.

Madeleine Löhner
Managing Director Operations

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