

Soil Alliance News

Newsletter of the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA),
Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities, Districts and
Municipalities



Issue 3/2023

Dear members and friends of the European Land and Soil Alliance,

Soil is the basis for the production of our food and the most important terrestrial carbon store. It also plays a decisive role in the water balance as a filter, buffer and storage medium. These soil functions are being increasingly restricted by the expansion of settlement and transport areas and the dramatic changes caused by climate change. Healthy soil and the preservation of soil functions are therefore essential contributions to climate protection and adaptation to climate change.

In Europe and worldwide, the preservation of soils and soil functions is becoming an increasingly important task and the course must now be set at international and national level. The climate function of soils has long been underestimated and new practical but sustainable options for action are needed. Agriculture must adapt to the changing conditions and focus more on maintaining and improving soil functions. In cities and municipalities, "water-sensitive" urban development with the creation of a blue/green infrastructure, the search for multifunctional areas or the creation of a "sponge city" has become an important objective in future and sustainable urban planning.

The Board

Soil Alliance News is published regularly. We welcome your suggestions and criticism. In addition, you have the opportunity to spread news, projects, events etc. here. Simply send us an [e-mail](#).

Top Topic: Soil and climate

ELSA Annual Conference 2023 "Soil and Climate": In close cooperation with the European Land and Soil Alliance and the Climate Alliance, the city of Wuppertal hosted the international conference and excursion in Wuppertal on 14 and 15 September 2023. Around 100 participants attended, including Environment Minister Oliver Krischer and Upper Austrian State Councillor Stefan Kaineder. A report on the conference can now be found on the ELSA website.

[More information](#)

Converting Berlin into a sponge city: Rainwater is to be better retained in the city so that Berlin is not soon left high and dry. However, the climate-friendly reorganisation of the city has only just begun and is expected to cost between five and ten billion euros.

[More information](#)

Soil under climate change: In Bad Lauchstädt near Halle, the effects of future climate change on agricultural fields and meadows are being investigated in a large-scale long-term experiment, the so-called "Global Change Experimental Facility" (GCEF).

[More information](#)

CO₂ storage in the North Sea floor: The NRD podcast "Mission Climate - Solutions for the Crisis" discusses how sensible it is to store CO₂ in the North Sea. How risky is this technology? Do we need it to achieve the climate targets in Germany? How much CO₂ could actually be stored under the North Sea?

[More information](#)

Cooling capacity of soils: In the guidelines for integration into urban climate concepts in NRW, the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection (LANUV) addresses the important role of soils in urban climate adaptation.

[More information](#)

More messages

Lesch's Cosmos: The Earth that will save our world - Rethinking agriculture: Whether climate catastrophe, species extinction, water shortage or soil erosion - in "Lesch's Cosmos", Harald Lesch investigates how agriculture can help us tackle the major problems of the future. And what role the soil plays in this. 29-minute programme in the ZDF media library.

[More information](#)

"Adventure Soil Life" - virtual reality application from Senckenberg, Görlitz, Germany: with virtual reality glasses, you can immerse yourself in the world of soil and encounter springtails, horn mites, white worms and a centipede at eye level. The virtual reality adventure can be tried out at the House of Biodiversity at Tierwelt Herberstein near Graz in Austria until 2030.

[More information](#)

Museum for land valuation in Eickendorf (Börde), Germany: Exhibition on a former farm, which was estimated by the land valuation (beginning 1934) as the highest valued farm in Germany with the arable number 100.

[More information](#)

Soil Monitoring Law: The EU Commission has until the beginning of November 2023 to provide feedback on the proposed legislation.

[More information](#)

Municipal strategies for more biodiversity in urban areas: The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUV) are funding the development of municipal biodiversity strategies (KBS) in Neuburg am Inn, Darmstadt and Remscheid and the implementation of exemplary measures as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme.

[More information](#)

How peatland protection for the climate can succeed: The rewetting of drained moors is becoming a social challenge. With regard to the climate, however, there is no

way around it. The Heinrich Böll Foundation presents a compilation on the topic of peatland transformation.

[More information](#)

How much carbon can the soil store? With the HumusCheck, the Thünen Institute offers the opportunity to categorise your own humus measurements. Humus refers to all the dead organic matter in the soil. It consists of around 58 % carbon. The humus content is determined by analysing the organic carbon content of the soil.

[More information](#)

Publications

Facts and figures: On the website of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) you will find map applications, maps, diagrams and tables on the most important nature conservation topics.

[More information](#)

Naturally Europe - European elections 2024: 96 nature, animal and environmental protection organisations have published their demands for the 2024 European elections under the umbrella of the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (DNR).

[More information](#)

Position paper on ground-mounted photovoltaics (PV-FFA): The Soil Protection Commission (KBU) has published a position paper with specific requirements for the selection of sites for ground-mounted PV installations and formulates minimum standards and requirements for the construction, operation, maintenance and dismantling of ground-mounted PV installations from a soil protection perspective.

[More information](#)

The Soil Idea

IG gesunder Boden - Podcasts: In "Humus - the podcast", IG gesunder Boden talks to experts, but also to committed and interested people on the subject of "healthy soil". Questions that should concern us all are put directly to the experts and are usually answered comprehensively and clearly.

[More information](#)

News from the Climate Alliance

Modena Declaration: At the international Grafting Cities conference in Modena (IT), the Climate Alliance presented the Modena Declaration together with Energy Cities. The paper is a sign of over 400 registered participants from almost 40 countries in favour of a strong local climate policy.

[More information](#)

Soil Alliance internal

New members: Marktgemeinde St. Georgen im Walde (AT), Stadtgemeinde Leonding (AT), Gemeinde Tiefgraben (AT). A warm welcome!

Board meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on 25 January 2024.

Event information

Nature conservation and agriculture in dialogue 2023: The Soil in Focus, Conference of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, 13 to 16 November 2023, Vilm Island (DE)

[More information](#)

Biodiversity by avoiding pesticides in municipalities: approach, promote, imitate, online symposium, 14 and 15 November 2023

[More information](#)

PFAS in soil and groundwater - Detection, investigation and remediation of PFAS, 22 November 2023, Duisburg (DE) or online

[More information](#)

Natural CO₂ sinks: Soil and climate protection through conservation and rewetting of peatlands, ELSA online workshop, 24 November 2023

[More information](#)

2nd Hildesheim Soil Weeks, 27 November to 15 December 2023, Hildesheim (DE)

7th Hildesheim Soil Conference, 5 December 2023, Hildesheim (DE)

[More information](#)

Festive event for the Soil of the Year 2024, 5 December 2023, Berlin (DE)

[More information](#)

Soil health - where do we stand, is the therapeutic approach sufficient?

Symposium of the Soil Protection Commission at the UBA, 6 December 2023, Berlin (DE)

[More information](#)

Impressum

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