



1. OUR ENGAGEMENT

Given the environmental challenges that we are facing, our goal is to reduce water consumption, carbon intensity, amount of waste and food waste.

In our daily operations we engage, however possible, to avoid the waste of resources and we aim to reduce our environmental impact by diminishing the consumption of water, electricity and promoting recycling.

1.1 WATER

The importance of water should not be taken for granted. That is why in our hotel we have installations that allow us to save water: our toilets are equipped with low water consuming tanks and we're encouraging the overnight stay guests not to have the room cleaned daily.

This allows us to increase the awareness in our guests about the importance of saving water that is used to clean the rooms and for the laundry of linen and towels.

In the daily cleaning of the hotel, non-chemical cleaning products are used to avoid any water pollution and contamination.

1.2 ELECTRICITY

The hotel is currently heated by fuel oil, but our engagement is to reduce energy consumption and in the long term we plan to install renewable energy equipment.

Since 2018 we have installed double glazed windows in 90% of our rooms and have reduced the heating time and heating temperature.

Moreover, our electrical suppliers use 100% renewable energy and we have installed motion sensor LED lamps in common spaces.

1.3 PAPER

The consumption of paper has a huge environmental impact such as deforestation, huge use of water and energy as well as waste problems.

In recent years, rather than simply recycling paper, we have decided to reduce the use of it in our daily tasks to decrease our environmental impact.

1.4 PLASTIC

Plastic pollution has become one of the biggest environmental issues in the world.

Single-use plastics account for 36% of the plastic produced every year (UNEP, Visual Feature | Beat Plastic Pollution. (2022, March 1) and they pollute natural habitats and threaten wildlife all over the world.

While recycling is implemented in our hotel, we are engaged in reducing the use of single-use plastic.

During 2023, we aim to eliminate single-use plastic in all our rooms.

From this year the guests will no longer receive plastic bottles but instead carton water bottles.

Moreover, the bulk amenities will be installed in the rooms instead of single use products.

1.5 BEES

Since the beginning of April 2014, the Le Plaza hotel has installed 3 beehives on the 3rd floor terrace. This action is part of our efforts to reduce our ecological footprint. A team of employees has been set up to look after these beehives, with the Purchasing Manager as coordinator, who himself has been an amateur beekeeper for many years.



Half of the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region is covered by green spaces, 8,000 hectares that harbour a biodiversity that is unusual for a large metropolis. This diversity and the absence of chemical products make the cities a paradise for bees. With the Botanical Gardens (400m) and the Parc Royal (1km) in particular, bees will find the biodiversity of flowers they need to produce honey, which is becoming increasingly rare in the countryside due to monoculture and the intensive use of pesticides and other plant protection products.

The question of urban pollution could be raised, but numerous analyses have been carried out and no traces of lead, mercury or other pollutants have been detected in

city honey. Finally, the higher temperatures in the city mean that bees flower for longer than in the fields, extending the foraging period and increasing honey production per bee.



To produce 1kg of honey, bees will travel an average of 40,000 km and collect 500,000 flowers. Between March and July, each hive is home to 80,000 bees and a queen who can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day.

The first harvest was 20kg, and as the city honey is of excellent quality, it will be offered to our VIP guests and the hotel team to thank them for their involvement.



1.6 PLEASE DON'T CLEAN MY ROOM

A new program was launched this year "Please don't clean my room" where the guests can decide not to have their room cleaned and in exchange, we will plant a tree in collaboration with Ecologi.

This program helps to increase the awareness of our guests about the importance of saving water. It allows us to save water and at the same time to partially compensate for the emissions caused by the hotel supporting projects of reforestation in the world.

This program encounters a great success since the beginning and up to today we have planted over 1000 plants.

Check the growth of our forest :



1.7 EVENTS

In our aim to completely reduce the use of single use plastics, we are proud to say that in our meetings we have eliminated the use of single-use plastic and we can guarantee plastic-free events.

Moreover, our clients ask for menu which is bio and local menu and we also give them the possibility to donate the leftovers of their event to associations to avoid food waste.



Despite our efforts to significantly reduce the impacts and emissions we are aware that 0 impact is impossible to achieve. However, starting from the end of 2023, in collaboration with CO2Strategy, we will propose to our clients the possibility to calculate the environmental footprint of their events and compensate their emissions. This will allow our guests to be aware of their emissions and participate to programs of reforestation in several parts of the world.

1.8 OUR SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS

During these last years, sustainability and social responsibility became the focus of our actions therefore we have decided to work and collaborate with suppliers that embrace our same values. Most of our suppliers have ecological labels and certificates that prove their engagement to produce quality products and services with great attention to their impact.

The logo for nedlin, with the word "nedlin" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

The logo for SELIN TEKSTIL, featuring a stylized red and white graphic element to the left of the text "SELIN" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "TEKSTIL" in a smaller font below it.



DIBELLA
LONGLIFE TEXTILES

Extract from an interview in french with Nedlin:

"The Plaza holds the "Green Key" sustainable label, we try to be part of a sustainable development approach: is this also one of your priorities?"

"Sustainable development is one of our priorities and one of our company values. The Nedlin teams have developed a "Nedlin sustainable development programm" consisting of 4 precise ecological objectives, and then measure the results. For one year, an objective is assigned to one of our teams, who must then develop it and ensure that progress has indeed been made. For example: to raise our customers' awareness of sustainable development, we offer two choices: the 'classic' product or its sustainable version.

In the case of the Plaza, you have chosen to replace the classic products with their sustainable variants, which are more expensive but in line with your "Green Key" ecological policy. Another example is the installation of solar panels, which have enabled us to reduce energy consumption by 50% in Hoensbroek and even by 66% in Stein. For our latest project, we are looking into the possibility of replacing petrol with LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) for all our trucks, which would mean a 25% reduction in CO2 emissions.

"Nedlin is on its way to becoming a zero-consumption company, can you tell us more?"

"The technology is not yet sufficiently developed, but I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to get as close as possible. As Caesar said, 'It's better to be first in the village than second in Rome', and I couldn't agree more."



1.9 MOBILITY

Within our teams, we are committed to promoting soft mobility.

We encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling, in particular with the installation of new cycle parking facilities.

To support this approach, train and Stib season tickets are reimbursed at 100%.

Teleworking is also encouraged and practised at least one day a week to avoid commuting.

In addition, business travel is kept to a minimum and replaced wherever possible by videoconferencing or audio-conferencing. When it is impossible to avoid travelling, the train is preferred to the plane.

The hotel also plans to equip itself with hybrid vehicles for less polluting car journeys.

1.10 ECO-CHEQUES

We aim to promote environmental responsibility amongst our employees so that they can also adopt a sustainable lifestyle. Since 2009 we allocate yearly eco-cheques to all our employees that they can use to buy ecological products and biological food. In this way we encourage them to embrace our engagement in their private sphere as well.

2. LABELS

For our commitment, the hotel received the Green Key Label and the label “Entreprise EcoDynamique / Ecodynamische Onderneming”, which prove our engagement and our constant work to decrease the environmental impact of our activities.



Green Key

“The Green key certificate is a leading standard of excellence in the field of environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism industry. This prestigious certificate represents a commitment by businesses that their tourism establishments adhere to the strict criteria stipulated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

A Green Key stands for an establishment’s promise to its guests that by opting to stay with such an establishment, they are helping to make a difference on an environmental and sustainability level. The high environmental standards expected of these establishments are maintained through rigorous documentation and frequent audits” (Green Key — Green Key Programme, n.d.)



“The Ecodynamic Enterprise Label is an official and free accreditation. It rewards and encourages companies, non-profit organisations and institutions in the public or private sector in Brussels that take action to reduce the impact of their activity on the environment.

The label rates eco-management processes according to a scale with three levels of environmental performance: one, two or three stars. Thus, it highlights initiatives in areas such as waste prevention and the circular economy, rational energy use, good management of worker mobility and sustainable food” (*Label Entreprise Ecodynamique*, n.d.)