



Sustainability Mission Statement

The Widder Hotel is part of “The Living Circle” – a handpicked group of premium hotels and restaurants located in uncompromisingly beautiful settings, managed by passionate hosts.

Rice, vegetables, fruits, honey, wine and other fine produce – all come fresh from our own farms directly to the table. That’s The Living Circle – luxury fed by nature. Whether on the banks of the Limmat in the heart of Zurich, in a private park on Lake Maggiore or on adjacent hills with breathtaking views – all members of The Living Circle are deeply connected to nature and offer their guests unique and unforgettable experiences.

The history of The Living Circle’s properties goes back hundreds of years. The Widder Hotel, which has been part of the group since 2018, also has a long tradition: located in the heart of Zurich’s Old Town, nine historic townhouses house a state-of-the-art luxury hotel. The core of the complex, today’s library, is a simple stone house from the 12th century. In 1401, the Butchers' Guild – their emblem being the ram – bought the corner house at Rennweg 1 and built a guild house in 1533. The Widder Guild is one of twelve historical craft guilds that, together with the Constaffel, governed the city in the Middle Ages.

The medieval buildings in the Rennweg district were worn down and dilapidated when they were purchased by UBS in 1983, renovated, and transformed. The old structure had to be preserved and studied while the most advanced building technologies were applied to strengthen and complement it. For more than 10 years, negotiations, research, planning, construction and design took place. The result by Swiss architect Tilla Theus is renowned: a modern private hotel in which layers of history and elements of modernity interact. The Widder Hotel opened in 1995 and is a member of “The Leading Hotels of the World”, “Swiss Deluxe Hotels”, and “Responsible Hotels of Switzerland”.

The Widder Hotel, located on the world-famous Bahnhofstrasse in the heart of Zurich’s historic Old Town, is one of the city’s most unique and extraordinary boutique hotels. The 5-star superior hotel offers 14 suites and 35 guest rooms, a refined and diverse culinary offering, meeting and banquet facilities for up to 200 guests, as well as a fitness room. Since 2004, the Widder Hotel has been ISO certified (ISO 9001:2015). The hotel also participates in the “My Climate – cause we care” project and is classified at level “Swisstainable III” in the environmental program of Switzerland Tourism.

Since the beginning of 2023, the hotel’s guest areas are largely free of single-use plastic (with a few defined exceptions for which no suitable alternatives have yet been found – e.g., adhesive tape).

Plastic waste that still occurs (mainly from films, containers, packaging, etc.) is collected and disposed of separately. To compensate, we support CleanHub, a company that retrieves plastic from the ocean and cleans beaches in Asia.

Widder Hotel · Rennweg 7 · 8001 Zürich · Switzerland
T +41 44 224 25 26 · home@widderhotel.com · widderhotel.com



A central component of the Widder Hotel's quality and environmental management system is its environmental policy. We are committed to the following guiding principles:

Quality and Environmental Circle – Green Team

- Led by the Quality & Sustainability Manager, Green Team members meet regularly to define goals for operations and implement improvements in quality and sustainability. The Green Team is guided by recommendations from “EarthCheck” and “My Climate” and evaluates guest and employee feedback.

Management:

- We lead by example and foster environmental awareness among our employees.
- We recognize and reward good ideas and suggestions from our staff for environmentally conscious use of resources.
- We stay informed about developments and innovations in our fields to further improve resource efficiency.
- We ensure that quality and comfort for our guests are not compromised by our environmental management system.

Employees:

- We treat the environment with care and mindfulness by limiting energy and water consumption and waste production, and by using eco-friendly and renewable materials.
- We contribute suggestions on how to further improve our environmental performance.

Guests:

- We inform our guests about our sustainable practices regarding the environment (e.g., via our website).
- We do not actively ask guests to change their behavior, but we aim to raise awareness through our own actions.

Suppliers:

- An annual screening of our suppliers allows us to identify those who support our environmental philosophy.
- Environmental goals are defined in annual discussions with our main suppliers.
- We raise awareness among our suppliers about sustainable use of resources and communicate our expectations for active support and cooperation in environmental protection.
- When planning purchases, we consider the environmental aspect and seek advice from independent experts on forward-looking technologies.

Public:

- We communicate our environmental contributions to the public discreetly and with style by showing what we are already doing and where we are improving.

The Widder Hotel takes external and internal factors into account in the implementation of the quality and environmental management system. These influences are identified during regular board and executive management meetings.

Our goal is to promote and implement ecological and social sustainability in a targeted manner. We are guided by the “Sustainable Development Goals” – the 17 global goals set by the UN to be achieved by all member states by 2030.

Thus, we actively work to reduce environmental impact in collaboration with all our stakeholders and partners. We define clear objectives and commit ourselves to meeting them in the following areas:

- Reducing food waste (focus topic 2025 in cooperation with Foodways Consulting)
- Protecting our natural resources
- Prioritizing local staff, products, suppliers, and companies
- Adhering to the principles of fair trade
- Complying with all legal regulations
- Raising awareness among our staff, guests, and partners
- Continuous efforts toward improvement

This is a dynamic yet demanding process. We are convinced that it creates clear added value for us and future generations in preserving our natural environment, while also bringing us success and benefits in the market.



Benjamin Dietsche
General Manager

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