

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF GREEN SPACES' POLICY

V1 - November 2024



At *emeis*, we consider biodiversity to be essential. Numerous scientific studies[1] have demonstrated the benefits of contact with nature on well-being and health. Integrating biodiversity and biophilia into our activities represents a powerful lever for contributing to the well-being of our residents, patients and employees.

The construction and operation of our facilities have an impact on biodiversity in terms of soil artificialisation, the preservation of flora and fauna, water pollution from effluent medicines, the management of green spaces and the use of plant protection products.

Since then, the *emeis* Group has made a commitment to biodiversity and biophilia by creating two internal labels: "Construction" and "Operations".

The "Construction" label defines the technical criteria to be integrated into all the Group's new projects in order to promote biodiversity and biophilia. The "Operations" label sets out the concrete actions to be taken to promote biodiversity and biophilia in existing facilities. In particular, it specifies how the teams at each facility can encourage residents, patients and staff to interact with nature, thereby promoting the health and well-being of all.

On a day-to-day basis, the management of green spaces within our facilities is much more than a simple matter of maintenance and aesthetics. The challenges of biodiversity and biophilia are directly linked to our health. Our gardens, parks, natural or landscaped areas are not only beautiful assets to be valued and maintained, but also support physical activity, stimulate the senses, improve mood and enrich social interaction, all of which are vectors for health prevention: they are home to our patients, residents, their families and our teams. They are an integral part of our life and care project. With a specificity linked to our professions: our living spaces are also workplaces.



Our ambition is to manage green spaces in an environmentally-friendly way, protecting biodiversity, reducing pollution and the consumption of natural resources.

This policy is fully in line with the Group's biodiversity and biophilia commitments and aims to set out the main principles for the upkeep the parks and gardens of our facilities.

The stakeholders concerned are the external service providers responsible for the maintenance of green spaces and the maintenance staff of the *emeis* facilities under the responsibility of the Managers. It should be noted that if the facility uses the services of a specialist company for the maintenance of green spaces, this policy will be appended to the contract.



[Click here](#) or use the QR code above to find out more about the *emeis* Group's Biodiversity and Biophilia Policy.

[1] Yoshifumi Miyazaki, *Shinrin Yoku: The Japanese Art of Forest Bathing*, 2018 / Roger S Ulrich, *Health Benefits of Gardens in Hospitals*, 2002 / Bjørn Grinde, Grete Grindal Patil, *Biophilia: Does Visual Contact with Nature Impact on Health and Well-Being?* 2009 / Alzheimer's Australia SA, *Gardens that Care: Planning Outdoor Environments for People with Dementia*, 2010 / Louis Bherer, *Les bienfaits de la nature sur la santé globale*, 2021 / Barcelona Healthcare Architecture, *Jardines terapéuticos para el bienestar de las personas*, 2022

Inclusion and local economic development

- Special attention is given to employing individuals from all diverse backgrounds. Our inclusive hiring practices embrace people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and experiences. By fostering a diverse workforce, we can create a richer, more innovative, and compassionate community open to all profiles.
- The use of fully robotised solutions is prohibited (e.g. autonomous robot mowers).
- Plant purchases and seedlings should preferably be made from local nurseries or from local retailers.

Water management

- Encourage the planting of robust species that are adapted to the local climate and require little watering.
- Give priority to ecological management to reduce evaporation of water from plants: differentiated management, mulching, etc.
- With the exception of therapeutic planters, plants should be planted in the ground rather than in planters, as this increases water requirements



Did you know?

Water, essential to our health and our ecosystems, is a fragile resource under increasing pressure. In fact, only 2.5% of the Earth's water is fresh, 70% of it in the form of glaciers. In some regions, the situation is becoming critical, and climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts.

In our business, water plays a fundamental and indispensable role in the day-to-day care provided to our patients, residents and beneficiaries.

For example: each person consumes almost 150 litres of water a day for their basic needs, the equivalent of the volume of a bathtub. A tap left running, for example, can waste up to 6 litres of water per minute, which underlines the importance of constant vigilance to prevent the waste of such a scarce common good.

That is why it is imperative to adopt a sober approach, both individually and collectively.

Together, let's preserve this precious resource.

Maintenance of lawns and meadows

- Guarantee "zero" phyto management of green spaces: chemical phytosanitary treatments, both herbicides and chemical insecticides, are banned. Biocontrol treatments (a set of plant protection methods based on the use of natural mechanisms) are tolerated, subject to the agreement of the green spaces manager.
- Plant palette composed of more than 70% indigenous species: When planting new plant, at least 70% of the species must be local [2], naturally present in the biogeographical zone. In certain specific cases, with a view to adapting to global warming, this definition may be extended to include Mediterranean plants[3].

[2] Also called endemic species

[3] Website for identifying local plants: <https://www.worldplants.de/world-plants-complete-list/country-stats>

Maintenance of lawns and meadows

- Implement differentiated management of green spaces, for facilities with more than 200 m² of green spaces including uncultivated meadows, with late mowing, excluding areas at risk of fire: vary the intensity of maintenance of green spaces according to their use. E.g.: lawns mown along roadsides and meadows left uncultivated.
- Guarantee the maintenance and upkeep of mulches with the aim of "zero bare soil".

Did you know?

Phytosanitary-free" management of green spaces refers to the maintenance of plants without the use of chemical products to protect plants against bio-aggressors: parasitic animals, fungi, "weeds" and local invasive species, invasive exotic species.

In France, this has been a regulatory obligation[4] for the management of public green spaces since 2017, and has been extended to private and collective spaces since July 2022. The aim is to replace pesticides, insecticides and herbicides with alternative preventive and curative methods.

Controlling nuisance and limiting pollution

- Favour the use of battery-powered electric equipment over fossil-fuelled internal combustion engines, where lifecycle equipment is being replaced or in new facilities since 2024.
- For equipment, encourage the use of vegetable-based engine oil and lubricants that do not pollute the environment according to the green space maintenance contract, where lifecycle equipment is being replaced or in new facilities since 2024.
- Ensure that any soil imported into the facility is unpolluted, particularly in terms of invasive species [5].
- Ensure that no invasive plant species are planted on the site.

Did you know?

An invasive alien species (IAS) is a species introduced by man, intentionally or unintentionally, to a territory outside its natural range, and which threatens ecosystems, natural habitats or local species. These species pose a threat to local species because they take up too large a proportion of the natural resources (space, light, food, habitat, etc.) that other species need to survive. They can also be direct predators of local species. Invasive alien species are now considered to be one of the main threats to biodiversity[6].

[4] Law no. 2014-110 of 6 February 2014 aimed at providing a better framework for the use of plant protection products on national territory; supplemented by Order of 15 January 2021 on measures to protect people when using plant protection products in private properties, places frequented by the public and in places for collective use.

[5] For information, list of invasive species in Europe: <http://especies-exotiques-envahissantes.fr/base-documentaire/liste-despeces/#1541590170399-c06c0225-d133>

[6] Find out more on the website of the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition

Recycling and recovery of green waste

- No burning of vegetation on or off the premises;
- Encourage the processing (e.g. shredding) and reuse of green waste within the facility's green spaces (mulching, grass clippings, etc.).
- Guarantee the treatment of green waste exported from facilities to a professional waste collection centre.

Did you know ?

Green waste is essential to soil regeneration; it enriches the soil, protects it from periods of severe drought and also encourages the presence of insects. Finally, it helps to limit the associated transport costs to landfill sites and treatment centres.

Since 31 December 2023, all producers, whether industrial or private, have been subject to the same obligation to sort and recycle green waste. In addition, plant fires have been banned [7] because of their impact on the environment, health and the risks associated with starting fires. This practice is a source of emissions of numerous atmospheric pollutants, including fine particles that are harmful to health.



Shrub and tree management

- Adapt cutting and pruning schedules to respect bird nesting periods, for example by stopping cutting and pruning from March to June.

Did you know ?

Gentle pruning allows trees and shrubs to develop according to their seasonal cycle, making them more resistant to disease and periods of water stress. Trees and shrubs also play a major role in wildlife, providing shelter and nesting places for many birds. This is why it is essential to stop cutting and pruning between March and June.



[7] Circular dated 18 November 2011 on the ban on open burning of green waste.