

Soil Alliance News

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



1st Edition / 2019

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

Climate change and the energy revolution are among the most pressing issues facing humankind today. The EU is working at full speed on the implementation of the Energy Union. However, the construction of wind turbines, biogas and solar plants, and power lines also has an impact on soil, which is an important environmental asset. In some cases, the soil is permanently sealed, compacted, disrupted or contaminated. This can result in essential soil functions as defined under the soil protection law to be lost and adversely affect the production of food unless it is accompanied by soil expertise. How can we take the necessary infrastructure measures to successfully implement the energy revolution while at the same time preserving the soil and its functions? What opportunities and risks does this present for the agricultural sector, which is particularly affected?

Soil protection and the energy revolution – a broad topic, to which the European Soil Alliance has dedicated its upcoming Annual Conference. We cordially invite you to join our discussions on “Soil protection and energy revolution – it can be done!” on 16 and 17 May 2019 in Rheine !

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](#).

Featured topic: Soil protection and the energy revolution

Third EU report on the state of the Energy Union: At the end of 2017, the EU Commission published its 3rd report on the state of the European energy revolution. It includes detailed reports from the 28 Member States.

[For more information, visit](#)

Competence Centre for Nature Conservation and Energy Transition (KNE): On behalf of energy German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the KNE promotes the implementation of an eco-friendly energy revolution. It is an independent and neutral point of contact for all stakeholders.

[For more information, visit](#)

Framework paper - soil protection during the expansion of the power grid:

Underground cables always have a significant effect on the soil. To safeguard the protection of the soil, the German Federal Network Agency has drafted a framework paper. The public had the opportunity to comment on the draft until 15 February 2019. The agency is now revising the draft.

[For more information, visit](#)

Statement and position paper: The Federal Soil Association (Bundesverband Boden e.V.) published a statement on the draft definition of the scope of the strategic environmental

assessment during the expansion of the electricity grid (2018) and a position paper on soil protection during the expansion of the infrastructure for grid-based energy (2018).

[For more information, visit](#)

Additional reports

Ideas competition of the European Climate Protection Initiative: The European Climate Protection Initiative (EUKI) is calling for submissions to the third Europe-wide ideas competition. The call is for proposals for projects that contribute to climate protection in Europe and strengthen European cooperation. Numerous projects have already been launched and financed by the EUCI, including soil-related projects. Submissions are accepted until 12 April 2019.

[For more information, visit](#)

Departmental Research Plan 2019 published: Every year, the German Federal Environment Agency finances research projects from the Federal Environment Ministry's Departmental Research Plan (formerly the "Environmental Research Plan"). The Research Plan 2019 also lays out various demands on the subject of soil (e.g. indicators for qualitative soil protection, use of unsealing potentials, reference values for soil organisms, etc.). The projects are mainly awarded as public tender contracts.

[For more information, visit](#)

New film about soil ("BODEN erLEBEN"): The new film about soil by the province of Upper Austria explores the many fascinating aspects of our soil: from fantastic insights into the multifaceted and exciting world of soil organisms to the significance of soil for the environment and humans. The DVD and an accompanying brochure are available for order. The film is also available on YouTube in HD.

[For more information, visit](#)

"My soil and I" photo competition: The winning photos and all other submitted photos can now be viewed. The project was an initiative of the Austrian Federal Environment Agency.

[For more information, visit](#)

German Sustainability Award (DNP): The prize for towns and municipalities has been awarded to trailblazers of municipal sustainability since 2012. It is awarded in three size categories and comes with a prize money of 30,000 euros each. Submissions from towns and municipalities are accepted until 18 April 2019.

[For more information, visit](#)

Land pool in North Rhine-Westphalia: The North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Homeland, Municipal Affairs, Construction and Equality (MHKBG) intends to use the NRW land pool to further strengthen internal development in the towns and municipalities of North Rhine-Westphalia. The state subsidiaries NRW.URBAN and BahnflächenEntwicklungsGesellschaft (BEG NRW) support the local authorities when it comes to activating sites that have lost their former use or fall short of their potential. All state municipalities have access to the land pool of NRW.

[For more information, visit](#)

Municipalities for biodiversity: The "Kommunen für biologische Vielfalt e.V." (Municipalities for biodiversity) alliance is an association of municipalities committed to nature conservation. It strengthens the importance of nature in people's immediate living environment and focuses on the protection of biodiversity.

[For more information, visit](#)

Publications

Recommendation for action "Boden schützen leicht gemacht – Mit kleinen Schritten Großes bewirken – im Garten, im Alltag und beim Bauen" (Protecting the soil made easy - making a big difference with small steps - in the garden, in everyday life and in construction): Soil experts explain how we can all act in a soil-friendly way in the household, in the garden and in construction. ELSA e.V. was involved in the development of the recommendations for action in an advisory capacity in the accompanying committee.

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil awareness - a journey through Düsseldorf's soil world: On the occasion of World Soil Day, the Düsseldorf Environmental Agency presented the brochure "Bodenbewusstsein - Eine Reise durch die Düsseldorfer Bodenwelt" (soil awareness - a journey through the soil world of Düsseldorf). The brochure tells you about the functions the soil performs in the city area and how to preserve and improve the soil.

[For more information, visit](#)

CheTerraPesti, The earth beneath your feet - A soil magazine: The Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy in Emilia-Romagna publishes a monthly multilingual email newsletter all about soil.

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil Sustainability in Europe: The EASAC (European Academies' Science Council) has carried out a study to ensure the sustainability of European soils and developed possible integrated policy solutions.

[For more information, visit](#)

The Soil Idea

How much farmland is in my pizza? The land area calculator mym2.de works out how much farmland is needed for the production of different foods. You simply enter the recipe and the tool tells you how much farmland there really is in your pizza!

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil Alliance Internal News

Annual ELSA Conference 2019: On the 16th and 17th of May 2019 in Rheine (DE) on the topic of "Soils protection and energy revolution - it can be done!"

[For more information, visit](#)

New members: Provincial capital of Salzburg (AT), St. Radegund near Graz (AT), town of Traun (AT), town of Villach (AT), Marktgemeinde Eggsberg (AT), municipality Birkenwerder (DE), Altlastenforum Baden-Württemberg e.V. (DE)

General meeting: On 17 May 2019 in Rheine (DE)

Event information

9th European Parliament elections on 26 May 2019: Europe also shapes soil protection policy!

Contaminated Sites Symposium, 15/16 May 2019, Aschaffenburg (DE)

[For more information, visit](#)

Dresden Land Use Symposium, 8/9 April 2019), Dresden (DE)

[For more information, visit](#)

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Legal notice

European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) e. V.

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