



Climate Alliance
Municipality



Climate Star 2016

European Municipalities Compete for Climate Protection



Climate Alliance



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IMPRINT AND LEGAL NOTICE:

EDITOR, PUBLISHER & MEDIA HOLDER: Klimabündnis Niederösterreich, 3100 St. Pölten, Wiener Straße 35; Tel.: 02742/26967; E-Mail: niederosterreich@klimabuendnis.at; EDITORIAL TEAM: Hannes Höller; LAYOUT: Markus Damböck (agentur@md-design.at); ENGLISH TRANSLATION: Denise Dewey-Muno; CIRCULATION: 2.000; PRINTING: gugler GmbH, Melk; PLACE OF PUBLISHING: St. Pölten.

greenprint*
carbon positive printed



Printed according to criteria documents of the austrian Eco-Label
„printed products“: gugler*print, Melk, UWZ-Nr. 609, www.gugler.at



Striking new paths

Climate protection is also about quality of life. Us humans are a part of nature – and it is therefore clear that we must in turn take good care of nature and our planet. It is now time to do something, to become active. This means striking new paths, changing lifestyles and rethinking existing values. An according common culture and responsibility is needed in all areas.

The Climate Star awards honour municipalities, towns and regions across Europe, who are actively choosing to pursue new, unfamiliar paths and acting as role models for others. This event is a highlight of the 2016 Climate Alliance International Conference, which will devote itself to the subject of a culture of local climate action for four whole days. The state of our planet and our climate can only be changed with the combined strength and potential of countless different people. It is therefore important to network and to foster a culture of cooperation so that we can pool our creative resources and campaign for our common goal.

We are very proud that Lower Austria with its 355 Climate Alliance communities is living up to its responsibility and is thus a top region in Europe. In 2004, we created a platform for exchange and joint action within the state administration with the Lower Austria climate and energy programme, which comprises more than 30 departments and related institutions. Along with countless other successes, this cooperation has led us to one very important milestone: since last year, Lower Austria has obtained 100% of its power from renewable energy sources.

We wish you an enjoyable time browsing this brochure, which will undoubtedly motivate and inspire us all to achieve further successes in climate action. Our heartfelt thanks to Climate Alliance and warm congratulations to all award winners.

Dr. Erwin Pröll, Governor of Lower Austria

Dr. Stephan Pernkopf, Minister of the Environment for Lower Austria



Dr. Erwin Pröll



Dr. Stephan Pernkopf

A culture of local climate action

Curbing dangerous climate change will of course require the ambitious reduction of CO₂ emissions. These emissions reductions, however, cannot be achieved solely via technical solutions: a cultural shift towards collaboration and big picture thinking must form the basis for any effective climate action. Climate Alliance member towns and municipalities have recognised this fact for over 25 years now – both in Europe as well as through partnerships with indigenous peoples of Amazonia. Indeed, it is now also being recognised as an important strategy in international processes, such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by the United Nations.

The necessary changes in lifestyles and the existing models of energy production make increased cooperation and closer networking both within administration and between institutions necessary. A rethink is required in the ways we interact and work with one another. Networking is moreover needed between areas that we previously considered separately. We must ensure that our municipal structures support our climate goals on all levels – within and between authorities and different administrative levels as well as with the local population. In our economic system that continues to be based on growth, we need common responses to the local and global challenges of climate change.

The many outstanding projects awarded a Climate Star in 2016 show just how a “culture of local climate action” can be established. They serve as examples for other municipalities and encourage them to engage in change processes. With this award, integrated initiatives on aspects ranging from energy, mobility and nutrition through to climate justice and adaptation to climate change are presented to a wider audience. They make clear that change processes can be initiated on the local level, and constitute important complements to the endeavours on the national and international levels.

We congratulate all winners of the Climate Star 2016 and wish them continued success!

Tine Heyse, President of Climate Alliance Europe

DI Thomas Brose, Managing Director, Climate Alliance Europe



Tine Heyse



Thomas Brose

The Climate Star goes to ...

Every two years, the Climate Alliance Europe honours the best municipal climate protection projects. Each of the 1,700 European Climate Alliance municipalities can take part in the contest; winners are chosen by an expert jury.



CATEGORY 1

up to 10.000 inhabitants

CATEGORY 2

up to 100.000 inhabitants

CATEGORY 3

over 100.000 inhabitants

CATEGORY 4

Local Authority Associations

www.climate-star.org

Model Projects. Climate protection needs role models that people talk about and ideas and measures that they can spread. The seventh Climate Star once again provides a stage for model projects this year. In the historic ambiance of the Grafenegg Castle in Lower Austria, the best climate protection projects implemented by members of the Climate Alliance network are to be awarded the Climate Star 2016. The Climate Alliance network has grown continuously ever since it was founded in 1990. It now comprises over 1,700 cities, municipalities and rural districts in Europe. Together with their partners, indigenous people of South America, they are aiming at two goals: the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the protection of the rain forests.

The Jury. The Climate Alliance has chosen climate protection projects in four categories. The jury consists of the executive board and the national coordinators of six European countries. Projects are assessed on the basis of the following criteria: sustainability, multiplier effect, media coverage, innovation, and citizen participation.

The Climate Star. 107 Climate Stars have already been awarded on the basis of these criteria. Award winners include famous cities such as Barcelona, Leipzig, Venice, and Zurich. Climate Awards have also been given to many small municipalities, including Hostětín in the Czech Republic with 210 inhabitants. This year, 15 Climate Stars are being awarded.

Village of the Future – ALSÓMOC SOLÁD

Alsómocsolád is a pretty little village with 346 inhabitants. It is the ideal place for families with children, who favour a sustainable lifestyle. This was not always the case, though. The number of inhabitants has decreased by two thirds in the past 60 years. Since the 1990s, a great deal has changed for the better. A community centre with municipal offices, post office, library, minorities office and a multi-generation residential home have been established. A waste water system was set up in 2006. The village development programme began in 2010. Sustainability and raising awareness top the agenda. The surface rainwater is now managed, waste separation and a local currency known as “Rigac” have been introduced, and a ‘Home of Virtual Natural Sciences’ and forest school opened. The village in the south-west of Hungary has also drawn on the expertise of external specialists to establish itself as a driving force in the region. Fourteen of the small region’s workshops took place here. Since 2013, 41 families have signed contracts to have their homes refurbished and 19 have taken up animal husbandry and vegetable cultivation. A solar plant has been installed on the community centre and the street lighting switched to LEDs. The inhabitants, local organisations and associations are involved in the most important issues.

CATEGORY 1

From village in decline to village of the future. With a revived centre, the local “Rigac” currency, a forest school and solar power.

ALSÓMOC SOLÁD
Hungary; 337 inhabitants
www.alsomocsolad.hu



local for global – KRUMBACH

What is climate justice? What has it got to do with me? And how can I contribute? The market town of Krumbach in Lower Austria provided answers to just these questions. For one whole year, local inhabitants were involved in the campaign according to the motto of “Think global, act local”. Events included a performance by a theatre group from Nairobi, the ‘Shaping globalisation’ exhibition, a book presentation and discussion with author Hans Putzer and Johann Kandler from Climate Alliance on “hunger wars”, and the puppet show ‘Climate justice and sharing’. The parishes got involved with a fair trade parish café and at Krumbach’s schools, there was fair trade orange juice for the children taking part in the ‘Gehen geht’ mobility initiative. The regional and fair trade products were delivered using e-mobil car share vehicles. A specific aid project with an orphanage in Ghana was supported, enabling consideration of the subject of climate justice in more concrete, comprehensible terms. This was also reflected in the figures: over 1,000 people, from young to old, participated in the events – an outstanding achievement given there are 2,300 inhabitants! Activities also had an impact beyond the market town’s borders and fell on fertile ground. Krumbach has been a part of the first FAIR TRADE region in Lower Austria since 2013.

CATEGORY 1

Making climate justice tangible. Krumbach has succeeded in this with theatre performances, exhibitions, parish cafés and puppet shows.

KRUMBACH
Austria;
2,305 inhabitants
www.krumbach-noe.at



KRUMPENDORF – live smart

CATEGORY 1

Energy-saving tips from and for asylum seekers. Two Syrians have developed “Live Smart” and train “climate ambassadors” in Austria.

KRUMPENDORF
Austria; 3,484 inhabitants
www.krumpendorf.gv.at

While energy-saving tips are nothing new, Krumpendorf am Wörthersee is causing a sensation across Austria. The “Live Smart” project focuses on asylum seekers and refugees. Two Syrians fled the war and received a warm welcome in Krumpendorf. In autumn 2015, they began working with local initiatives to develop an energy-saving course for asylum seekers. The workshops are now run by a team of volunteers and are not linked to any specific integration project. The volunteers travel from asylum seekers centre to asylum seekers centre by public transport and explain to residents everything they need to know about saving energy. Beside power consumption, heating and warm water, the topics of waste separation, mobility and, last but not least, climate change are also covered. The message of a global code of ethics is a central component of the “Live Smart” campaign. During the workshops, “climate ambassadors” (in the best sense of the word) are trained, who then pass the course content on. Experience has shown that there is extensive potential for savings. If asylum seekers do not receive any information, their energy consumption is double that of Austrian households. The workshops are a success and meanwhile take place across the whole of Austria. Energy-saving tips are also already available in Arabic and Persian.



OBER-GRAFENDORF – eco-road

CATEGORY 1

The eco-road improves the microclimate, saves rainwater, eases pressure on sewage plants, prevents flooding and saves money.

OBER-GRAFENDORF
Austria;
4,614 inhabitants
www.ober-grafendorf.at
<http://men.zenebio.at>

While adaptation to climate change is an entirely new concept for many communities, the municipality of Ober-Grafendorf in Lower Austria is already making progress. Within the EU project ‘Changeable Mostviertel. Fit into the climate future’ launched in 2012, an eco-road was set up in 2015. The trial area runs 100 metres, alongside a main road. Within the ‘DrainGarden’ project, new technology for decentral rainwater usage is being developed in collaboration with the University of Natural Resources & Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna. Special substrates affording high water permeability and good retention properties have been installed and combined with three species of plants. The water permeability, storage capacity and impact on the microclimate are being investigated. Up to 500 litres of water are stored per cubic metre and evaporate via the plants. This corresponds with the cooling capacity of a 100-year-old beech tree on a hot summer day. The advantages for communities are four-fold: an improved microclimate, less watering of green spaces in the summer, less rainwater in sewage plants and flood protection. A positive side effect: the pressure on the municipal budget is reduced. The substrates are moreover being developed so that they can in future be produced throughout the whole of Austria using regional materials.



Wood power in the Sarntal – SARNTAL

Making a virtue of necessity. The wood power consortium comprising the community of Sarntal to the north of Bolzano, the heating plant cooperative and Öttenbach power station have achieved just this. In line with the general trend, they started planning a wood gasification plant back in 2011. However, after the first supplier went bankrupt, the search for alternatives began. In 2014, they found what they had been looking for; trial operations were launched in spring 2016. The plant is operated exclusively using chopped wood delivered by farmers from the region, who have joined forces to form a supplier association. Thermal energy is supplied in a conventional manner by means of a wood chip boiler with a filter system. What is special is the use of a hot-air turbine driven by the thermal expansion of the air to produce electrical power. The technical specifications: thermal output of 1.6 MW, electrical output of 200 kW. Compared to other thermal oil or gasification systems, there are no emissions on the one hand and the system requires little maintenance and is safe on the other. It also relieves the existing heating plant system, which previously had to be fired with heating oil during peak periods. The heat generated is used exclusively in nearby local businesses and households. The power is fed back into the grid.

CATEGORY 1

In the Sarntal, energy is generated from hot air rather than wood gasification. This saves money, cuts emissions and minimises maintenance.

SARNTAL

Italy; 7,000 inhabitants

www.gemeinde.sarntal.bz.it



vegetable garden – ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE

Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg is showing how it is possible to make fruit and vegetable production into a successful project known beyond the country's borders. Planning began at the end of 2011; the greenhouse of 960 m² in size with an integrated low-energy office in a timber construction was subsequently inaugurated in June 2015. Heat is produced in a wood gasification boiler using local wood. Rainwater is used for watering. Allowing 240 m³ of drinking water to be saved every year. Vegetables are cultivated on a 600 m² outdoor site. All of the power requirements are covered by certified green energy – helping to avoid 5 tons of CO₂ per year. Processing and sustainable packaging take place at the site. Last year, more than 5,000 kg of organic vegetables were produced and sold at regional markets to both private individuals and kindergartens. The project also includes a vegetable and herb learning garden, where 254 children participated in workshops between June and December 2015. The project is also having a positive impact on the labour market. Four of the 14 staff participating in a job creation scheme have since found full-time employment in the open market. In light of the project's success, a second location is already being planned and is due to begin operating in 2017.

CATEGORY 2

These organic fruit and vegetables taste even better. Water, energy and CO₂ are saved. Children are educated and jobs are created.

ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE

Luxembourg;

33,900 inhabitants

www.ciglesch.lu

www.esch.lu



FILDERSTADT – Ecology, energy and sustainability mentoring

CATEGORY 2

Filderstadt is resorting to an age-old recipe for success: personal discussions. So far, it has trained eleven multilingual individuals.

FILDERSTADT

Germany; 45,200 inhabitants
www.filderstadt.de
www.integra-bildung.de/oen-mentoreninnen

Everyone should get involved in climate protection. Filderstadt in Baden-Württemberg is showing how a growing target group that many municipalities have accorded little attention to date can now be addressed. The “Ö-E-N-Mentoren/innen” (“Ecology–Energy–Sustainability mentors”) project developed by migrants for migrants was unknown territory for all involved. From the town’s environmental officer to the energy agency, waste industry through to the fair-trade initiative “ff – faires Filderstadt”. The aspects of climate, environment, energy and sustainability previously only considered individually have now been combined with that of integration. Intercultural information and advice are being offered to private households with a migration background. Eleven multilingual inhabitants of Filderstadt participated in seven training sessions. They analysed consumption behaviour and gave practical advice in Albanian, German, Greek, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Turkish and Ukrainian. Within this, the focus was on personal discussions. For good reason: hearsay and word-of-mouth propaganda play a decisive role in communication among people with a migration background and enjoy high credibility. More than 150 households were approached directly. PR work and regular reporting mean the project has attracted a great deal of attention.



GÖTZIS – energie.bewusst.götzis

CATEGORY 2

The municipality motivates citizens – with energy playgrounds, the “Energy Bonus” scheme, a story workshop and Frederik, the energy-saving mouse.

GÖTZIS

Austria; 10,656 inhabitants
www.goetzis.at

Achieving energy autonomy together. The town of Götzis in the western Austrian state of Vorarlberg shows just how. The project “energie.bewusst.götzis:” was launched in 2015. A concrete goal to achieve within a reasonable period of time was first set, namely to reduce energy consumption by 1% every year. If this succeeds, funding from supporters of the citizen-owned PV plants will then be used to finance energy playgrounds. The “Energy Bonus” scheme rewards energy-efficient behaviour. Energy savings are supported by up to 30% with cash for any purpose and by up to 40% with investment grants for energy efficiency measures. Since 2014, all kindergarten children as well as all year 3 pupils at primary school have covered the subject in class. Children have also created a mascot: Frederik, the energy-saving mouse. Twenty personal stories on energy autonomy were developed in a story workshop. Schoolchildren, parents and teachers discuss their mobility and nutrition behaviour within the “prober amol” [“Just try it”] project. The collaborative project is also reflected in figures: 90 tonnes of CO₂ could be avoided in municipal facilities through energy management and the “Energy Bonus” scheme, 88 people acted as “prober amol” testimonials, and two citizen-owned PV plants were established. A third will follow in autumn 2016.



Refurbishment campaign – KARPOŠ

Climate change and high energy consumption are also increasingly an issue in Macedonia. The rising cost of fossil fuels, most of which must be imported, is affecting both the local inhabitants and the municipal authorities. The municipality of Karpoš in the capital of Skopje is leading the way to a resource and money-saving future. A young and committed team from the environmental department set itself the goal of following the global trends and activities in climate protection. A refurbishment campaign was launched and 14 public buildings renovated – from their cellars right up to their roofs. This included ten schools and four kindergartens. The package of measures included insulating façades and walls, exchanging windows and doors with energy-saving alternatives, insulating the ceilings of the top and bottom floors, cleaning or exchanging the heating systems and replacing light bulbs with energy-saving light sources. At the request of the local population, the façades of a further 14 residential buildings were also renovated. The energy savings surpassed all expectations: energy consumption could be decreased by 65% in the public buildings and by 45% in the residential buildings. Karpoš will now share the experiences gained with other local authorities and municipalities in Macedonia.

CATEGORY 2

The refurbishment campaign in figures: a decrease in energy consumption of 65% in public buildings and 45% in residential buildings.

KARPOŠ
Macedonia;
59,900 inhabitants
www.karpos.gov.mk



Heating services – PESARO

The harbour town of Pesaro on the Adriatic coast is taking a two-pronged approach to optimise the heat supply in municipal buildings: internal expertise is being combined with external investments by private partners. The town's energy manager is cooperating with a work group comprising specialists from the authorities on this project. The energy consumption of 131 municipal buildings was analysed. Information such as the location, date of construction, land register details, photos, renovation work and electrical and thermal consumption in recent years was compiled. Energy audits were completed and heat camera images also taken for selected buildings. The municipality would have then had to invest €19 million to implement the measures discerned. Because this was inconceivable due to the stability pact, a public tender was launched, including guidelines for the heating services. The municipality continues to pay the annual heating costs of €1.9 million while the private company is able to reduce consumption through efficiency measures and thus make a return on their investment and generate profit. Allowing outdated systems with high energy consumption to be replaced with efficient models. The contract has now been awarded; energy savings of 30% are expected.

CATEGORY 2

Internal expertise is being combined with external private investments. A total of €19 million are being invested and 30% of energy saved.

PESARO
Italy; 94,700 inhabitants
www.comune.pesaro.pu.it



BASEL – 2,000-watt tours

CATEGORY 3

Making energy and climate policies an experience and source of positive memories – this is being achieved with boat tours on the Rhine.

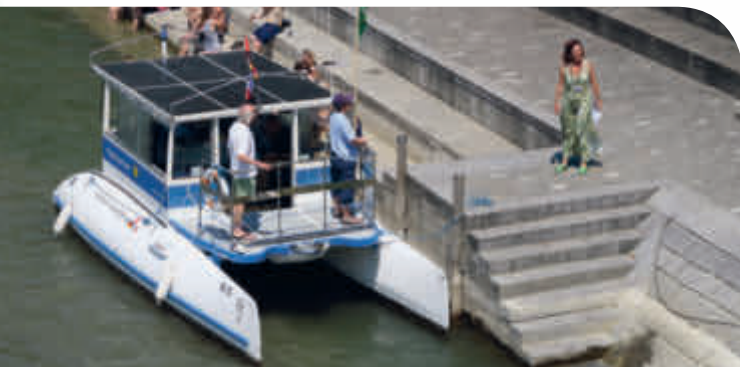
BASEL

Switzerland, 167,400 inhabitants

www.bs.ch

www.2000-watt.bs.ch

Energy and climate policies are difficult to communicate. It is even more difficult to explain these to the general population. The city of Basel can also tell a thing or two about just this topic. Because classic tours were only moderately successful, a new approach was adopted in spring 2015. Public guided tours on the vision of a 2,000-watt society are held ten times a year. In a very special setting: participants travel aboard a solar-powered boat past the beautiful city backdrop. During the tour, they experience the highly visible milestones of Basel's climate policy. Aboard a unique vessel, they travel along the River Rhine and learn about the city's most significant achievements. Enjoyment is combined with in-depth information – enabling a positive experience and fond memories. Listed buildings that have undergone energy refurbishment, a hydroelectric power plant and the city's wood-fired power plant feature on the itinerary, for example. Several hundred people have participated in the solar boat tours so far. The advertising for this project allows people not participating in these tours to also be reached. The aim of the city marketing: Basel is currently renowned for its museums and zoo, as a trade fair venue and pharmaceutical location. In future, it is to also be considered a pioneer in the field of energy.



GOSSAU - ST. GALLEN - GAISERWALD – energy network GSG

CATEGORY 4

Towns and companies network, agree binding goals and surpass these. Allowing them to reduce CO₂ emissions together.

GOSSAU - ST. GALLEN - GAISERWALD

Switzerland, 100,800 inhabitants

www.energienetz-gsg.ch

How can towns convince companies to reduce their energy consumption and CO₂ emissions and agree to binding goals? The energienetz GSG energy network has managed just this. The regional platform for energy and resource efficiency was established in 2011 as an unregistered partnership between 11 local companies; the energy towns of Gossau, St. Gallen and Gaiserwald; the local utility companies; the Gossau and St. Gallen West trade associations; and the energy department of the canton of St. Gallen. In 2015, the network already comprised 30 companies. The goals are an exchange of specialist expertise, an increase in energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energies and waste heat. The energienetz GSG energy network is the ideal platform for an exchange of experiences and also provides new impetus. A specially created coordination office supports the concrete development and implementation of ideas. The financial feasibility, company structure and social and political commitment to a universal heating network is currently being clarified. The outcomes emphasise the project's success. A 2% increase in efficiency every year has been contractually agreed with each company – and they have all achieved (or even exceeded) this to date.



ISTmobil – DISTRICT OF KORNEUBURG

Many outlying communities are familiar with the problem of a lack of access to public transport. They ask themselves how an alternative basic mobility system could look. The district of Korneuburg has found a solution: “ISTmobil Korneuburg”. The pilot project of the state of Lower Austria taps into existing resources, such as taxi and car hire companies, and also integrates in current isolated micro public transport systems. Innovative planning software enables the optimisation of routing and journey pooling, helping to avoid empty miles. Simple booking and cashless payments are possible using the mobilCard. The service was launched in 17 communities in April 2015. Two further communities joined the initiative one year later. With 800 pick-up points, the district affords a good network. Hubs outside of the service area are also connected to the network (e.g. Tulln railway station). A home pick-up service is available for people with reduced mobility. The tariff system has been agreed with all communities. To achieve the best possible occupancy rates, group tariffs are available from two people. In the first year, 20,000 passengers used the service. Satisfaction among the customers is high: 72% rated the ISTmobil services as “very comfortable” and 66% as “easy to use”.

CATEGORY 4

**20,000 passengers,
800 pick-up points,
19 communities and
high user satisfaction.**
ISTmobil is on a good course.

DISTRICT OF KORNEUBURG
Austria; 77,830 inhabitants
www.istmobil.at



ALTBAU NEU – NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

The energetic refurbishment of buildings harbours a great deal of potential. A high quota is a key factor in the attainment of climate protection goals. At the same time, the market is also of interest to the local economy financially. The project “ALTBAU NEU” tackles exactly this aspect. In 2005, several municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia launched a pilot project. The network is now coordinated centrally and developed continuously by the EnergieAgentur.NRW. Individual campaigns such as the “Haus-zu-Haus” advisory service and awards campaign for well-refurbished buildings have been developed with municipalities as special milestones, discussed in guides and made available to all partners. Local campaigns and measures can thus be coordinated simply and easily, advertised jointly and synergies harnessed. By involving local trades, architects, engineers, and (savings) banks, the added value is kept in the region. The website www.alt-bau-neu.de has been set up as an information platform for inhabitants. In the past three years, the number of users has increased from 40,000 to 70,000. Since 2013, the number of participating municipalities and districts has risen from 16 to 20 – together they are home to more than 40% of the population of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

CATEGORY 4

**Twenty municipalities and
districts cooperate and use
synergies – making ALTBAU NEU
the perfect partner for building
refurbishment projects.**

NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA
Germany;
7,176,900 inhabitants
www.alt-bau-neu.de



T

– e-mobil Thayaland

CATEGORY 4

“Sun in the tank” is the slogan. The money and energy for the car sharing scheme are from the region; the added value is retained locally.

THAYALAND

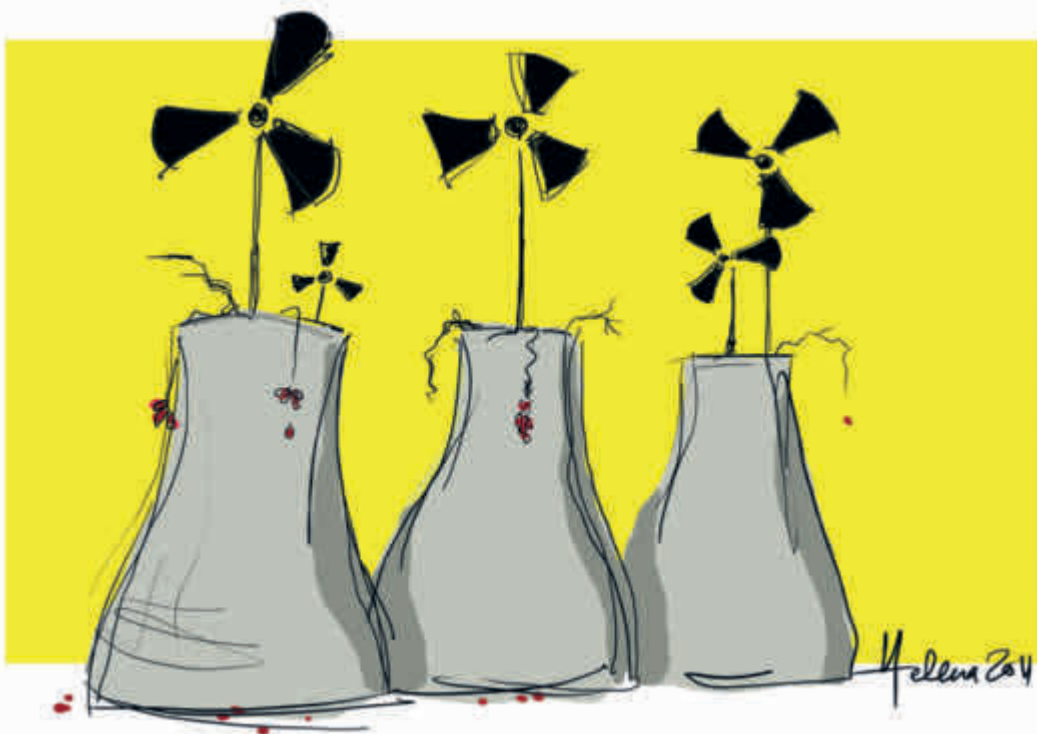
Austria;
24,076 inhabitants
www.zukunftsklub.at

It all began with a vision: a 100% regional energy supply in Thayaland. Building on the long-standing tradition as a model climate and energy ‘future region’ (since 2009), the aim is to create further added value in the region. The founding of Thayaland GmbH with its “e-mobil Thayaland” project in collaboration with local inhabitants, businesses and institutions constitutes another major step in this direction. The project management company is responsible for the local electric car sharing scheme, searches for roof space for solar energy and raises the capital for projects by involving citizens and cooperating with regional banks. In the first ten days, €35,000 were raised through loan agreements – that’s 20% of the planned budget! The “Solarstrom, e-mobil Thayaland und mehr” campaign was officially launched in April 2016. According to the slogan of “Sonne in den Tank” [“Sun in the Tank”], solar power plants are being installed on suitable roofs (max. output 250 kWp). This in turn enables five electric vehicles to be powered in a climate-friendly manner. These vehicles are already being used by more than 50 people, who have covered almost 40,000 kilometres without generating any emissions. A further three PV plants and three electric cars for the car sharing scheme are ready for implementation and currently require financing.



**We would like to thank
all participants for their
commitment to the field
of climate protection and
congratulate the winners!**

Helena Lindholm: „Reactor Vases“



Facing the Climate

Bruno Haberzettl: „Opening of the skiing season ...“



The **Facing the Climate** exhibition series was developed in 2009 by the Swedish Institute and has since toured the world. So far, the exhibition has been shown in Paris, Shanghai, Riga, Washington and Luanda, among countless other cities – always adapted in collaboration with local cartoonists and partners. The cooperation between the Swedish Institute, Swedish embassy in Vienna and cartoon museum in Krems has made it possible to also show the exhibition during the Climate Alliance conference. The aim is to translate the challenges of climate change into art, thus making the subject more accessible to broad sections of the population.

