

Soil AllianceNews

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



Edition 3 / 2017

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

What does climate protection have to do with soil? A lot! Because there are complex interactions, which are mutually reinforcing each other. Climate change affects the soil, and altered soil conditions influence the climate. Therefore, the sustainable use of soil is also increasingly expected to contribute to climate protection.

Soils store about five times more carbon worldwide than the above-ground biomass and twice as much as the atmosphere. Soils actually make up the second largest greenhouse gas store on earth after the oceans. Yet the role of soil in connection with climate change is not, or at least not sufficiently, known to the public, nor as well as to many decision-makers. Cities and municipalities play a special role as implementing organisations of spatial planning.

The multi-faceted soil is therefore a very important factor in the fight against climate change. So, let's use it!

The Board

Soil Alliance News is published regularly. We appreciate your suggestions and criticism. In addition, you have the opportunity to disseminate news, projects, events, etc. Just send us a short [email](#).

Top theme: Soil and Climate Change

KLIMASCOUT for Municipalities: KlimaScout supports municipalities in adapting to the new requirements and in actively shaping the public space. KLIMASCOUT is a Wiki, which means that municipal employees and other experts on adaptation to climate change can add their own contributions.

[Additional information](#)

STAKLIBO - Activation of the ground cooling capacity for urban climatic concepts for climate adaptation using the city of Neuss as an example (research projects): The initial goal of the project is to research and model the cooling effects of the soil. This will be followed by the development of a climatic soil and soil management concept. Both concepts will be integrated into sustainable urban planning as part of a climate adaptation concept.

[Additional information](#)

Fact sheet Soil - Adaptation to Climate Change: The German Federal Environment Agency, competence centre 'Climate Impact and Adaptation', has issued a fact sheet to provide an overview of the consequences and risks of climate change for soil.

[Additional information](#)

Assistance for Action on Climate-friendly Regional Plan: Results of the research project

'KlimREG' for the practice (MORO Praxis, Issue 6/2017). The assistance for action was developed to better integrate climate adaptation into regional planning practice. The contents of the assistance for action are also available online in the user-friendly web tool www.klimreg.de. A consultation module at <http://www.klimamoro.de> supplements the assistance for action with guides, online tools, good examples, and expert reports on selected topics.

[Additional information](#)

BOKLIM – Application of Soil Data in Climate Research: Increased use, better networking and the appropriate adaptation of existing monitoring systems as well as improved access, improved quality and improved availability of the data are important requirements, which are discussed under the title 'Application of Soil Data in Climate Research' in a research project sponsored by the German Federal Environment Agency.

[Additional information](#)

Tilling without a Plough: Good for Soil and Climate: The Research Institute for Organic Farming (Switzerland) shows that, with reduced soil cultivation, 2.3 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents per hectare can be reclaimed from the air every year in contrast to agriculture with a plough.

[Additional information](#)

Additional Reports

'Urbanisation and Soil Protection': The Commission for Soil Protection at the German Federal Environment Agency ('Kommission Bodenschutz beim Deutschen Umweltbundesamt', hereafter KBU) has prepared a position paper with recommendations on this topic. The urban population around the world, and with it the urban infrastructure, will continue to expand. By the year 2050, two-thirds of the human population (6.5 billion people) will live in cities and urban agglomeration areas. Urbanisation has a major impact on global resource and energy consumption and thus on the soil.

[Additional information](#)

Soil kit for Lower Saxony at a Discount: Ground soil – is that just dirt on our shoes or more? The Soil Alliance would like to give as many daycare centres and primary schools in Lower Saxony the opportunity to review this question. By sponsoring the Lower Saxony Bingo Environmental Foundation, the Soil Alliance can offer 20 soil kits for €300 each. The soil kit was developed at the University of Osnabrück and has established itself in numerous daycare centres since 2013 with very good results.

They are now looking for daycare centre providers, local nature conservation agencies, regional environmental education centres, agricultural chambers and other multipliers wishing to purchase a soil kit and lend it to a daycare centre or primary school.

[Additional information](#)

Satellite-based Recording of Soil Sealing in Bavaria 2015: The Bavarian State Agency for the Environment ('Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt', hereafter LfU) presented a new study in July 2017, titled 'Satellite-based Recording of Soil Sealing in Bavaria 2015'. The study (and further information) is available for download.

[Additional information](#)

The Soil Idea

Transparent soil: Upper Austria is highlighting the benefits of soils in the form of maps. Targeted training for people from politics and administration, as well as application-oriented assistance for action support the use of the cards in municipal planning. Which soils can store a great deal of water and should therefore be maintained for drainage regulation? Which are particularly fertile and of particular importance for agriculture? These and other questions can be answered with the help of the soil function maps.

[Additional information](#)

Soil Alliance Internal News

Soil Alliance School: The 'Volksschule Ried' [primary school] in Riedmark (Austria) joined as the first Soil Alliance school. Soil Alliance schools are particularly committed to the topic of soil by discussing it more intensively in the classroom or by carrying out projects.

New members: 'Österreichischer Siedlerverband' (Austrian Settlers' Association), Kirchham Municipality (Austria)

Save the Date: Annual ELSA Conference 2018: 14/15 June 2018 in Stuttgart, Germany, on the subject of "Soil - Object of Protection between Intervention and Balance"

Meeting and Strategic Workshop of the Managing Board: 12/13 October 2017 in Osnabrück (Germany)

Event information

'The earth that sustains us. Conditions of agrarian cultivation', 29 September 2017, Friedrichshafen (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

4. Hildesheim Soil Conference 'Next, please! Tools of preventive soil protection, in particular exemplified by prioritising underground power lines for energy transition': 19 October 2017, Hildesheim (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

Changing Landscapes – Protecting the environment in a new Europe, 6 November 2017, Edinburgh (UK)

[Additional information](#)

Symposium 'Pollinators in agriculture - important workers or annoying insects?': 8 November 2017, Visselhövede (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

Land development in the face of conflict of interests: 26 and 27 April 2018, Munich (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

International Climate Alliance Conference 'Transformation of our Cities and Municipalities – From Goal Setting to Action': 20 - 22 September 2017, Essen (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

Imprint

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