



BEC! SUSTAINABLE DOSSIER

Committed to the Planet

July 2025

**B!
E!
C!** BILBAO
EXHIBITION
CENTRE

EXPOSSIBLE!



At BEC, the concept of sustainability is part of our commitment to the environment in our role as a driver of socio-economic development and change.

In fact, strengthening our contribution to the sustainability of the local and global environment is one of the cornerstones of our Strategic Plan for the next four years.

We apply this criterion to the way in which we manage the venue's infrastructure and the events we host.

The background of the entire image is a complex, grayscale architectural pattern. It consists of numerous overlapping, semi-transparent rectangular and polygonal shapes that create a sense of depth and geometric complexity, resembling a modern building's facade or a digital grid.

01 | Energy

02 | Waste

03 | Mobility

04 | Digitalisation

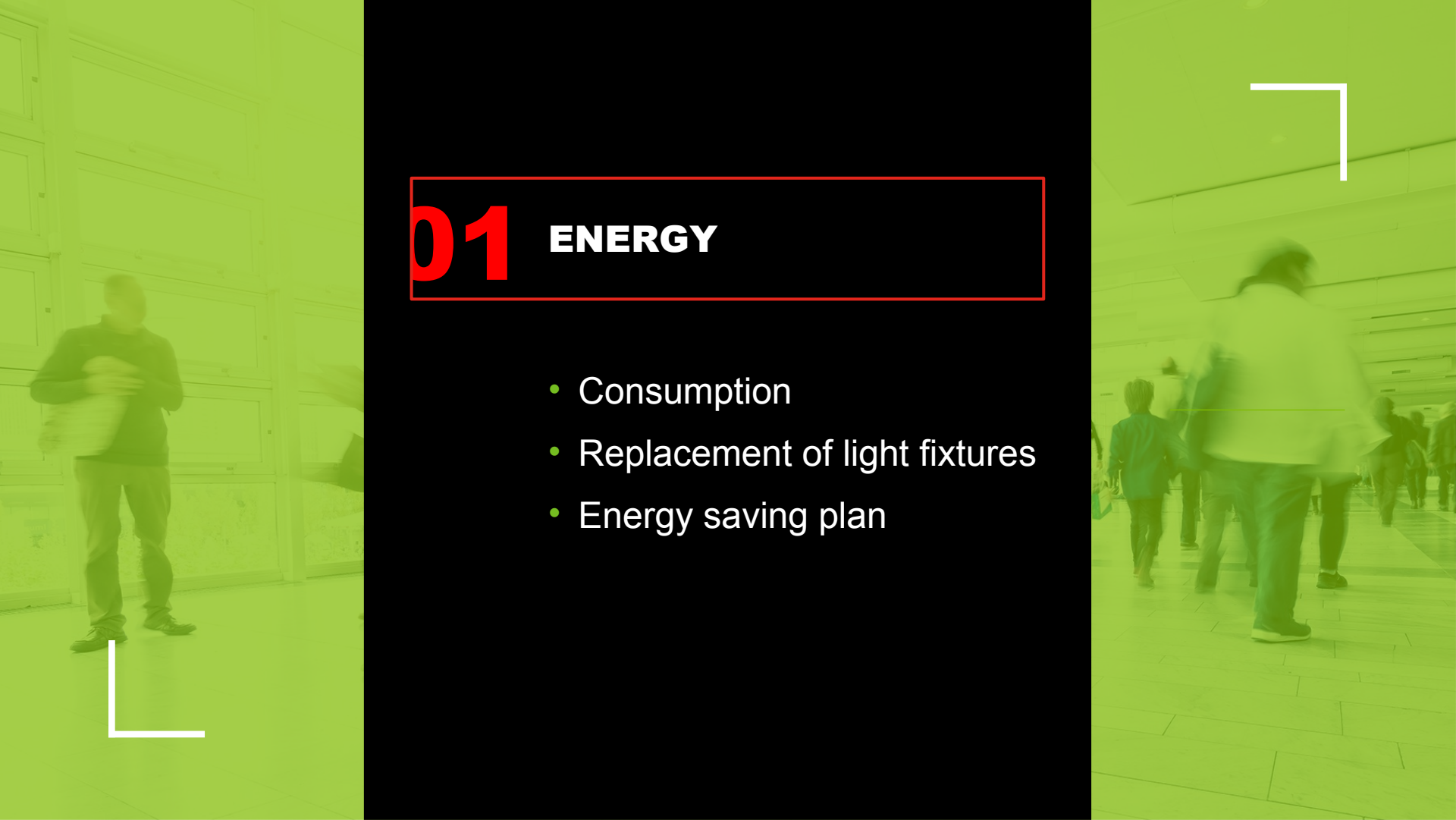
05 | Equality

06 | CSR

07 | Legacy

08 | Suppliers

09 | Certifications



01 ENERGY

- Consumption
- Replacement of light fixtures
- Energy saving plan



56% of the energy
consumed at BEC
comes from
renewable sources



Consumption

56% of the energy consumed at BEC comes from renewable sources. The expansion of the solar photovoltaic plant is a key part of this section.

Expansion of the solar plant

The expansion of the solar plant is entirely dedicated to self-consumption, to supply BEC's own energy needs.

A total of 2,700 new solar panels have been installed with the goal of generating electricity with a nominal capacity of 1.5 gigawatts. This structure is the largest rooftop photovoltaic installation in Bizkaia, covering the entire roof of Pavilion 6, and adds to the one installed in 2004.

The investment has been made with the own funds of BEC Solar, a limited liability company jointly owned by EVE – the Basque Energy Agency – and Bilbao Exhibition Centre.

Replacement of light fixtures with LED technology

- Fixtures were replaced in areas with high, continuous and regular energy consumption over long periods of time, and future phases are currently under study.
- Implementation of presence sensors in frequently used areas: high visitor traffic areas.
- Both suppliers and exhibitors are required to install 50W and 6000LM LED spotlights on stands, maintaining a ratio of 1500LM per square metre.



BEC!

BILBAO EXHIBITION CENTRE

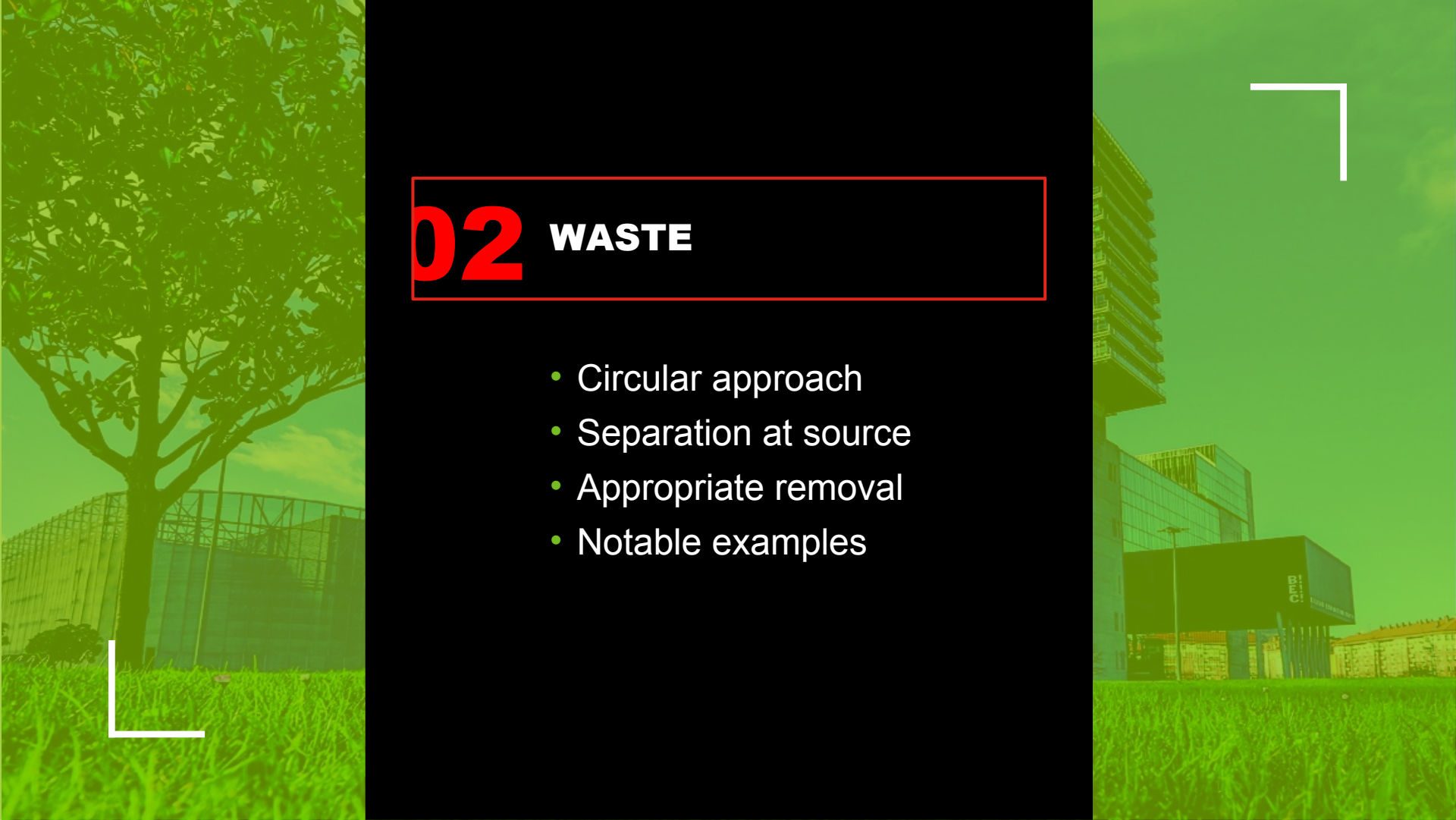
Energy Saving Plan

Building **energy audit** goals:

- Energy savings and cost reduction.
- Adaptation, optimisation and renovation of power-consuming equipment.
- Energy efficiency training.

Energy **rating** of the building and proposals for improvement.

In compliance with Law 4/2019 on Energy Sustainability of the Basque Autonomous Community.



02 WASTE

- Circular approach
- Separation at source
- Appropriate removal
- Notable examples



Sharing, renting,
reusing, repairing,
renewing,
recycling...

Circular economy

At BEC we are incorporating a circular economy approach into our processes, applying the principles of efficiency in waste disposal and circularity in production and consumption. In so doing we are able to optimise the durability of our materials and products to extend their life cycle.

Pioneers in sorting at source

We are one of the first exhibition venues to separate our waste at source, something we have been doing since 2004. As a waste producer, we are responsible for sorting waste from the beginning of the waste chain. This allows us to separate reusable or recyclable materials from waste, converting them into raw materials which, once processed, can be used in a new production cycle.

After this first step, the rest of the process is handled by an approved waste manager.

We are currently registered in the Register of Waste Producers and Managers.

New developments in waste management

There have been changes in waste management in recent years that affect both our own exhibitions and those organised by external operators.

Nowadays, each agent is responsible for their own waste, which must be removed by them directly or by hiring a service to this end. This new self-management system helps each company or organisation be more aware of the impact of their waste, which encourages more sustainable practices.

Examples of waste reduction:

Km 0 water

At BEC, we serve filtered and km 0 water in all exhibition halls and restaurants through our catering supplier, Grupo Iruña. Our bottles invite BEC users to become part of the community of plastic-free water movement.

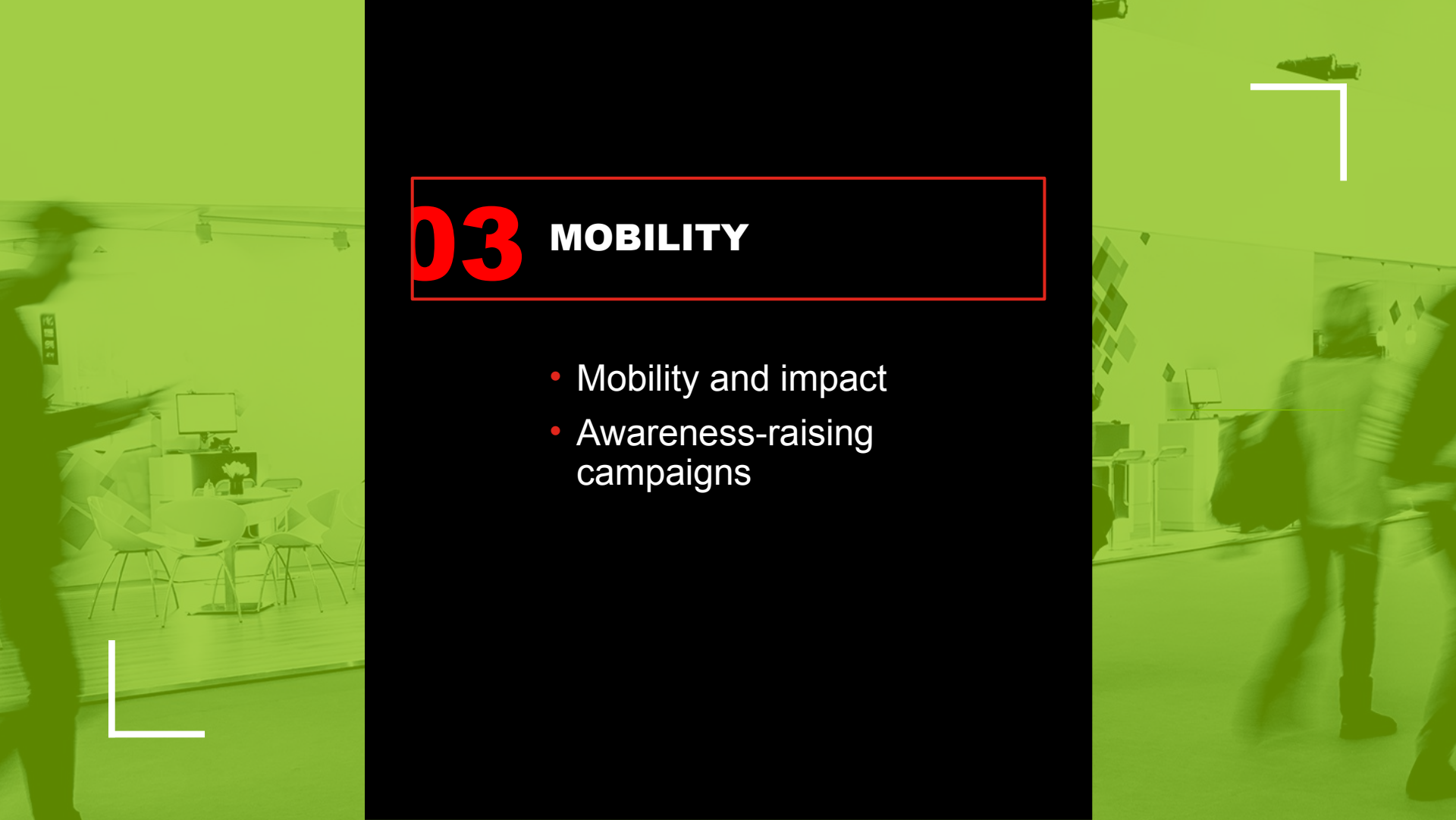


02

WASTE



Another notable example is the use of **reusable cups** at Bizkaia Arena events. With an attractive design that includes images of Bizkaia's most emblematic places, the cups are made of polypropylene, a rigid and very stable material which is resistant to washing and handling in general.

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a modern interior space, possibly a lounge or office area. It features people in motion, some sitting at tables, and others standing. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. A large white 'L' shape is positioned in the bottom left corner, and a large white '7' shape is in the top right corner.

03 MOBILITY

- Mobility and impact
- Awareness-raising campaigns



Mobility and events

According to the European Environment Agency, mobility can account for up to 80% of an event's carbon footprint.

For this reason, at BEC we continuously develop awareness-raising actions and campaigns to achieve more sustainable mobility through our different communication channels.

On the other hand, we must also take into account another interpretation of events, especially professional ones: bringing people and companies from different geographical areas together in the same place and on the same dates means a significant saving in travel costs in the agenda of the professionals of the sectors involved.



Awareness-raising and connectivity campaigns

Taking advantage of the excellent public transport network in our vicinity, we promote the use of the following means of transport and services:

- **Metro:** There is a stop less than 250m away with more frequent service on event days.
- **Bus:** There is a bus stop nearby and availability of parking bays for organised bus trips.
- **Bizkaibizi:** station on the esplanade at the entrance to the site. Public bicycle lending service for the whole territory.
- **Recharging stations:** 27 recharging stations for electric vehicles in the car park.

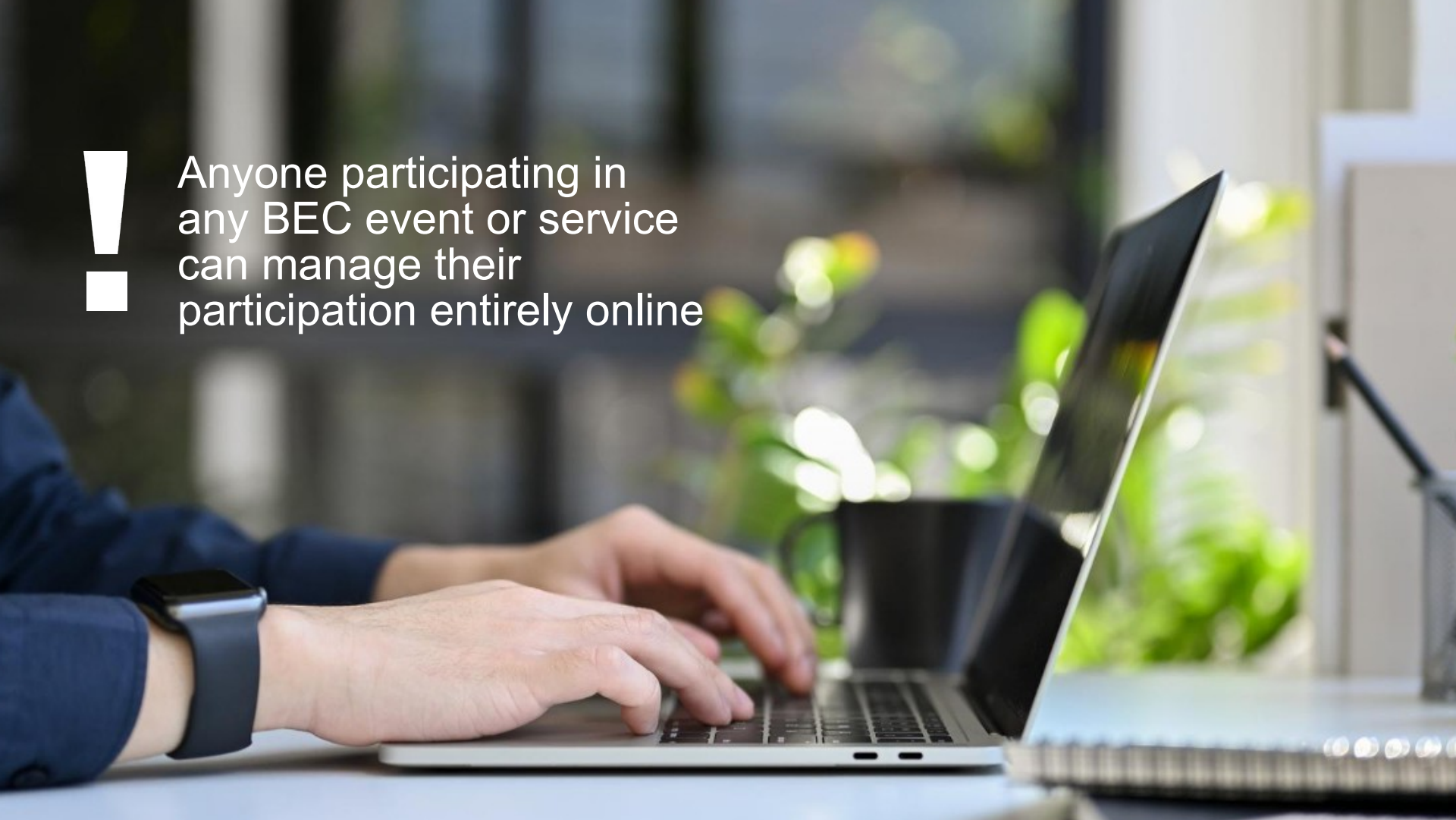


04 DIGITALISATION

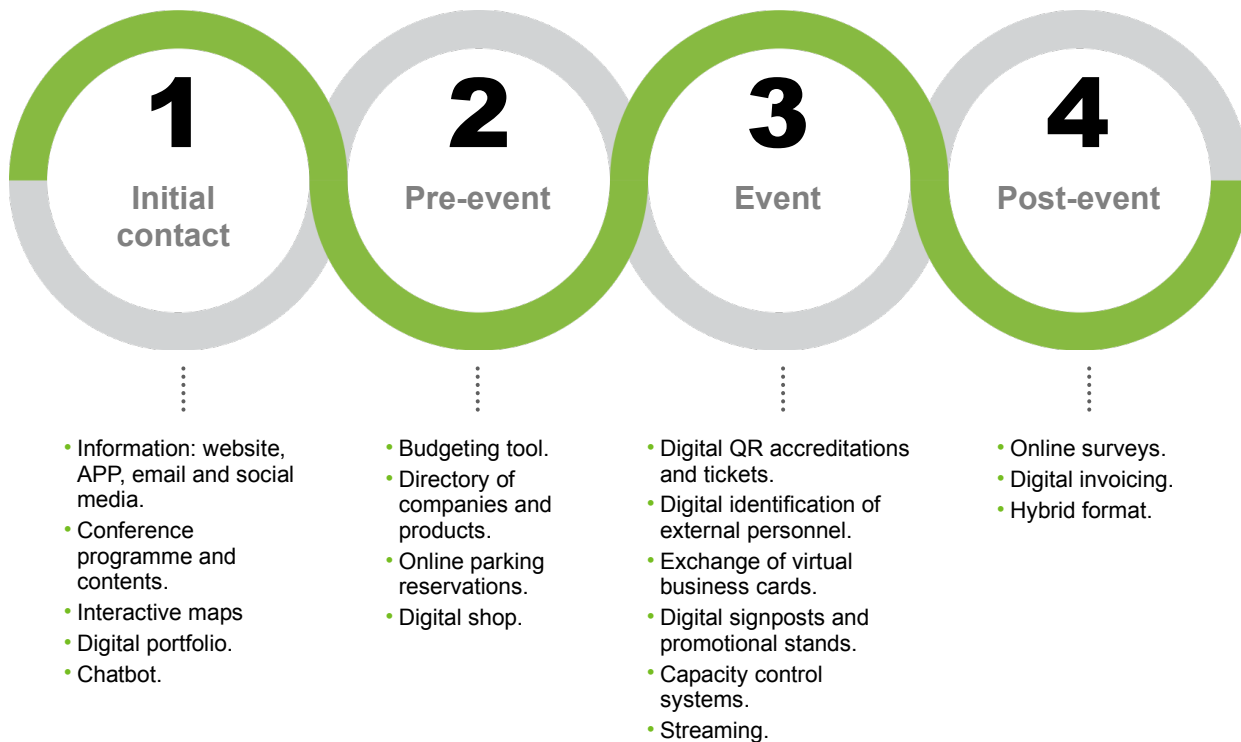
- Customer Journey



Anyone participating in
any BEC event or service
can manage their
participation entirely online



Customer Journey map



All this while ensuring the safety of BEC installations and systems through the implementation of methodologies and tools to eliminate threats:

- SIEM (Security Information and Event Management)
- MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication)
- VPN (Virtual Private Network)
- Antimalware
- Antivirus
- Firewall

The background of the slide features a photograph of a modern building with a glass facade, overlaid with a green grid pattern. The grid is composed of squares of varying shades of green, creating a textured effect. The building is visible through the grid, and the overall color scheme is dominated by green and black.

05 EQUALITY

- Equality plan
- Partnerships
- Communication
- Training

BEC Equality Plan

Operating structure:

Equality Committee and mailbox for queries/feedback.

Training: Awareness-raising sessions on gender equality, inclusive communication and sexual and gender-based harassment.

Implementation of Anti-Harassment Protocol: commitment to creating safe events free from sexist violence.

Partnerships: PWN, Emakunde, Prospektiker....

Communication:

- Use of inclusive language in all media (updating and revising existing media).
- Application of a gender perspective to the development of all content, photographs, etc.
- Acknowledgement of relevant equality milestones.



Inclusion of equality criteria in professional selection and promotion



Implementation of the Internal Information System (SII) that integrates BEC's Code of Conduct, the Complaints Protocol, the updated Criminal Risk Prevention Manual, and the Anti-Harassment Protocol

06 CSR

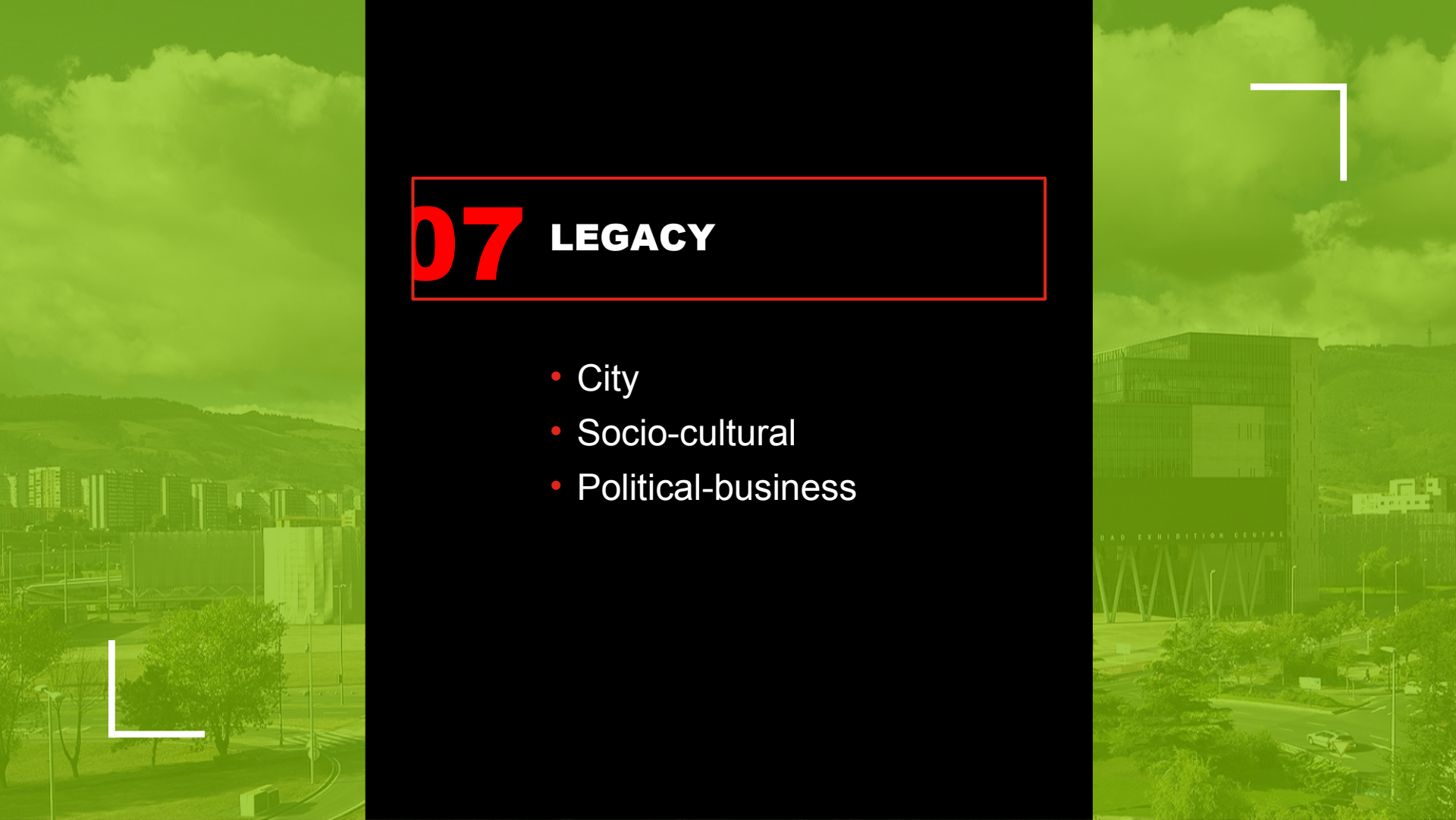
- Corporate volunteering
- Training sessions
- Information and awareness campaigns



- At BEC, we work to promote **CSR** as an **intersectional and strategic element** that allows us to have a more positive impact within our sphere of influence in the eyes of different stakeholders. To that end, we have developed a programme that is heavily focused on **volunteer opportunities and training activities** aimed at our own team.
- Moreover, sponsoring initiatives that project sustainability values outward to society through the events held at our centre is another important area of work. At BEC, we have the ability to connect with different audiences and **our calendar of events offers opportunities to raise awareness, inspire, change opinions and promote responsible practices.**

Activities

- **Environmental volunteering:** The BEC team has participated in two environmental volunteering days. The first took place at the Castaños River in Barakaldo and included waste removal in an urban section and an educational tour about the river's ecosystem and its recovery. The second activity, held in the surroundings of the BEC building and led by Surfrider Spain, focused on cigarette butt collection and waste classification, promoting environmental awareness.
- **Training sessions:** "Sustainability in Event Organisation"; "Analysis of the Erronka Garbia Certification"
- **Information and awareness-raising campaigns:** sustainability in event organisation implies developing internal and external information and awareness-raising campaigns on mobility, consumption, recycling, etc.
- **Participation in Sustainability Commissions** (Bilbao Chamber of Commerce, AFE-Spanish Trade Fair Association...).



07 LEGACY

- City
- Socio-cultural
- Political-business



The events are not merely fleeting experiences but can have a lasting impact that contributes to the positive overall development of the local territory.



—
This legacy
shows up in
various ways:



Promotion of destination

The important events that have taken place at our venue have:

- Strengthened the **city** of Bilbao's **branding**.
- **Tangible improvements in local infrastructures**. In air connections at Bilbao airport and hotel capacity, among others.

This has helped to **strengthen the local economy**, creating employment in sectors such as tourism, transport and associated services.

This promotion of destination was carried out according to the prism of sustainability model. BEC is part of **the BILBAO ARIMA BERDEA** project backed by the Bilbao Convention Bureau. This collaboration reinforces our commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible practices as an event organiser.

For its part, Bilbao is a member of the **GDS INDEX**, and in 2023 secured first place in the nation as a sustainable destination.



Socio-cultural pillar

Public events (trade shows, performances, etc.) are not just entertainment platforms. They are also a way of contributing to social and cultural development through their commitment to essential values and the positive impact they have on society as a whole.

These events promote:

- Support for culture and cultural diversity (ZEID FEST and URA BERE BIDEAN).
- Health, well-being and healthy lifestyles (Basketball World Cup, Hyrox, Euskalgym, Gustoko, Ausartan race).
- Recycling.
- Sustainable and accessible tourism. (Expovacaciones)

An excellent example of this is the PIN/UGP fair, which notably promotes six essential values for children: solidarity, civic-mindedness, sustainability, equality, family and healthy living. This commitment transcends the realm of entertainment, leaving a social legacy that embraces inclusion and accessibility.

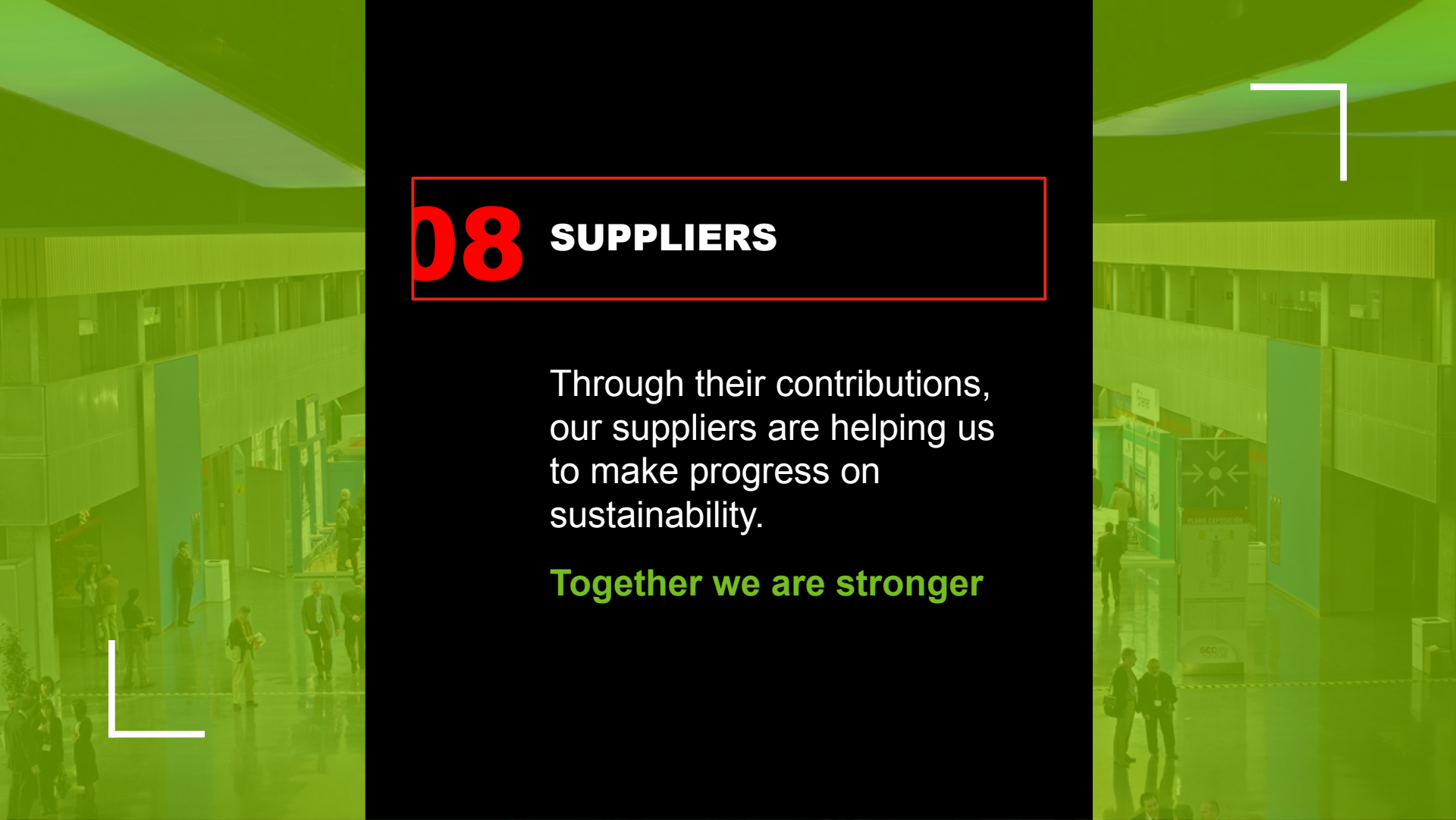


Business policy pillar

BEC plays a key role as a strategic tool for attracting events of interest, contributing to social growth and acting as a catalyst for the expansion of knowledge.

Our events boost the competitiveness of the territory's strategic sectors and reinforce business relations through networking. They also have a considerable economic and business impact, creating collaborative opportunities that go beyond local borders.

The connections made at these events allow local companies to access international markets, but also play a crucial role in creating job opportunities for the local community. Collaboration with universities and training centres reinforces this aspect by connecting the business world with those entering the workforce.



08 SUPPLIERS

Through their contributions,
our suppliers are helping us
to make progress on
sustainability.

Together we are stronger



Catering

Seasonal and local km 0 products.

- km0 filtered water
- Use of reusable or biodegradable material
- Minimisation, recycling and valuation in waste management.
- Donation of surplus food.



Audio-visual

- Transition to LED technology in equipment with energy-saving seal.
- Manufactured with 100% recyclable materials.



Auxiliary personnel

By sustainably managing human, economic and material resources, they are developing a three-pronged CSR strategy:

1. Future of employment.
2. Competitiveness of talent.
3. Sustainability of activity, fostering a culture of lifelong learning integrating people in the workplace and society through a specific line of business.



Branding

- Use of sustainable materials up to 100% recyclable.
- Use of inks with low emission rates of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that guarantee safety and health.



Maintenance

- 100% electric mobile parking.
- Responsible management of lighting, batteries and electrical/electronic equipment, following energy efficiency and decarbonisation guidelines in building design, construction, and maintenance.



Cleaning and Waste Management

- Electrification of the fleet.
- Use of technology for efficient energy management and water consumption.
- Decrease in the use of chemical products in favour of biodegradable ones.
- Integration of groups at risk of social exclusion.
- Sustainable waste management.



Furniture

- They are 'Biosphere' certified.
- Sustainable gas-powered truck.
- Recycled, recyclable and reusable products. Example: products made from sustainable materials, product rentals.
- Monthly contributions to various CSR organisations.2023
Examples: BarcelonaForm District, San Joan de Deu, Fundació Oncolliga, Hospital HM Nens, Associació Catalana Síndrome X Fràgil, Fundació Luzón, Fundació Pasqual Maragall, etc.



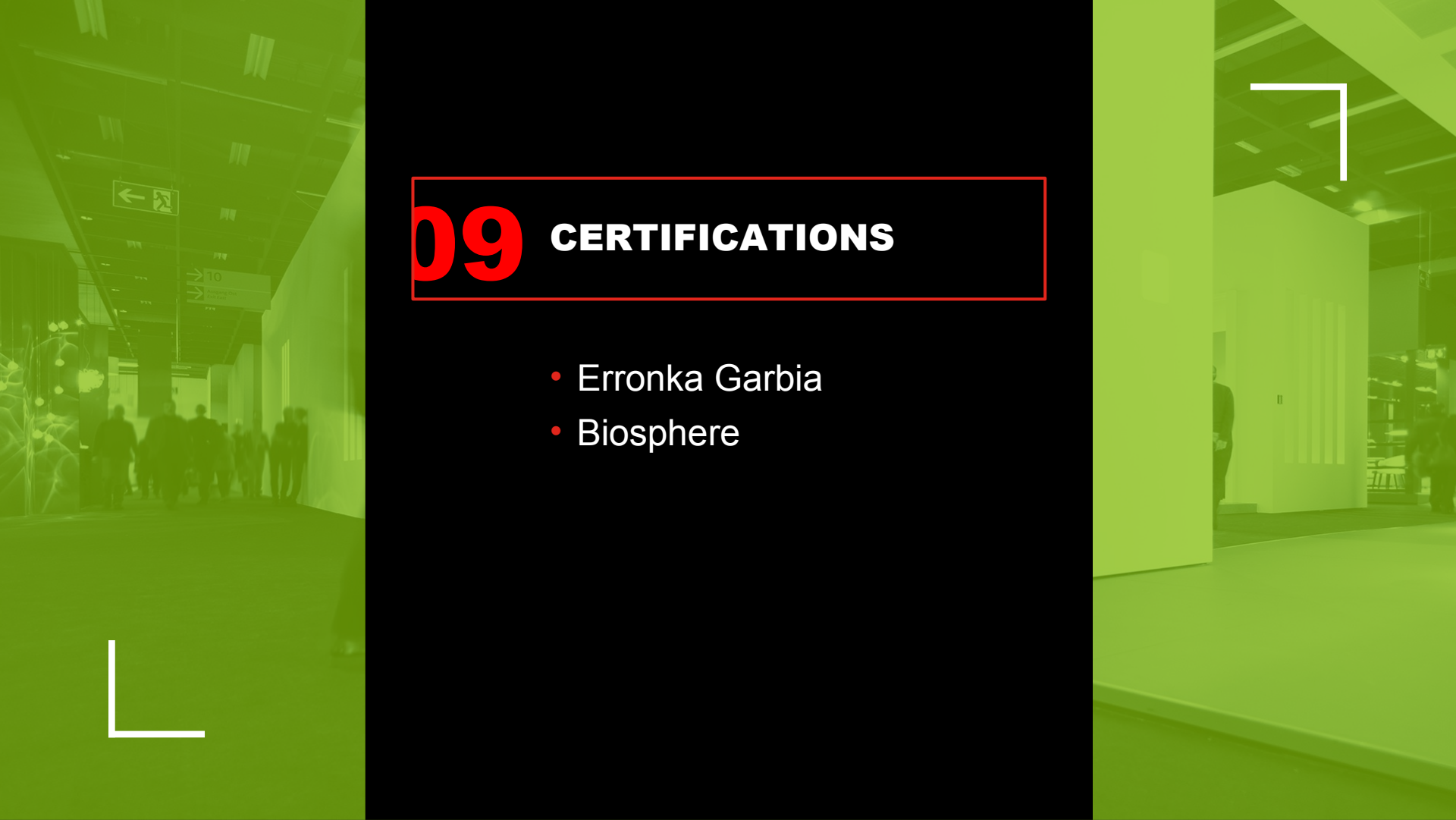
Stands

Replacement of light fixtures with LEDs, delivering the obsolete ones to Ecolum for recycling.

Protocols for reusing production materials (wood, aluminium, etc.) to minimise waste generation.

Recycling and/or recovery of waste generated through agreements with authorised companies for management or recovery (iron and aluminium waste).

New, more energy efficient carpentry machinery that makes better use of wood panels than the older machines (automation by numerical control



09 CERTIFICATIONS

- Erronka Garbia
- Biosphere

Biosphere

The Biosphere certification is an international recognition awarded to entities that meet sustainable environmental, social, and economic standards. This certification is part of the Biosphere program, developed by the Responsible Tourism Institute (RTI) and supported by UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

In 2023, the destination Bilbao committed to obtaining the Biosphere certification, and in 2024, BEC successfully achieved this recognition, highlighting the efforts made in the area of sustainability. Obtaining the certification will also contribute to the consolidation of BEC's own sustainability plan.

This continuous improvement system, implemented in nearly 80 countries, requires annual renewal.



Erronka Garbia



ERRONKA GARBIA
EVENTO AMBIENTALMENTE SOSTENIBLE

Erronka Garbia, a seal awarded by the Basque Government's Ihobe-Public Society for Environmental Management, recognises events that incorporate environmental measures into their design and organisation in order to minimise potential negative impacts on the environment.

Events such as BIEMH, Expovacaciones, Egurtek, Steel Tech, and Gustoko have obtained this certificate.

Its six key areas are: mobility, energy, water, purchasing, infrastructure and waste. Actions like adjusting light intensity and temperature at different times of the day; reducing energy use at stands; applying sustainable elements to signage or raising awareness through messaging, social media and the website, among many others, are decisive in making an event sustainable.

Sustainable
Development
Goals

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