

Soil Alliance News

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

Issue 1/2025



**EUROPEAN LAND
& SOIL ALLIANCE**

ELSA

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

too much land is still being 'consumed'. According to the Federal Statistical Office, settlement and transport areas in Germany grew by an average of 52 hectares per day between 2019 and 2022. The situation is similar in other European countries. The consumption of land is particularly visible in the logistics sector. Huge warehouse complexes dominate the landscape, especially near motorways. Favoured by e-commerce, the demand for logistics centres remains high.

The Logist.Plus project has developed innovative ways to tackle the challenges of logistics in the Osnabrück/Steinfurt region. The final event for the 'Sustainable logistics in the Osnabrück-Steinfurt region' project took place on 7 November 2024. The final conference offered participants the opportunity to find out about the results of the project in presentations, plenary discussions and poster tours. In addition to governance instruments such as the Logistics Working Group, concepts for space-saving logistics with innovative approaches to city logistics and the practical products Design Recommendations for Sustainable Logistics Locations and the Consultancy Guide for Companies and Municipalities were presented by the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA e. V.) and the Competence Network for Individual Logistics (KNI e. V.).

As a project partner, the European Land and Soil Alliance was primarily involved in the development of the design recommendations for local authorities and was responsible for transferring the results contained therein to regions outside the model region (the city and district of Osnabrück and the district of Steinfurt). The recommendations for the sustainable design of commercial and logistics locations were presented to local authorities in the Hanover region and in North Rhine-Westphalia in online workshops. The area data collected by the University of Osnabrück during the first phase of the Logist.Plus project showed that there is potential for sustainable design even in these large areas (84% sealed in the model region) by using soil monitoring during the construction process and unsealing pre-used areas, partially sealing areas and designing green spaces and buildings appropriately. A further contribution to achieving the land-saving target. Furthermore, an advisory guide has been developed for companies that describes suggestions and ideas for the sustainable planning and design of logistics sites. Practical examples can be found on the project website. The project will be extended until June 2025 on a cost-neutral basis in order to finalise the project in the area of city logistics.

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: Trade, logistics, storage space

Logist.Plus project closing event: The project developed recommendations for action for local authorities and companies and innovative ways to tackle the challenges of logistics in the Osnabrück/Steinfurt region. The final event for the project took place on 7 November 2024.

[More information](#)

Design recommendations - guidance for local authorities. The design recommendations summarised in the Logist.Plus project deal with four different fields of action, the consideration of which offers orientation on the way to sustainable development of logistics locations.

[More information](#)

Guidelines for action - supporting companies. Modern, sustainably designed logistics sites are not only green, climate-resilient and offer a high quality of stay, but also use land resources sparingly and reduce emissions. The options outlined in the action guide introduce companies to the topic and sensitise them to the various aspects of sustainable site design.

[More information](#)

Biodiversity on commercial sites: The guide from the Upper Austrian Environmental Ombudsman's Office uses many examples to clearly explain how commercial and industrial areas can be designed to be close to nature. From green roofs and façades to herb lawns and lighting: industrial areas can also contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.

[More information](#)

Design and maintenance of near-natural seepage and retention basins: The Water Management Department of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government has published a leaflet on the near-natural design of soakaways and retention basins.

[More information](#)

Logix: The aim of the Logistics Real Estate Initiative is to enter into dialogue with market participants, local authorities and business development agencies as well as the general public.

[More information](#)

Multi-storey logistics properties: is this the solution for less space consumption? The lack of space is becoming a burning issue in the logistics property market. There is an increasing lack of space, especially in metropolises. A solution that is already being used in other countries is coming to Germany: multi-storey logistics buildings.

[More information](#)

Aktion Fläche - Portal for municipal land conservation. The Internet portal offers information on strategies, instruments, tools and practical examples aimed at the economical use of land as a resource. It is aimed at stakeholders in cities and municipalities - from local politicians and administrative staff to landowners, civil society, private individuals and many others.

[More information](#)

More messages

BodenKunstSchätze: Call for artistic participation. The art project is part of the KulturRegionale Hildesheim 2025 and is dedicated to soil as an artistic, ecological and cultural theme. Through land art, participatory workshops and an accompanying information campaign, a new awareness of soil as a resource is to be created.

[More information](#)

Natural climate protection in municipalities: state funding for unsealing. The Federal Ministry for the Environment and KfW are continuing the 'Natural Climate Protection in Municipalities' funding programme, which was launched last year and has been in great demand. A new addition is the financing of unsealing measures to restore natural soil functions. A grant of 80 - 90 per cent can be applied for.

[More information](#)

Soil Protection Prize 2025 NRW: the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the AAV - Association for Land Recycling and Contaminated Site Remediation are awarding 10,000 euros to best practice examples of land recycling on contaminated sites. The application deadline is 30 May 2025.

[More information](#)

Soil on DAS! On the Red Sofa: In the NDR television programme DAS!, soil scientist and ELSA member Sonja Medwedski talks about the importance and protection of our soils. The programme is still available in the media library until September 2025.

[More information](#)

'Preserving soils, shaping the future': Why it pays to build in a space-saving way and utilise the benefits of soils for climate adaptation in your municipality? With a new flyer, the Bundesverband Boden e.V. would like to draw attention to the benefits of healthy and unsealed soils and encourage people to take them more into account in municipal planning and development.

[More information](#)

New dashboard shows soil sealing in Austria: On behalf of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), the Federal Environment Agency surveyed land utilisation and soil sealing in Austria.

[More information](#)

Beavers instead of excavators: A family of beavers has helped to renaturalise a stream in the Czech Republic - and saved conservationists a lot of money in the process.

[More information](#)

Conference of the Soil Protection Commission at the UBA (KBU) on World Soil Day 2024: 'Mud or sponge landscape? - The soil decides'. Read the presentations from the conference.

[More information](#)

Publications

Publication of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources on the spatial distribution of mesoplastics in soils. In a field test, a single arable site was analysed for the first time with a high intensity of mesoplastic contamination. The statistical analysis of the measurement data showed that the mesoplastic found was distributed without spatial dependence in the investigated field site.

[More information](#)

Recommendations of the Soil Protection Commission at the UBA: Economic recovery, climate protection and food security - healthy soils are essential. With this position paper, the Soil Protection Commission (KBU) calls on the Federal Government, Bundestag and Bundesrat to expand preventive and non-material soil protection in the Federal Soil Protection Act (BBodSchG) in the new legislative period.

[More information](#)

More than a question of definition - soil health: Article on the political categorisation of the topic of soil health in the volume 'politische ökologie', issue 01 - 2025 of oekom-Verlag.

[More information](#)

The Soil Idea

Save Land. United for Land: The immersive exhibition Save Land was developed in cooperation with the UNCCD-G20 Global Land Initiative. It combines important positions of contemporary art with exhibits from the natural sciences and uses the latest media technologies to understand the global situation of our land areas. What is the state of our soils in cities and on land used for agriculture and industry? And is there any unspoilt nature left in the world? What can we do to protect our soils? The exhibition can be seen in Bonn (DE) until 1 June 2025.

[More information](#)

News from the Climate Alliance

Climate protection locally: Register now for the Climate Alliance's annual international conference in Cologne! This year's annual conference of the Climate Alliance city network will take place in Cologne from 9 - 11 July 2025. The motto is as simple as it is ambitious: Climate protection locally - Do. Move. Shape. Together with the City of Cologne, the Climate Alliance is offering a conference programme that promises practical examples of success, concrete tips and plenty of opportunities for exchange. Immerse yourself in creative communication concepts, strategies for heat planning, solutions for local climate adaptation, financing options despite tight municipal budgets and much more!

[More information](#)

Soil Alliance internal

New members: Municipality of Schärding (AT), municipality of Kirchsschlag near Linz (AT), market town of Mauthausen (AT) and market town of Aspach (AT). A warm welcome!

Board meeting: The next meeting of the Board will take place on June 13, 2025, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Event information

Making soil good - How we can understand, protect and shape our soil together, lecture series VHS Linz in cooperation with PH OÖ, Klimabündnis OÖ and Bodenbündnis OÖ, 8 April to 27 May 2025, online

[More information](#)

Dresden Groundwater Days 2025, Monitoring, Management and Protection of Water Resources, 23/24 June 2025, Dresden (GER)

[More information](#)

Thinking Salon: Transformative urban redevelopment - Shaping change in neighbourhoods, cities and regions sustainably together, 6/7 September 2025, Schinesisches Museum zu Görlitz (GER)

[More information](#)

Soil protection in times of energy transition and climate change, ELSA Annual Conference, 11/12 September 2025, Hildesheim (GER)

[More information](#)

7th Eurosoil, Conference of European Soil Scientists, 13 to 18 September 2025, Seville, Spain (ES)

[More information](#)

#GesundeBödenKlimaschutz, Annual Conference of the German Soil Science Society, 13 to 18 September 2025, Tübingen (GER)

[More information](#)

Impressum

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