

ASB SEE Main Office / BH Office
Aleja Bosne srebrenе 35
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Telephone: +387 (0)33 468366
+387 (0)33 468690
Fax: +387 (0)33 234698
Web page: www.asb-see.org
E-mail: asb.bosnia@asb-see.org

ASB SEE Climate and Environment Charter Commitments 2026–2028

1. Introduction

The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations is a global framework developed to guide humanitarian organizations in responding more effectively to the climate and environmental crises. It recognizes that climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are already increasing humanitarian needs, deepening vulnerabilities and affecting the lives, health, livelihoods and safety of the communities served by humanitarian and development actors.

By signing the Charter, humanitarian organizations commit to reducing the negative environmental and climate impact of their own work, while also strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of communities affected by climate and environmental risks. The Charter is intended to be a practical framework to help organizations translate climate and environmental responsibility into their programmes, operations, partnerships and institutional practices.

ASB Germany and its offices around the world have signed the Climate and Environment Charter. As one of the signatories, ASB Southeast Europe (ASB SEE) is committed to aligning its work with the principles and objectives set out in the Charter. In this regard, ASB SEE is prepared to contribute to the collective efforts aimed at strengthening climate and environmental responsibility within humanitarian and development action.

The commitments should be understood as a living framework that can be reviewed and updated as ASB SEE gains more experience, develops internal capacity and identifies further opportunities for climate and environmental action.

ASB SEE recognizes the importance of integrating climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches to address the increasing frequency and intensity of floods, droughts, wildfires, heatwaves, and other climate-related hazards across the South East Europe. Strengthening climate-informed risk assessments, preparedness planning, and community-based disaster risk management will contribute to more resilient communities and sustainable development outcomes.

ASB Office Belgrade

Antifašističke borbe, 14/8,
11 070 Belgrade / Serbia
Telephone: +381 11 231 06 77
Telefax: +381 11 311 73 18
e-mail: asb.serbia@asb-see.org



ASB Office Prizren

Adnan Krasniqi, II Entrance, No 23
20 000 Prizren / Kosovo
Telephone: +383 49 804 206
e-mail: asb.kosovo@asb-see.org

Mission Statement

"Better development can reduce the need for emergency relief; better relief can contribute to development; and better rehabilitation can ease the transition between the two."

ASB established a network of offices in South Eastern Europe to implement projects for multiple donors including the European Union, its individual Member States and the United States of America. All activities are implemented along the parameters of the "Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development" (LRRD) Strategy of the European Commission (EC - Brussels, 30.04. 1996)

2. Guiding principles

ASB SEE will implement these commitments in line with the following principles:

- **Realistic and achievable:** commitments should correspond to ASB SEE's mandate, resources, donor requirements and operational realities.
- **Context-specific:** measures should be adapted to the countries, communities and sectors in which ASB SEE works.
- **Do no harm:** ASB SEE will aim to avoid, reduce and mitigate negative environmental impacts of its programmes and operations where feasible.
- **Locally led and partnership-based:** ASB SEE will work with local partners, municipalities, civil society organizations and communities to identify and transfer practical and relevant solutions.
- **Gradual integration:** climate and environmental considerations will be progressively embedded into project design, implementation, procurement, monitoring and learning.

3. ASB SEE Commitments 2026–2028

3.1. Greener procurement and reduced environmental footprint

ASB SEE will promote procurement practices that reduce unnecessary waste, avoid over-procurement and prioritise durable, repairable, locally available and environmentally preferable goods and services where feasible.

Target:

By the end of 2027, ASB SEE will develop and apply basic green procurement criteria for frequently purchased goods and services.

Actions:

- Add environmental criteria to procurement templates where relevant.
- Prioritise local and regional suppliers where this is cost-effective and compliant with donor rules.
- Avoid unnecessary single-use plastics in project events, offices and field activities.
- Include packaging reduction and waste management expectations in communication with suppliers where feasible.
- Consider environmental certification, durability, repairability or lower environmental footprint as added value in procurement evaluation, where legally and operationally appropriate.
- Avoid over-procurement by improving needs assessments and planning.

Indicator:

Green procurement criteria developed and applied in all procurement procedures.

3.2 Energy-efficient reconstruction, rehabilitation and construction

ASB SEE will integrate energy efficiency and environmental sustainability considerations into reconstruction, rehabilitation and construction works, whenever technically and financially feasible.

Target:

By the end of 2028, ASB SEE-supported reconstruction, rehabilitation and construction interventions will include energy-efficiency considerations and basic construction waste/debris management considerations in design, budgeting and implementation, where relevant to the type and scale of works.

Actions:

- Include energy-efficiency considerations in technical assessments for reconstruction, rehabilitation and construction works.
- Where feasible, improve the energy performance of reconstructed or rehabilitated buildings.
- Prioritise improved insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, efficient heating/cooling solutions and reduced energy loss where relevant.
- Consider durable, locally available and environmentally preferable construction materials where compliant with donor and procurement rules.
- Include energy-efficiency requirements in technical specifications and bills of quantities, where relevant.
- Promote safe, durable and energy-conscious housing and community infrastructure solutions.
- Document examples of reconstructed or rehabilitated buildings where energy efficiency has been improved.
- Assess opportunities for the safe reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials during reconstruction and rehabilitation works, where feasible.
- Include basic requirements for sorting and appropriate disposal of construction waste and debris in technical specifications, where relevant.

Indicator:

Percentage of reconstruction, rehabilitation or construction interventions that include energy-efficiency measures and basic construction waste/debris management provisions in technical documentation and implementation.

3.3. Office eco-efficiency: energy, paper, water and waste

ASB SEE will reduce the environmental footprint of its offices through practical measures related to energy use, paper reduction, water consumption and waste management.

Target:

By the end of 2027, ASB SEE offices will apply a basic “green office” package.

Actions:

- Introduce double-sided printing as default.
- Promote digital-first document sharing and reduce unnecessary printing.
- Use e-signatures where accepted by donors, partners and internal procedures.
- Install reminders for switching off lights, heating/cooling and equipment.
- Avoid single-use plastic bottles in offices and meetings where safe drinking water alternatives exist.
- Separate waste where local systems allow.
- Review office paper consumption and selected utility use annually.

Indicator:

Green office checklist applied; annual review of paper use and selected office practices conducted.

3.4 Climate-sensitive community resilience

ASB SEE will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities by integrating climate and environmental considerations into social protection, housing, livelihoods and local development interventions.

Target:

By the end of 2028, at least three ASB SEE project proposals will include specific activities or measures that support community resilience to climate or environmental risks.

Actions:

- Include climate-related vulnerability in needs assessments where relevant.
- Connect socio-economic empowerment activities with sustainable livelihoods and local resource efficiency.
- Promote safe, durable and energy-conscious housing or community infrastructure solutions.
- Include climate and environmental topics in community consultations and partner dialogue.
- Support municipalities and CSOs to identify local climate or environmental risks and practical adaptation measures.
- Encourage integration of climate adaptation and DRR measures into local development and resilience planning processes.
- Explore nature-based, community-based or locally led solutions where appropriate.
- Introduce environmental and climate risk screening for new projects, where relevant, to identify potential negative impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.

Indicator:

Number of projects with climate or environmental resilience measures included.

3.5 Capacity building and staff engagement

ASB SEE will strengthen internal capacity to understand and apply the Climate and Environment Charter commitments in daily work.

Target:

By the end of 2027, ASB SEE will organise at least one internal orientation session on the Climate and Environment Charter and practical greening measures for programme, finance, logistics and management staff.

Actions:

- Share short guidance notes and templates with staff.
- Appoint internal working group to coordinate follow-up.
- Collect examples from ASB offices, partners and other humanitarian organizations.
- Include practical greening measures in internal meetings and planning processes.
- Provide staff training and awareness raising on the use of environmental risk assessment and screening tools and guidance.

Indicator:

Orientation delivered; internal focal point or working group established; practical tools shared with staff.

3.6 Partnerships and local leadership

ASB SEE will promote climate and environmental awareness among partners, while respecting their capacities and operational realities. ASB SEE will promote integrated and locally driven approaches that bring together civil society organizations, municipalities, civil protection authorities, and communities to strengthen climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience.

Target:

By the end of 2028, ASB SEE will support selected local partners to understand the Climate and Environment Charter and identify their own feasible greening actions.

Actions:

- Discuss the Charter principles with partners and networks.
- Integrate practical climate-smart and greening tips into partner meetings, trainings or grant guidance.
- Encourage partners to reduce single-use plastics, unnecessary printing and avoidable waste in ASB-supported activities.
- Share donor greening priorities with partners in simple and practical language.
- Encourage local partners to identify their own achievable climate and environmental commitments.
- Promote climate and environmental risk-informed programming practices among local partners.

Indicator:

Number of partner meetings, trainings or consultations where climate and environmental commitments are discussed.

3.7 Monitoring, learning and annual review

ASB SEE will monitor the implementation of these commitments in a practical way. ASB SEE will encourage regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned on climate adaptation, environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction among partners, municipalities and relevant institutions across Southeast Europe.

Target:

ASB SEE will prepare a short annual update on progress, challenges and next steps.

Possible actions:

- Review commitments once per year.
- Identify what worked, what was unrealistic and what needs adjustment.
- Update the action plan based on project experience, donor requirements and staff feedback.
- Document selected examples of good practice from projects and offices.
- Use annual review findings to refine targets for the following year.

Indicator:

Annual progress note prepared and discussed internally.

4. First-year priorities for 2026

For the first year of implementation, ASB SEE could focus on a limited number of practical steps:

- Appoint an working group for Climate Charter follow-up.
- Organise one internal orientation session for staff.
- Develop basic green procurement criteria for selected procurement categories.
- Prepare a green office checklist.
- Identify one or two ongoing or upcoming projects where climate/environmental measures can be piloted.
- Prepare a short annual progress note at the end of the year.

5. ASB SEE Commitments 2026–2028

Commitment area	Target	Timeline	Actions	Indicator
1. Greener procurement	apply green procurement criteria for goods and services.	By end 2027	Environmental criteria in procurement templates; reduction of plastics; durable and repairable goods; local suppliers.	Green procurement criteria developed and applied.
2. Energy-efficient reconstruction, rehabilitation and construction	works will include energy-efficiency and construction waste/debris management considerations	By end 2028	energy-efficient construction; durable local materials; energy-efficiency in BoQs; reuse/recycling and appropriate disposal of construction waste/debris..	Share of relevant works including energy-efficiency and basic waste/debris management provisions measures.

Commitment area	Target	Timeline	Actions	Indicator
3. Office eco-efficiency	offices will apply a basic green office package.	By end 2027	Reduced double-sided printing; digital document; e-signatures; reduced plastics; waste separation where possible.	Green office checklist applied.
4. Climate-sensitive community resilience	At least three ASB SEE projects will include climate or environmental resilience measures.	By end 2028	Climate-related vulnerability in needs assessments; energy-conscious housing; community consultations; environmental and climate risk screening for new projects.	Number of projects with climate/environmental resilience measures.
5. Staff capacity and engagement	ASB SEE will organise at least one internal orientation/training	By end 2027	Staff orientation; working group; collection of good practices; training on environmental risk assessment and screening tools..	Orientation delivered; working group established; practical tools shared
6. Partnerships and local leadership	ASB SEE will support partners to identify feasible climate and environmental actions.	By end 2028	Partner consultations; sharing donor greening priorities; partner-level commitments; climate and environmental risk-informed programming practices.	Number of partner meetings or trainings including climate/environment topics.
7. Monitoring and annual review	ASB SEE will prepare a annual update on progress, challenges and next steps.	Annually	Annual review; progress note; documentation of good practices; adjustment of targets.	Annual progress note prepared.