

# Soil Alliance News

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



Issue 1 / 2023

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

A lot of land - often on greenfield sites - continues to be taken up for industrial estates and logistics areas. Large industrial halls and expansive car parks then usually dominate the picture. Sustainability, soil protection and land-saving goals are still pushed into the background in planning processes. Can we succeed in reducing land consumption and making existing and new commercial areas more sustainable? In the meantime, people at the most diverse levels are dealing with these questions. For example, the Logist.Plus project, in which the European Land and Soil Alliance is also involved, is looking into the question of whether and how the land requirements of the logistics industry can be reconciled with sustainability goals and how land can be used more efficiently.

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: Business and logistics

**Logist.Plus:** The economically important logistics sector is affected by land use conflicts and rising land prices. So far, it has not been possible to reconcile the land requirements of the logistics sector with sustainability goals. This is where the Logist.Plus project comes in with a land management approach. This approach is intended to enable sustainable long-term development that takes into account the interests of the logistics sector by means of governance structures that span the city, urban hinterland and rural areas, in combination with approaches to cooperative operational environmental and transport management. ELSA is involved as a collaborative partner.

[More information](#)

**Land saving offensive - A guide:** The practical guide for investors, companies, municipalities and planners on the topic of "space efficiency in commercial construction" with corresponding best-practice examples is intended to support sustainable and space-efficient commercial developments.

[More information](#)

**Sustainable further development of commercial areas:** With the research programme "Experimental Housing and Urban Development" (ExWoSt), the federal government supports

studies, initiatives and model projects for innovative planning and measures on important urban development and housing policy topics. In recent years, one ExWoSt research field was dedicated to the sustainable further development of commercial areas. Results and experiences can be read here.

[More information](#)

**Green instead of grey - commercial areas in transition:** Commercial areas do not have to be grey and dreary, but can be valuable components of green cities. The Wissenschaftsladen (WILA) Bonn tested how a sustainable design of existing industrial estates can succeed in a model project with its partners and the cities of Bocholt, Vreden, Iserlohn and Remscheid.

[More information](#)

**Develop potential areas for urban nature:** Unused areas such as brownfield sites or building roofs and facades are well suited to increase the share of urban nature. However, such transformations are often associated with challenges. The City of Chemnitz, European Capital of Culture 2025, together with Climate Alliance and Ecologic Institute, invites you to a two-day international conference on 11 and 12 May 2023 to jointly find solutions on how to accelerate the green transformation by developing underused spaces in cities.

[More information](#)

## More messages

**Back to earth:** Call for proposals under the EU HORIZON programme. Funding is available for the establishment of a network of relevant actors and projects that serve to strengthen social awareness of the importance and challenges of soil. The submission of project proposals is possible until 23.9.2023.

[More information](#)

**Regionalwert AGs:** Citizens' shareholding companies that invest in regional organic agriculture and food production and that aim to significantly increase food sovereignty in the respective region.

[More information](#)

**National Water Strategy:** On 15 March 2023, the German Federal Cabinet adopted the National Water Strategy to respond to the multiple challenges posed by climate change.

[More information](#)

**Land consumption in Germany:** The settlement and transport area in Germany grew by an average of 55 hectares per day over the four-year period from 2018 to 2021. The goal of the Federal Government in the German Sustainability Strategy is to limit the average daily increase to less than 30 hectares by 2030. The aim is to achieve a circular land economy by 2050. This means that no further net land should then be developed for settlement and transport purposes.

[More information](#)

**Twelve reforms for effective soil protection:** The nature conservation organisation WWF, with the support of Daniel Ennöckl, Professor of Public Law at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), has developed a catalogue of twelve legal instruments that should contribute to more effective soil protection in Austria. The analysis recommends a stronger anchoring of soil protection in the legal system, among other things through a binding cap.

## [More information](#)

**Land consumption - state liability suit against Austria planned:** The initiative AllRise - Verein zur Förderung des Umweltschutzes, der Demokratie und der Rechtsstaatlichkeit (Association for the Promotion of Environmental Protection, Democracy and the Rule of Law) is planning to file a state liability suit against the Republic of Austria at the Constitutional Court because of the high land consumption. The lawsuit is to be accompanied by a catalogue of proposed solutions to reduce land consumption. The initiative is still looking for supporters.

## [More information](#)

**Soil Care Network:** Behind this network is an interdisciplinary, global community of scientists and practitioners who care about soil in a special way.

## [More information](#)

## Publications

**Saving space in the planning of logistics real estate:** The pressure on the logistics industry to develop and implement more sustainable concepts of land use is increasing. The objective of this article is to show approaches on how to optimise land use in logistics.

## [More information](#)

**Comic strip "Life in the soil":** "Vivir no solo", a comic story originally published in Galician to raise young people's awareness of the importance of soil, has now been published in German.

## [More information](#)

**Peatland Atlas 2023: Climate protectors in danger:** Intact peatlands protect the climate. They store enormous amounts of carbon in their peat. However, this only works when they are wet. The Moor Atlas 2023 shows that more than ten percent of the world's 500 million hectares of peatlands have already been drained. In Central Europe, the figure is well over 90 percent. The atlas is a cooperation project of BUND with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Michael Succow Foundation, partners in the Greifswald Moor Centrum.

## [More information](#)

## The Soil Idea

**#logistikmittwoch - Best Practice Webcast from Hessen:** The #logistikmittwoch is part of the programme "Mobiles Hessen 2030", which aims to network, support and communicate activities and projects related to the mobility of the future. It serves as an information platform for everyone and for exchange between the state, business, science and the public. The #logistikmittwoch of 19.10.2022 was dedicated to the topic "Designing logistics real estate sustainably - How can a logistics property be designed sustainably?" Many other exciting topics around logistics.

## [More information](#)

## News from the Climate Alliance

**Join the Children's Mile Campaign 2023 now!** The Children's Mile Campaign of Climate Alliance Europe (in Austria: Climate Miles) celebrates its 20th anniversary - since 2003, tens of thousands of children from all over Europe have been collecting Green Footprints for the

global climate every year! During their campaign week(s), the kindergarten and school children consciously travel in a climate-friendly way and receive Green Footprints for it. They also collect miles with other environmentally friendly behaviour, such as regional nutrition or energy saving, and learn a lot about sustainable living in the process. The miles and wishes of all participants will be handed over to the UN Climate Change Secretariat at the end of the year at the World Climate Conference to call on local politicians to finally take action. Join us and register your community and your educational institutions for the Children's Mile Campaign 2023!

[More information](#)

## Soil Alliance internal

**Save the date! ELSA Annual Conference "Soil and Climate":** This year's conference will take place on 14 and 15 September 2023 in Wuppertal (DE). The climate function of soils has long been underestimated and new practical but sustainable options for action are needed here. Agriculture must adapt to the changing framework conditions and focus more on preserving and improving soil functions. In cities and municipalities, "water-sensitive" urban development with the creation of a blue/green infrastructure, the search for multifunctional areas or the creation of a "sponge city" has become an important objective in future and sustainable urban planning. The City of Wuppertal is organising the conference in close cooperation with the European Land and Soil Alliance and the Climate Alliance.

[More information](#)

**General Assembly:** The General Assembly 2023 will take place on 15 September following the Annual Conference "Soil and Climate" in Wuppertal (DE).

**Board Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be held on 26 May 2023, 10 am to 12 pm digital.

**New members:** Municipality of Ferlach (AT), Professional group of allotment gardeners (AT) Welcome!

## Event information

**Biodiversity and soil: Planning for biodiversity!** Part 1 on 31 March 2023 (online), Part 2 in autumn 2023 (excursion river power plant Töging)

[More information](#)

**Living Soil - How to Make the Desert Green,** 26 April 2023, Wels (AT)

[More information](#)

**6th Graz Environmental Law Forum: Soil Protection in the Sign of the Climate Crisis,** 26. April 2023, Graz (AT)

[More information](#)

**Soil monitoring for representatives of the authorities 2023,** 10. Mai 2023 in Osnabrück und 23. Juni in München

[More information](#)

**Soil erosion by water,** 23 May 2023 at the DWA Federal Office, Hennef (DE)

[More information](#)

**Develop land potential for urban nature**, 11./12. Mai 2023, Chemnitz (DE)

[More information](#)

**DBG Annual Conference 2023 Soils - diverse & multifunctional**, 2-7. September 2023  
in Halle, submission of abstracts until 15.01.2023

[More information](#)

**ELSA Annual Conference 2023 "Soil and Climate"**, 14 and 15 September 2023,  
Wuppertal (DE)

[More information](#)

## Imprint

European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) e.V.  
Klaus-Strick-Weg 10, D - 49082 Osnabrück  
Phone.: +49 (0) 541 323 7025 | Fax: +49 (0) 541 323 15 7025  
E-Mail: [mail@soil-alliance.org](mailto:mail@soil-alliance.org)  
Web: [www.soil-alliance.org](http://www.soil-alliance.org)  
Osnabrück, Amtsgericht Osnabrück, Registernummer: VR 3124

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