

Soil Alliance News

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



Issue 1 / 2022

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

Soil protection in municipalities has many facets. Hazards that are increasingly occurring due to climate change, such as storms and heavy rainfall events, as well as the cooling capacity of green spaces in cities make it clear that strengthening soil functions in urban and rural areas is becoming more and more important. Soil sealing and land consumption must also be urgently reduced or avoided.

With proactive, holistic planning, cities and municipalities can prepare themselves for the challenges of climate change. Some municipalities have already developed concepts and guidelines that can serve as inspiration and assistance for others.

It is worth taking a look at the experiences and recommendations!

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: Municipal concepts for soil and climate protection

Soil function maps: Upper Austria provides soil function maps covering the entire province to highlight the benefits of soils. The maps are available online and free of charge to every municipality and all citizens. This gives every municipality a better overview of where its most fertile soils are or which soils are particularly relevant for flood protection. A manual facilitates practical handling of the maps.

[More information](#)

KlimaWohl practical guide: The City of Hannover is providing the guide as orientation for the targeted implementation of climate adaptation measures in the various planning phases. The structure of the guide is based on the various municipal planning phases and service phases of the HOAI that are typical stages of architectural or engineering projects.

[More information](#)

Municipal soil protection concepts: The first comprehensive soil protection concept in Germany was adopted in Stuttgart in 2006. Since then, it has been a binding component of Stuttgart's urban development planning. It is based on a planning map that classifies the existing soils in terms of quantity and quality in a comprehensible form. With the help of this map, the use of soil can be balanced via so-called soil indication. This is a concept that can be transferred to other municipalities.

Other cities such as Rostock, Wetzlar and Mühlheim an der Ruhr now also have soil protection concepts.

[More information](#)

The federal state of Hesse promotes municipal soil protection concepts: Through the Mehr-Klimaschutz (More Climate Protection) programme, municipalities in Hesse receive financial support for the preparation of municipal soil protection concepts.

[More information](#)

Online workshop 'Soil and climate – water in the landscape': Climate change is also impacting the cultivated landscape. Arable soils are suffering from drought, while too much water is causing problems in other areas. This is a trend that will continue to intensify. How can cultural landscapes and natural areas interact synergistically? What is the best way to design landscapes so that they cushion the extremes of climate change and simultaneously promote biodiversity? The workshop is scheduled for 10 June 2022, 10 AM to 12 PM.

[More information](#)

Additional reports

Land area calculator: The land area calculator provides information on land use in German municipalities, districts and federal states. The land area calculator also provides information on regional or municipal quotas that would have to be met to achieve the 30 hectare target by 2030.

[More information](#)

New ways for the management of rewetted peat soils: Innovative solutions for the management of rewetted areas are the focus of the 'BluMo' project launched at the beginning of 2022. It aims to advance the transformation process of land use on wet peatlands for climate protection.

[More information](#)

Aktion Fläche (Area Campaign): The internet portal is being implemented by the German Institute of Urban Affairs in Berlin and the Space & Energy Institute in Wedel. The client is the German Federal Environment Agency. It offers information on strategies, instruments, tools and practical examples that target economical use of land as a resource. FlächenportalNews (Area Portal News) is the newsletter of Aktion Fläche and can be accessed via the website.

[More information](#)

More photovoltaic systems on agricultural land: So-called 'agri-PV' systems (agricultural photovoltaic systems) are supposed to be promoted on all arable land in Germany in the future through the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). This makes it possible to use the same areas for agricultural and energy purposes. Protected areas, grassland, nature conservation-relevant arable land and moorland soils are excluded for nature conservation and climate protection.

[More information](#)

Municipal model projects to implement the ecological sustainability goals in regions undergoing structural changes. By funding municipal model projects, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) supports municipalities and other stakeholders in regions undergoing structural changes in achieving ecological sustainability goals. Project outlines can be submitted until 15 May 2022.

[More information](#)

'Six Inches of Soil' film project – crowdfunding: The documentary film by director Colin Ramsay and producer Claire Mackenzie tells the story of British farmers who have set out to produce food in a more sustainable and soil-friendly way. The project is still looking for supporters!

[More information](#)

Urban nature thanks to ecological green spaces: A new project in the Federal Programme on Biological Diversity will support cities and municipalities nationwide in making their green space management more in harmony with nature and ecological. N.A.T.U.R. (based on the German acronym for 'Sustainable Species Conservation through Theory and Implementation in Settled Areas') will significantly expand funding and expert advice for German municipalities and provide practical expertise digitally and on site.

[More information](#)

Database 'Woody plants for urban spaces': The Technical University of Dresden offers a database to help select trees and shrubs for urban sites.

[More information](#)

Frankfurt Water and Soil Protection Emergency Plan: The goal of the emergency plan is to quickly alert authorities and those affected in the event of accidents, operational disruptions and other incidents in which environmentally hazardous substances are released and there is an acute risk to surface waters, soil and groundwater.

[More information](#)

Publications

SOIL – Interactive Open Access Journal: A non-profit international scientific journal dedicated to the publication and discussion of research results in the field of soil systems science.

[More information](#)

Measuring soil nutrient status: This publication provides an overview of Swiss determination methods for soil nutrient contents that can be absorbed by plants – from sampling to interpretation of results.

[More information](#)

Municipal soil protection concepts – Urban planning – Soil conservation: The publication of the Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection offers a compact introduction to the topic.

[More information](#)

Shortage of soil protection specialists: The Federal/State Consortium on Soil Protection (LABO), a body of the German Conference of Environment Ministers, has published a position paper on the development of skilled labour in the field of soil protection.

[More information](#)

The soil idea

Exhibition 'Soil for All': An exhibition by the Architekturzentrum Wien (Architecture Centre Vienna) explains the political, legal and economic background in a vivid and detailed, but also critical and sometimes unintentionally absurd way. How does grassland become building land? Why is the price of land rising? What does all this have to do with our lifelong dreams? Case studies and explanations of terms shed light on the complex web of responsibilities. Country comparisons illustrate strengths and weaknesses; international best practice examples demonstrate alternatives. A collection of existing and prospective new instruments points the way to spatial planning that conserves land as a resource, mitigates climate change, alleviates the housing issue and promotes good architecture.

The exhibition can be seen at the 'afo architekturforum oberösterreich' (Upper Austria Architecture Forum) in Linz (AT) until 11 June 2022.

[More information](#)

News from the Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance presents local demands at European climate conferences: At the beginning of March, two high-level climate conferences took place in Nantes (FR): the European Climate Conference of the French EU Council Presidency and the Climate Chance Summit Europe. Climate Alliance was represented by a delegation of board members and employees. With contributions in no less than nine official discussions, workshops and presentations, the network presented the needs of the municipal communities and defined four specific political demands on the topic of buildings, which will be presented to EU politicians with further official recommendations of the conference.

[More information](#)

Soil Alliance internal news

Review of the (online) workshops 'Sponge City': The contributions to the three workshops are available online.

[More information](#)

Save the date! Annual Soil Alliance Conference 2022: The conference will take place on 29 and 30 September 2022 in Bolzano (IT).

Board meeting: The next board meeting will be held digitally on 20 May 2022.

New members: Municipality of Fels am Wagram (AT), municipality of Natternbach (AT), municipality of Neukirchen an der Enknach (AT), municipality of Schwertberg (AT), association 'Erz der Alpen' (AT), architectural forum 'afo architekturforum OÖ' (AT). A warm welcome!

Event information

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival with focus on 'Architecture and Society: SOIL FOR ALL!': 27 April to 2 May 2022, Linz (AT)

[More information](#)

Pedological site support for authority representatives: 12 May 2022, Munich (DE)

[More information](#)

Soil forum, spring conference 2022: 16 and 17 May 2022, Linz (AT)

[More information](#)

Upper Austrian Environmental Congress 2022 'EARTH-rich or SOIL-less? Profound insights into soil protection': 25 May 2022, Linz (AT) / online

[More information](#)

No hidden bottom: How soil protection secures the future (Symposium of the Commission for Soil Protection at the Federal Environment Agency): 31 May 2022, Berlin (DE)

[More information](#)

Online workshop 'Soil and climate – water in the landscape':

10 June 2022, 10 AM to 12 PM, online

[More information](#)

Crossing boundaries, changing societies, World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (International Union of Soil Science): 31 July to 05 August 2022, Glasgow (SCO)

[More information](#)

Contaminated Sites Day Hannover 2022, 1 September 2022, Suderburg (DE)

[More information](#)

Overcoming limitations, crossing scales: Annual Meeting of the German Soil Science Society, 3 to 10 September 2022, Trier (DE)

[More information](#)

Soil in movement, 14th annual conference of the Bundesverband Boden (Federal Soil Association), 21 to 23 September 2022, Hannover (DE)

[More information](#)

Legal notice

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