



Service

All you need to know about our environment

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Vienna City Administration

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**Vienna City Administration
Municipal Department
for Environmental Protection**
Talking about the environment

About us



The Municipal Department for Environmental Protection was founded over 30 years ago. The team has worked to improve the quality of the local environment as well as the general quality of life in Vienna.

We place particular value on supporting related research and cooperating with other municipal departments as well as ecological, social and economic interest groups, including the people of Vienna. We strive to find a balance between different interest groups, to seek common solutions and to find potential synergies.

Dr. Karin Büchl-Krammerstätter,
Head of the Municipal Department for
Environmental Protection

► **Environmental protection
is all encompassing**

Our goal is to imbue in society a deep respect for the natural environment and the order of nature. We strive to reduce the negative environmental impact of human activity and reverse existing damage caused by society.

► **Partner for the environment**

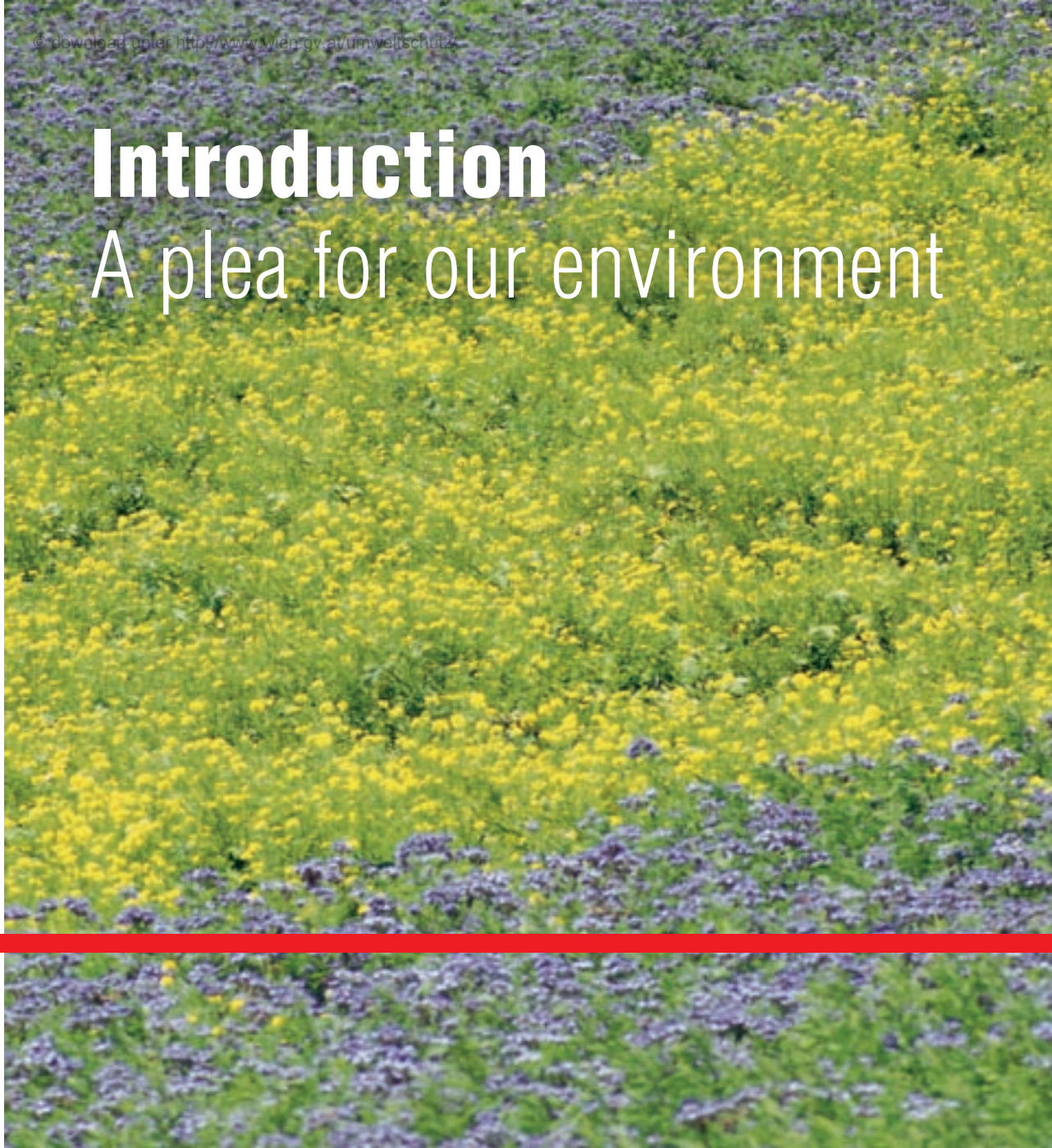
More than 100 staff members in the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection are working toward this jointly developed vision. We are constantly initiating new projects that integrate environmental protection into mainstream politics and policy-making, business, science, and society. We also work closely with internal and external experts.

► **Environment for the future**

We need to ensure that the state of the environment provides future generations with the same quality of life and potential for development as that which exists today.

Introduction

A plea for our environment



Guiding principle

Only the best for our environment

We stand for:

► **Strategic environmental protection**

We want to prevent or reduce stress on the environment through precautionary and integrative measures. We also strive to integrate environmental protection into all relevant areas of politics.

► **Reinforcing awareness of our environment**

We aim to instil the concept of environmental awareness and protection into the minds and hearts of politicians, business managers, the media, and the general public.

► **Securing the basis of life**

Sustainable management of natural resources will preserve the ecological balance of nature and ensure future supplies of energy, enhance potential for regeneration of damaged land, and provide society with natural recreation areas. Agricultural land will be developed according to the Brundtland* principle of sustainable development.

► **Increase the quality of life
through environmental improvement**

We want to make an active contribution to society by increasing the quality of city living, improving the quality of the workplace, creating attractive options for leisure and sports, enhancing urban green space, and providing superior choices for mobility. We approach environment and health from a holistic perspective by exercising the precautionary principle and learning from nature itself.

► **Thematic leadership**

We have a thorough and competent pool of experts who specialise in key environmental issues.

* Gro Harlem Brundtland, a Norwegian politician, defines sustainable development as economic, ecological, and social development that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the options for future generations.



Nature protection

Preserve what we are



We see the preservation of nature as a service to society, a responsibility to the environment, and an indispensable contribution to the quality of life in Vienna. In accordance with the Vienna Nature Conservation Act and the Vienna National Parks Act, approximately one third of the City of Vienna has been declared as a reserve. The preservation of nature outside the designated areas is also important:

- ▶ **Protection of natural monuments**
- ▶ **“Network nature”:** a programme for the protection of severely endangered animal and plant species, as well as for unique habitats
- ▶ **Contractual preservation of nature:** voluntary partnerships with Viennese farmers and garden owners to protect a variety of plant species
- ▶ **“Wild growth”:** campaign for increased awareness and protection of “wild” natural growth in the city
- ▶ **Expert analysis:** assessment of existing nature preservation programmes

Air quality management is based on solid research, data collection and the development of strategic action plans that deal directly with generators of emissions. We handle complaints of disturbances caused by exhaust fumes and/or odours and are consulted on for **expert opinion** in various administrative processes.

In the context of the **ULI-Wien** ("**Urbane Luft Initiative**" = **Urban Air Initiative**) project, we investigate the causes and effects of air pollutants and develop effective measures to reduce these. The data that is supplied by our air quality measurement network is well-known throughout Europe. Two sets of strategic measures for the reduction of fine particulates were passed in 2005.

**Activities of the
air measurement network Vienna:**

- ▶ Monitoring of Vienna's air quality (Ozone, PM 10 – fine particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and others)
- ▶ Initiation of the ozone warning, public information services
- ▶ Regulatory reporting when threshold values are exceeded, cooperation in action plans

Air

The breath of life



Waste management

Everyone is involved

Our goal is ecologically manageable and economically reasonable **waste management**. We want to ensure that natural resources are spared. To achieve this, we perform the following:

- ▶ Initiation and support of **projects** on waste management, waste avoidance and resources management
- ▶ **Monitoring and control** of hazardous and non-hazardous waste
- ▶ **Authorisation** and control of waste collection and treatment plants in Vienna
- ▶ **Support and consultation** to the public and industry on waste-related environmental protection issues and environmentally friendly disposal
- ▶ **Investigation** and reporting of illegal disposals in Vienna
- ▶ Contact point with regard to **questions on asbestos** and the removal of asbestos
- ▶ **Official experts** on waste management
- ▶ **Information** provided to waste management officers in business

Noise abatement deals with the reduction of noise, sound level measurements and ambient noise. The Municipal Department for Environmental Protection engages in:

- ▶ **Renovation** of existing railway lines in Vienna to **reduce noise levels** – a cooperation project between the ÖBB and the City of Vienna: the federal government and the state of Vienna each invest approx. EUR 1.8 million a year into the establishment and installation of noise protection walls and windows.
- ▶ **Measurement** of traffic, construction and industrial noise as well as measurement at local site events, in accordance with regulatory stipulation
- ▶ **Volume restriction** and insulation of commercial music systems
- ▶ **Official expert diagnostics** for road, rail, underground and airplane noise as well as for general construction projects
- ▶ **Calculation** of noise and forecasting for city planning as well as in construction and commercial developments
- ▶ Implementation of the EU directive on the evaluation and combating of **ambient noise** at a state level; drawing “noise maps” for Vienna

Noise abatement

Making peace with noise

Sustainable development

The environmental dynamic

We are the coordination point for sustainable development in Vienna. We consider it important to embed environmental protection into other political areas such as business and social issues. This also applies to the climate protection programme “**KliP Wien**” and the resultant “**ÖkoKauf Wien**” (EcoBuy Vienna).

Our project **ÖkoBusinessPlan Wien** (EcoBusinessPlan Vienna) is an important voluntary tool for the reduction of negative effects of business on the environment. To date, results show 100 million kWh less energy consumption, 107,000 tonnes of waste avoided and 66 million fewer transport kilometres.

We place particular value on international co-operation to achieve a sustainable global development. We represent the City of Vienna in European **urban networks** such as Eurocities and participate in numerous **international projects**.

In addition, we assess application forms for the promotion of trade and industry with regard to their environmental relevance and co-operate as consultants in **citizen participation processes** at a local level (Local Agenda 21).

We contribute to environmental protection issues in the development of the City of Vienna. The focus is on the preservation of a high quality of urban living, protection of flora and fauna, the preservation of soil and air quality, and the avoidance of noise.

- ▶ In the context of planning large projects (e.g. S1, U2, Master plan air field Aspern etc.), we cooperate in **Strategic Environmental Assessments**.
- ▶ In the establishment of zoning plans, we develop planning and project variants for an **environmentally friendly urban development**.
- ▶ We take care of **problems pertaining to soil conservation** in large cities.
- ▶ We participate in **public information events** to determine public priorities on the environment and are therefore able to address these issues.

Spatial development Environment in transition



Environmental analysis

Environment close-up

We operate a state-of-the-art technical **laboratory** that specialises in trace analysis. The laboratory is for official use only; it does not conduct studies for private persons or business. This guarantees complete impartiality and independence in conducting analysis and audits (e.g. examining factory equipment).

In addition to regulatory requirement environmental audits, we deal with a broad range of environmental protection issues in and around Vienna. Together with scientists, we explore **new environmental technologies** and determine medium and long-term pollution trends.

We monitor and study air benzene concentration, fine dust particles, residue from waste incineration, and pollutants in rain.

Further, we monitor and analyse **pollution content in the soil** around Vienna. We also co-operate on the phyto-decontamination project, which uses other plant forms to cost effectively decontaminate soil.

We perform **monitoring and analysis procedures** in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVP-G), the Waste Management Law, the Vienna Nature Conservation Act and the Vienna National Parks Act. We execute preliminary studies for various large projects to determine whether a full UVP procedure must be performed (**official notification**). In **UVP process requirements**, large projects such as underground railways and waste incineration plants (e.g. extension of the underground railway line U2 towards Aspern, Pfaffenau waste incineration plant) are studied for their environmental impact. Environmental protection organisations, NGO's, the general public and relevant stakeholders can also participate in these procedures.

Another important function of the department is the **development of state laws and regulations** on nature preservation, tree protection, waste management, and air quality. We have, for example, succeeded in both the legal and technical conservation and protection of the National Park Danube Floodplains, the Lainz Tiergarten and other conservation areas within the City of Vienna.

We also cooperate on **developing federal and EU legal framework** for environmental protection.

Environmental law

Maintaining the rights of nature



Environmental data

Environmental network

Environmental audits rely heavily on relevant and accurate data. We support both internal departmental and external experts by making available **technical and environmental data**.

Based on the Vienna Environmental Information Law, we manage an **environmental database** that holds the entire environmental data for the City of Vienna. Interested parties can access the data at www.wien.at/wudk/internet/wuisbatch/Prod/index.html.

Further, a **“technical information system”** gives experts rapid access to data (e.g. on protection and Natura 2000 areas) and is now also in use by other municipal offices in Vienna.

The Municipal Department for Environmental Protection is structured into six specialist areas and eight overlapping sections.

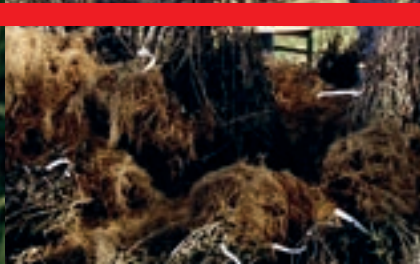
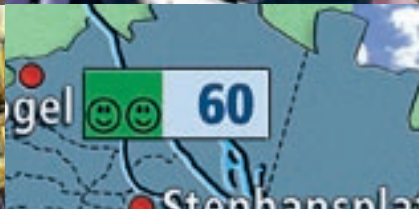
Specialist areas:

- ▶ Waste and resource management
- ▶ Air emission reduction
- ▶ Air measurement network
- ▶ Nature protection
- ▶ Environmental analysis
- ▶ Noise abatement

Related departments:

- ▶ Environmental law
- ▶ Sustainable development/international cooperation
- ▶ Spatial development
- ▶ Environmental communication
- ▶ Project and knowledge management
- ▶ GEO - Environmental data and controlling
- ▶ Finance and personnel management
- ▶ Administration





Environmental protection is not an isolated issue. Vienna has long been actively engaged in environmental protection in all of its multi-faceted elements. Sustainable development, environmental protection, nature preservation, air quality management, and noise reduction are necessary components in ensuring and extending the high quality of life enjoyed in the Vienna region.

I would like to thank the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection for providing the data and expertise to make environmental management possible, as well as for their commitment to the environment.

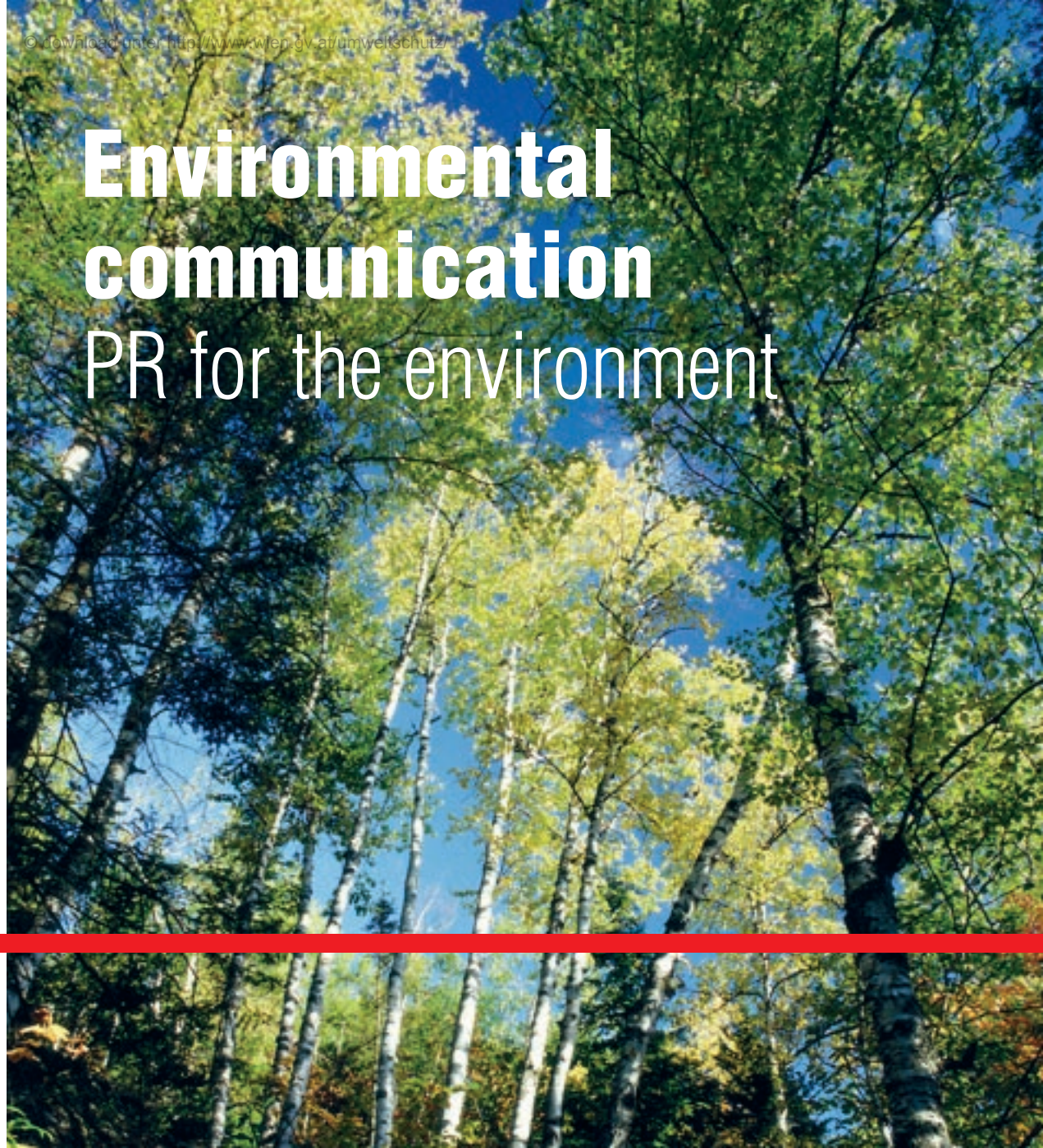
Ulli Sima,
Executive City Councillor for the
Environment of Vienna

It is of particular importance that we communicate the concerns and successes of all our areas of responsibility to our partners. This not only includes **media work**, the editing and production of **printed material**, the organisation of and participation in events, but also the management of a **comprehensive internet presence**. In addition, we spend an increasing amount of time on **environmental awareness activities**.

An overview of our activities:

- ▶ **Vienna Environmental Report**: a reference book on all environment-related issues, measures, figures, data and projects of the City of Vienna
- ▶ **“Biological Diversity Day”**: an annual event, established by GEO magazine in 1999, and with the help of biologists, to lead the public to discover the diversity of flora and fauna on our doorsteps
- ▶ **“Seeing and understanding”**: 10 films that show the beauty and the many facets of nature in and around Vienna
- ▶ **Approximately 60 folders and brochures** for different target groups, from specialist publications to craft sheets for children

Environmental communication PR for the environment



ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Natur und Naturschutz - Studien der Wiener Umweltschutzabteilung \(MA 22\)](#)

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