SUSTAINABILITY

THIS IS WHAT ASFINAG STANDS FOR

As a responsible infrastructure operator ASFINAG is fully committed to sustainability. In this context, ASFINAG attaches key importance not only to fulfilling ecological requirements but also to living up to those posed by society and especially by business. ASFINAG’s activities are thus guided by the principle that we build what people and Austria as a business location need while also meeting relevant budget and performance requirements. At ASFINAG, the interests of our customers and local residents along our network – and of course our staff’s satisfaction – take top priority.

„By the time I’m old enough to drive my car will most probably run on solar energy and will be driven automatically. But even then we’ll still need motorways."
Lisa Bauer, 11 Jahre old

A CLEAR MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE ACTION

The ASFINAG Mission clearly underlines that our work in driven by fulfilling our economic, environmental and social responsibility and that all our decisions and activities are directed towards meeting this goal. In order to consistently pursue this objective, ASFINAG enshrined sustainability in its corporate strategy and established it at organisational level. In this spirit, ASFINAG contributes pro-actively to the ‘United Nations Global Compact’ thus committing itself to ten of the principles defined under the Compact’s human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption sections. ASFINAG is also a member of ‘respACT’ (the Austrian business council for sustainable development) – an association the assists its members in achieving environmental and social goals in an economically efficient and responsible manner.

ASFINAG PUTS THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY INTO PRACTICE

Staff
ASFINAG staff are responsible, skilled and committed individuals. ASFINAG fosters exchange of knowledge and learning from and with one other, implements measures aimed at minimising risks in the workplace and promotes ongoing further education and training.

With a view to creating transparent structures and clear responsibilities, a few years ago an in-house anti-corruption system was established at ASFINAG. The focus of all related activities is concern for the safety and well-being of our staff and ASFINAG’s image.

Road users
ASFINAG constantly improves its range of services and provides updated information on Austria’s motorway and expressway network that can be accessed via mobile devices. The declared goal is increasing network availability and road safety levels. ASFINAG strives to provide needs-oriented, modern and socially compatible mobility for everyone. ASFINAG takes residents’ concerns seriously and contributes to transparent planning processes.
The general public and the environment

ASFINAG is especially open to future developments triggered by society’s changing mobility needs. It addresses issues such as global warming, CO2 emissions, water protection and air pollution control – be it in the context of construction projects and in informed discussions with scientists and the general public or in contributing to innovative research projects.

„We don’t know whether cars of the future will be fuelled by electricity or natural gas or from what point it will be able to drive autonomously. But there is one thing we are sure of: as a customer-financed company we can guarantee that when it comes to mobility ASFINAG will remain your reliable partner - now and in the future.“

Mag. Gabriele Lutter
Commercial Director ASFINAG
Maut Service GmbH

RESOURCE-EFFICIENT USE OF MATERIALS IS KEY TO NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

The construction of motorways and expressways inevitably goes hand in hand with a considerable use of resources and visible landscape and environmental interventions. ASFINAG is well aware of the responsibility that comes with such activities and therefore implements projects aimed at preventive environmental protection when building new roads. ASFINAG therefore uses modern and resource-efficient materials and construction approaches. When renewing constructions, the company focuses on using recycled building materials.

Thermal refurbishment activities currently focus on the 43 ASFINAG motorway operations and maintenance facilities due for completion by 2016. Since as early as 2008, thermal refurbishment has enabled a reduction in heating energy consumption of around 14 per cent. At the same time, heating facilities operated by fossil fuels (especially oil heating) are being retrofitted so they can be converted to clean sources of energy such as biomass.

RE-USE OF GO-BOXES

In Austria, toll dues for heavy goods vehicles are computed using a Go-Box system. These data transmission devices are installed in trucks and buses and electronically debit the relevant toll.

Thousands of these devices are regularly returned by customers who no longer need them. ASFINAG performs a technical functions test and upgrades them as necessary so that they can be reused. This way some 50% of the annual demand for 200,000 data transfer devices is met by reusable Go-Boxes.
ASFINAG MAKES ITS TUNNELS „GREENER”

A total of 80 million kilowatt hours per year, which represents half of ASFINAG’s entire annual energy consumption, are used in tunnel operation. This is precisely why ASFINAG focuses on alternative energy projects in the field of tunnel facilities, such as at the Plabutsch Tunnel in Graz.

Here ASFINAG executives have the following steps towards realising the goals of alternative energy production:

- Step 1: in order to use solar energy, 300 square metres of photovoltaic panels were installed on the tunnel awning
- Step 2: the installation of a very special wind power plant

This wind power plant is operated by the airstream gained from the vehicles passing through the tunnel and produces electrical energy. All of the energy generated from the Plabutsch Tunnel is subsequently fed back and used for operation of the tunnel.

TUNNEL LIGHTING POWERED BY GREEN ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY ASFINAG

Self-generated electricity straight from the socket. This is an ideal solution ASFINAG plans to implement on the S 16 Arlberg expressway in the immediate future – using green energy generated by hydropower. The plan is to build a small hydro power plant in the direct vicinity of tunnel or gallery facilities. Four sites were analysed in great detail to assess their suitability. The results produced by the feasibility study: the Flirscher Tunnel is the most appropriate facility. As pointed out by Dietmar Harbauer from the responsible ASG department: “We were able to identify the highest number of synergies at the Flirscher Tunnel. Reconstruction of the tunnel planned for 2016/2017 provides us with the perfect opportunity to subsequently build the power plant, construct the power house close to the operations building and connect the high pressure water pipe and the extinguishing water supply”. The objective is to generate up to 400,000 kilowatt hours per year with this power plant. That’s enough to cover the tunnel’s total energy requirements. Green electrical energy produced by its own power plant will thus be used to light this ASFINAG tunnel.

Before the project can actually be implemented, a number of tests such as water measurements have to be performed and authorization and approval sought from the relevant authorities. “We are taking an important step towards self-sufficient electricity supply.

This will then make us a single-source provider able to cover everything from clean energy to tunnel security”, Harbauer confirms.
BEST-POSSIBLE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND NATURE

When planning new roads, ASFINAG attaches special importance to protecting not only people but also the environment. In constructing the section from Schrick to Poysbrunn on the future A 5 Nord motorway, ASFINAG is investing 81 million Euros alone in resident and environmental protection measures with total costs for the 25 kilometre-long motorway section amounting to 324 million euros. This equals 3.3 million euros per kilometre invested into environmental protection.

The relevant measures include 18 water pollution control systems, 20 animal crossing places, 11 passages for small animals and amphibians, 7,300 running metres of noise protection screens, 18,450 square metres of noise protection walls, 109 hectares of ecological compensation measures and some 50,000 running metres of roadside wildlife-proof fencing.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING FOR THE YEAR 2014

This Annual Report with integrated Sustainability Report covers the financial year 2014 and ASFINAG’s areas of activity in Austria. ASFINAG sustainability reporting is based on the reporting scope set out under the “Global Reporting Initiative” (GRI). This ASFINAG Annual Report with integrated Sustainability Report for the year 2014 is again published exclusively in digital form and is closely interlinked with the content shown on the ASFINAG website at www.asfinag.at. To see the full GRI Table and further detailed information on ASFINAG’s commitment to sustainability, please visit the “responsibility” section on our website.

„Over the last few years, sustainability has become a concept of increasing importance. From planning, through to new constructions and the many services provided, sustainability is put into practice at ASFINAG every single day.“

DI Thomas Steiner
Sustainability Officer
at ASFINAG