

Guideline

Green Shooting in South Tyrol

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1. Introduction: What is Green Shooting?

South Tyrol's natural landscape is one of the main factors drawing film productions to this region. IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol aims to ensure that the natural landscapes remain intact while at the same time becoming accessible to larger audiences via film and TV productions.

“Green Shooting” is a concept designed to promote and implement production methods that use the available resources as efficiently and sparingly as possible. Targeted measures are put in place to reduce the environmental impact of film shoots to a minimum. They can be divided into seven categories: communication, energy, transport & accommodation, catering, waste management and innovative ideas.

The producer filing the grant application with IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol can subsequently also initiate the **process of becoming certified** for Green Shooting. The first step is to fill out and submit the “Green Shooting Checklist” along with the grant application. Next, a range of measures must be implemented during production in order to be awarded a specified number of points. Once a production accumulates at least 60% of the maximum number of points, it is awarded the Green Shooting Certificate by the Department for Environmental and Climate Protection (Landesagentur für Umwelt und Klimaschutz/Agenzia provincial per l'ambiente e la tutela del clima) of the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano.

In the case of productions which, by virtue of their nature, use neither the means nor the resources which necessitate the application of one or more of the seven “Green Shooting” criteria, the number of points corresponding to the unnecessary criteria measures can be deducted from the total number of points.

This Guideline details the certification process as well as the seven criteria for which points are awarded. For further information, please refer to the “Green Shooting Checklist”, which is available to download from the IDM website at www.film-music.idm-suedtirol.com.

We wish you the best of success in making your project a sustainable production!

2. How it works: The certification process step by step

Who oversees the certification process?

Reviewing compliance with the seven criteria (A–G) is the task of the **Department for Environmental and Climate Protection** of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen or an independent institution officially acting on its behalf (hereinafter referred to as “Controlling body”).

Upon completion of its review, the Department for Environmental and Climate Protection issues the Green Shooting Certificate no later than 30 days after receiving the necessary documentation from the applicant.

What does the certificate contain and how are the points awarded?

The Green Shooting Certificate is awarded to film shoots that accumulate **at least 60% of the maximum points** according to the **Green Shooting Checklist**. The measures marked “mandatory” in column C of the Green Shooting Checklist are a prerequisite for applying for the certification. The voluntary measures are awarded different numbers of points, depending on how relevant they are.

Criteria and relative measures which cannot be applied due to the nature of the production can be deducted from the total number of points, upon motivated reasons only.

What are the steps of the certification process?

1. **IDM informs the Controlling body** of all funded film projects that plan to apply for the Green Shooting Certificate for their film shoots in South Tyrol. IDM provides the Controlling body with the Green Shooting Checklist filled out by the applicant (green columns) as well as all other documents relevant to the production.
2. The Controlling body reserves the right to check for compliance with the measures planned in the Checklist. Therefore, the applicant must **document the implementation of the measures**. In addition to the **general checks** (submitted Checklist, set visit, meeting with the Green Consultant, see below), **separate checks for Criteria A – G** will also be carried out. They are defined in this Guideline at the end of each chapter.
3. The Controlling body reserves the right to conduct **on-site inspections**. For this purpose, it will get in touch directly with the film project’s contact person to make an appointment for at least one set visit. During this visit, the Controlling body will assess whether the planned measures have been implemented.
4. Once filming has been completed, the final report, the final Checklist and all relevant documents documenting the measures carried out must be submitted.
5. Both during and after completion of the project, the Controlling body reserves the right to discuss with the **Green Consultant** the implementation of the measures specified in the Green Shooting Checklist. This discussion gives the Green Consultant an opportunity to explain the planned and implemented measures in detail.
6. The Controlling body reserves the right to demand **photographic documentation** of individual measures for review purposes.
7. Within 30 days of wrapping up the film shoot in South Tyrol, the film production must fill out the part of the **Checklist detailing the measures that were implemented**. The Checklist must be signed by the producer and submitted to the Controlling body. This document is a binding self-declaration. If the film production exceeds 30 days, a written request for an extension must be submitted to IDM. In case the final documents are not submitted, the Controlling body reserves the right not to issue a certificate for the project.

8. Based on the filled out and signed Checklist, spot checks of various documents and receipts, a final report regarding the undertaken measures supported by invoices and other kinds of documents, at least one on-site set visit, a discussion with the Green Consultant and the documentation proving the criteria were met, the Controlling body then **assesses** whether the measures were implemented and how many points the project has attained. If the production accumulates at least 60% of the maximum number of points for all viable measures, the South Tyrolean Department for Environmental and Climate Protection will issue the Green Shooting Certificate within 30 days of receiving the Checklist.

Role of Green Consultants

A trained Green Consultant should be involved in the preparations as early as possible. The Green Consultant should have a good knowledge of the South Tyrol region to provide the best possible advice on implementing the Green Shooting Protocol.

Green Consultants are responsible for:

- Recommendations on suitable service providers and suppliers
- Support in selecting measures and assistance with implementation
- Assistance in completing the application Checklist
- Support in documenting implemented measures
- Drafting a final report
- Preparing a carbon footprint
- Sending all final documents to the certification institution

Green Consultants are not responsible for the effective implementation of the measures or for a positive outcome of the Green Shooting Protocol. The production company must submit all documents to the Green Consultants on time. We recommend hiring a **Green Runner** to support the production and the Green Consultant in implementing measures on set.

WHAT WILL ALWAYS BE CHECKED?

Compliance with the following criteria (A – G) must be documented. The following checks **apply to all criteria** and are therefore **not listed separately** in the individual chapters:

- Also make sure that the **blue column of the Green Shooting Checklist is filled out and signed by the producer**: In addition to the green columns that must be filled out before filing the funding application, the blue columns must also be filled out upon completion of the project.
- **Measures that have not been implemented must be justified** (blue columns in the checklist): individual measures may not apply to certain productions. This can be discussed with the Green Consultant and noted in the checklist. A plausible explanation must always be provided in the justification column, and it is ultimately up to the certification body to make the final decision as to whether a measure is not applicable to the production. If a measure is not applicable, the points are deducted from the total score.
- **At least one discussion with the Green Consultant**: to support the team in its efforts to comply with the criteria, a Green Consultant must be involved in the project. Any additional costs incurred by the appointment of a South Tyrolean Green Consultant can be planned and declared as local spend in the budget.
- The Certification Institute will carry out **at least one on-site set visit**: depending on the circumstances of the film (genre, number of shooting days and locations), the Certification Institute will decide on the form and number of site visits.

3. Criterion A: Sustainable Communication

The team's efforts to support a good cause should also be made visible. They are therefore provided with a range of plans and templates to help them document energy consumption, mobility and CO₂ emissions. For the entire film crew to act in concert, it is essential to inform the whole team about the purpose and intention of the planned measures.

Criterion A1: Create a sustainability plan focusing on the following issues

- **Mobility and transportation (3 points)**
- **Energy usage (3 points)**
- **CO₂ balance (report with and without CO₂ reduction) (mandatory)**

Please use the templates "Mobility and Transportation Plan" and "Energy Plan" available to download from our website. The CO₂ balance must be submitted upon completion of the project.

If the templates are not suitable for the production, they can be replaced by alternative evidence. It is important that it is clearly shown that the production has already addressed the following questions in the planning phase:

- How and where can energy be saved?
- Can generators be dispensed with, e.g. through optimal planning of the maximum power required?
- Could journeys be planned in such a way that alternatively powered vehicles can be considered?

Criterion A2: Communicate and implement a sustainability plan (mandatory)

- **Raise the team's awareness (mandatory)**
- **Plan measures with all departments (mandatory)**
- **Appoint a Green Consultant (mandatory)**
- **Send project information digitally (mandatory)**

Successfully implementing the measures and ensuring an environmentally friendly film shoot requires planning ahead. Everyone involved in the film production should be informed about the meaning and significance of a green shooting. This boosts each person's willingness to lead by example and adhere to the rules.

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

- Submission of the CO₂ Balance (upon completion of the project)
- Submission of the Energy Plan (upon completion of the project)
- Submission of the Mobility and Transportation Plan (upon completion of the project)
- Submission of the Green Consultant Agreement (upon request, after completion of the project)
- Depending on how team awareness is raised: Submission of an invitation to and/or agenda of a meeting, list of participants (upon request, even before completion of the project)

4. Criterion B: Energy

Eco-friendly energy usage is the cornerstone of a green shooting. Implementing even just a handful of measures can significantly help reduce the strain on natural resources. Both conventional and green electricity are available. The first step should therefore be to decide which type of energy -choosing between conventional electricity mix and green electricity from local providers – and use and where to procure it. Following step is to minimise energy consumption overall. Those who choose green electricity also promote the production of renewable energy.

Criterion B1: Power consumption (max. 17 points)

- Local supplier of power (7 points)
- Local provider of green electricity (10 points)

In South Tyrol, electricity is generated using renewable sources, with hydroelectric power leading the way. Yet this does not automatically mean that all these sources produce green energy. Normally, you receive an energy mix consisting of varying ratios of power sources: hydroelectric, photovoltaic, biogas, natural gas, etc. The electricity itself is not always generated regionally. By choosing a regional electricity provider, however, you support local cycles and foster the use of renewable energy.

A selection of local green electricity providers:¹

- [Alperia](#)
- [Ötzi Strom](#)
- [Psaier Energies](#)
- [SEV South Tyrol Energy Association](#)

A selection of local power plants and public utility companies:¹

- [Ahrntal power plant](#)
- [Toblach power plant](#)
- [St. Martin power plant](#)
- [E. U. M. Cooperative](#)
- [Sterzing/Vipiteno public utility company](#)
- [Brixen/Bressanone public utility company](#)
- [Bruneck/Brunico public utility company](#)

Criterion B2: Generators (if a fixed connection is not possible) (max. 13 points)

- Prefer use of the following mobile power systems: gas generators, photovoltaic units, hybrid generators, mobile battery systems / eco power banks (10 points)
- If these systems are not available or feasible: use a diesel generator, at least STAGE 3A (3 points)

When shooting in more remote locations, using generators on set is unavoidable. However, most power generators run on diesel and do not contain particle filters, which is highly detrimental to the emissions balance. For that reason, environmentally friendly power generation systems such as gas generators, petrol-powered generators, hybrid generators, photovoltaic units or mobile battery systems should be used instead. If such alternatives are simply not available, diesel-powered generators must be equipped with particle filters.

¹ This list of service providers is not exhaustive.

Criterion B3: Light and energy consumption (max. 5 points)

- Use at least 80% energy-efficient lighting equipment (e.g. LED spotlights, HMI spotlights, fluorescent lamps, reflector systems) (5 points)

On set, it is usually the lighting that uses up the most electricity. Using energy-saving lamps and making best possible use of daylight (e.g. with reflectors or daylight studios) helps significantly reduce the use of natural resources. General rule: Equipment and lighting should be switched off when not in use.

Tip: Our [Online Directory](#) features a category called “Equipment Rentals” which lists sustainable equipment rental companies that qualify as local spend.

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

- Provider invoices, and renewable electricity certificate

The following documents will be subject to spot checks:

- Electricity bill, invoices for lighting equipment and generators
- Delivery notes for technical lighting equipment and generators, including mention of the kVA and information on particulate filters,
- Documentation of the running hours of the generators, for the purpose of calculating the ratio between fixed and non-fixed power connections

5. Criterion C: Transport and Accommodation

Nearly 30% of CO₂ emissions in the EU are caused by vehicles. This shows that despite the continual rise in fuel efficiency, vehicles remain a major factor in the exacerbation of climate change. The right choice of vehicles for transportation to the set and on site can therefore contribute to reducing greenhouse gases. As shown by the carbon footprint papers submitted by previous green film productions, this area usually is responsible for the highest emissions while shooting. Selecting the right accommodation also makes a difference. Self-catered apartments, for example, generally have a better CO₂ balance than hotels.

Criterion C1: Transport and fuel consumption (max. 23 points)

- Use public transit systems. Flights under 500 km should be avoided (3 points)
- For automobiles: use at least 50% hybrid, electric, CNG or LPG vehicles. For diesel- or petrol-powered vehicles, use only Euro 6 (10 points)
- For trucks and vans: use hybrid, electric, CNG or LPG vehicles. For diesel- or petrol-powered vehicles, use only Euro 6 (10 points)

The film shoot should be planned in such a way that environmentally friendly modes of transportation are preferred, necessary trips with vehicles are optimised for greatest possible use, and arrival using public transit etc. is encouraged. Possible measures include anything from selecting a shooting location that is easily accessible by public transit, to forming carpools till the vehicle fleet composition.

Tip: Our [Online Directory](#) features a category called “Facilities and Services” which lists sustainable vehicle rental companies that qualify as local spend.

Criterion C2: Accommodation (max. 10 points)

- At least 30% of overnight stays must take place in hotels or self-catered apartments that are climate-friendly (10 points)

Self-catered apartments are always preferable because they have a better CO₂ balance. If no or not enough self-catered apartments are available for your shoot, you can choose climate-friendly hotels as an alternative.

A selection of portals that list self-catered apartments or rooms in South Tyrol:²

- [Südtirol Info](#)
- [Booking Südtirol](#)
- [Ontour Interreg](#)
- [Regio-Hotel](#)
- [Red Rooster](#)
- [Südtirol Ferien](#)
- [Südtirol Privat](#)
- [Südtirol.com](#)
- [Airbnb](#)
- [Bio Hotels](#)
- [Booking.com](#)

² This list of service providers is not exhaustive.

Some certificates for green hotels and accommodation facilities in South Tyrol:³

- [Biohotels Südtirol](#)
- [Blaue Schwalbe](#)
- [ECEAT](#)
- [Ecobnb](#)
- [Ecolabel](#)
- [Green Globe](#)
- [Green Key](#)
- [Green Pearls](#)
- [Green Tourism](#)
- [Klima Hotel](#)
- [Legambiente Turismo](#)
- [Sleep Green](#)
- [TourCert](#)

Still looking for climate-friendly accommodation? IDM and the Certification have drawn up a catalogue of **Criteria for sustainable accommodation**, which is available in the download section of our website. This catalogue comprises categories for a wide range of criteria. An environmentally friendly-minded accommodation business can use the catalogue to check which of the criteria it fulfils and thus attain a maximum of 60 points. The business must fill out and sign the catalogue of criteria. To qualify as a green accommodation facility, the business must attain at least 40 points. The Controlling body may conduct spot checks, because proof of climate-friendly accommodation is Criterion C2. The Green Consultant submits the catalogue to the Controlling body and IDM at the latest after completion of filming in South Tyrol.

A selection of accommodation businesses that fulfil the criteria stipulated in the catalogue or that have been awarded the above-mentioned certificates are listed in our [Online Directory](#).

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

The following documents will be subject to spot checks:

- If the chosen accommodation facility is not already listed as a green business in the IDM Directory, the project team must submit either the “Green Accommodation Businesses” criteria catalogue filled out and signed by the respective facility, or another certificate.
- Copies of tickets for public transportation or of the MobilCard
- Invoices for rented vehicles (incl. vehicle type)
- List of personally owned vehicles (cars, trucks and vans)
- List of fuel consumption of all vehicles (total diesel, petrol, gas, etc.)
- Invoices of the self-catered apartments, hotels and accommodation businesses

³ This list of service providers is not exhaustive.

6. Criterion D: Catering

The standards to which different catering services adhere vary greatly. While some use plastic plates and cutlery, thus creating large amounts of waste, others instead insist on reusable tableware. Regarding catering, both environmental sustainability and human health can also be boosted by using seasonal, regionally sourced, organic and/or fair-trade foods, planning portion sizes wisely and reducing the consumption of meat.

Our [Online Directory](#) features a category called “Catering” which lists sustainable catering companies that qualify as local spend.

Criterion D1: Food and beverages (max. 14 points)

- At least 50% of food used must be locally grown (2 points)
- At least 50% of food used must be organic (2 points)
- Offer vegetarian options (2 points)
- Avoid Red List seafood (1 point)
- Use tap water on location (2 points)
- Avoid plastic bottles; use portable water dispensers (3 points)
- Avoid food waste (2 points)

Using regionally sourced products reduces CO₂ emissions, noise and pollution from exhaust gases, and fosters local production. Products are deemed regional if at least 75% of their contents are produced within a 150 km radius. Exceptions are made for ingredients that cannot be produced in the region. In addition, the ingredients must have been processed regionally. Unprocessed foods such as fruits and vegetables are deemed regional if they were grown in the region.

Organic produce is free from pesticides, artificial fertiliser, chemical additives and GMOs. Processed foods are deemed organic if at least 75% of their raw ingredients were organically produced. All pre-packaged organic foods produced in accordance with EU regulations must officially be labelled as organic.

A selection of local and/or organic food producers and suppliers:⁴

- [Farmers' markets in South Tyrol](#)
- [Organic grocery stores in South Tyrol](#)
- [Foppa](#)
- [Gastrofresh](#)
- [Local farm shops](#)
- Local goods/foodstuffs cooperatives

Criterion D2: Tableware and cutlery (max. 5 points)

- Use reusable dishes and cutlery (5 points)

The larger the production, the more tableware is needed and the greater the positive effect on the environment when reusable tableware is used to avoid waste. Agreements can be made with caterers or local infrastructure, such as clubhouses, can be used. Regional cooperation is also useful. The South Tyrolean Department for Environmental and Climate Protection [can also provide mobile dishwashers and tableware.](#)

⁴ This list of service providers is not exhaustive.

Criterion D3: Packaging (max. 4 points)

- Avoid single-use and plastic packaging (3 points)
- Avoid using aluminium coffee capsules (1 point)

If single-use plates and/or cups are to be used during the project, they should be made from paper, preferably recycled paper. Coffee capsules made from aluminium are detrimental to the environment and more expensive than many available alternatives. Ideally, a conventional coffee machine (e.g. for filter coffee or espresso) and fair-trade coffee should be used.

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

- Photographic documentation of tableware, coffee machine and water supply

The following documents will be subject to spot checks:

- Invoices from catering companies
- Receipts and lists regarding grocery shopping (incl. criteria such as origin and seal)
- The ratio of meat-based and vegetarian dishes on the menu

7. Criterion E: Materials

Whether in the office, in the costume department or during set assembly – film shoots required large amounts of materials. That makes it all the more important to ask yourself: Where do the raw materials come from? Can they be recycled? Are there sustainable alternatives? Even renewable resources such as wood and hence paper are finite if we use them up faster than they can regrow.

Criterion E1: Selection of materials (max. 13 points)

- Use FSC-certified wood only. Alternatively: use of recycled wood to not further consume resources (4 points)
- Avoid printing out documents. Use of recycled paper is mandatory (3 points)
- The following toxins may not be used: isocyanates and toluene (3 points)
- Use sustainable materials (e.g. for office supplies) (3 points)

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certifications) are non-profit organisations, advocating environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and economically viable forestry worldwide. The strict **standards** regulate the responsible cultivation and management of natural forests and plantations. If wood is purchased for set construction, it must be FSC or PEFC certified. Alternatively, recycled wood can also be used.

When building your set, avoid using particle boards. The wood fibres in these boards are glued and pressed together using environmentally harmful adhesives and artificial resins. Furthermore, particle boards are very difficult to recycle. Sanitary paper (toilet paper, hand towels and napkins) should also be made from recycled paper.

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

The following documents will be subject to spot checks:

- Delivery notes for the sustainable materials used (e.g. certified wood, office supplies, paint, etc.)

8. Criterion F: Waste Management

Avoiding and correctly separating waste is an integral part of any green film production. The planning and procurement phase is essential for waste reduction! Anything else that is no longer needed can be carefully separated and recycled or, ideally, directly reused.

Criterion F1: Appropriate separation and disposal of waste in the following categories: paper, plastic, metal, glass and organic waste (10 points)

Avoid waste:

The best way to protect the environment and save money is to not produce waste in the first place. By committing to green catering, materials and communication for your film production, you can automatically prevent large amounts of waste. The issue of avoiding waste should be incorporated early on in the project, during the organisation, planning and procurement phases.

Reuse:

Materials that are no longer needed can be repurposed, without the need to industrially recycle them. Wood and other set building materials, fabrics and decorations are reusable.

Recycle:

Recyclable materials such as glass and paper must be collected separately and not contaminated with other materials. Environmentally detrimental waste products such as used oil must be disposed of properly. The details must be coordinated with the respective authorities (e.g. public utility companies, recycling depots) responsible for the shoot location! These authorities will provide appropriate containers in which the recyclable materials can be collected. It is important to clearly label all bins and containers, and to ensure that enough bins and containers is placed in strategic locations.

Toilet and wastewater:

Mobile toilets and washing stations should be connected to the local sewage system, if possible. If this is not possible, the production team must at all costs prevent wastewater from seeping into the surface water drains.

Further information regarding correct recycling methods:⁵

- [Waste and Soil Quality – South Tyrolean Department for Environmental and Climate Protection](#)
- [Bröseljäger \(initiative to prevent food waste\)](#)
- [Food bank](#)
- [Public waste management facilities](#)
- [Tips for separating waste](#)

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

- Photographic documentation about upcycling set building materials, waste recycling system, etc.

The following documents will be subject to spot checks:

- Receipts for reusable containers, multipacks, etc.

⁵ This list of service providers is not exhaustive.

9. Criterion G: Green Innovation

Every film production is unique and has its own set of requirements; listing them all is impossible. However, the production team can also propose and implement its own innovative measures designed to protect the environment. We appeal to the innovative spirit of any crew member!

Criterion G1: Innovative ideas to prevent a negative ecological impact (max. 10 points)

This criterion encompasses and assesses such additional measures. The point rating depends on the extent to which the respective measures are deemed environmentally friendly and/or innovative.

Examples:

- Resorting to VFX instead of shooting on site in a sensitive natural preserve
- Upcycling props
- Fostering selected climate protection projects with CO₂ compensation
- Vegan or exclusively vegetarian catering
- Survey to raise awareness and define catering about meat reduction, etc.
- Particularly strong involvement of the film team in brainstorming and implementing measures
- Raising awareness of fuel-efficient driving
- Quiz on climate protection topics
- Particularly environmentally friendly props
- Strong regional value creation and involvement of local groups/associations
- Environmentally friendly measures for pre- and post-production
- Use of bark beetle wood
- Involvement of key roles such as green runner, MeToo representative, animal welfare representative, etc.
- Use of existing infrastructures instead of roulettes for actors, crew, make-up and costumes

- ...

WHAT WILL BE CHECKED?

- Documentation of innovative ideas for reducing the environmental impact

10. Sustainable filming in South Tyrol

In order to promote and facilitate more sustainable filming in the South Tyrol region, IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol offers coproductions the opportunity to use one of the following protocols:

1. Green Film (for further information, see www.green.film)
2. ÖFI/ÖFI +/FISA/FISA +/UZ76 (for further information, see www.filminstitut.at/en/aid/green-filming)
3. Minimum ecological standards (for further information, see https://www.ffa.de/files/ffa/ffg-regelungen/verordnungen-abkommen-vereinbarungen/%C3%96kologische%20Standards_%C3%9Cbergangsfassung_Januar%202025-1.pdf)
4. Green Shooting Autonomous Province of Bolzano

If film productions decide to shoot in South Tyrol in accordance with one of the above criteria, the Controlling body will, as with the Green Shooting Protocol, carry out an on-site inspection and examine the relevant documentation relating to the measures implemented. The film production company is therefore obliged to notify the South Tyrolean Controlling body of the dates of filming and to send all documents after completion of filming.

The local Green Consultants have been trained in all the protocols listed above and in providing qualified support to productions.