



Climate Alliance
Municipality

Climate Star 2018

European Municipalities Compete for Climate Protection



Climate Alliance



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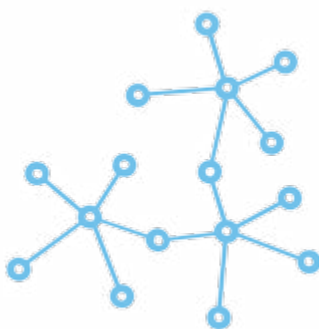
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Imprint and Legal Notice:

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gedruckt nach der Richtlinie „Druckerzeugnisse“ des Österreichischen Umweltzeichens · Druckerei Janetschek GmbH · UW-Nr. 637

More and more people getting involved

Climate Alliance towns, cities and municipalities from all across Europe will be honoured here in Lower Austria for what will be the eighth time. This year, the event will once again be held in the historical setting of Grafenegg Castle. It is always a pleasure to see the beaming faces on stage at our Climate Star gala. While we acknowledge lighthouse projects, the spotlight is actually on the many committed individuals working behind the scenes. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to them all.

They are the ones leading the way into a climate-friendly future. With their projects, they show us today how our world could and should look in the coming years and decades: resource-conserving, renewable and liveable for future generations. The people we honour with the Climate Star are pioneers. It is very encouraging to see, though, that more and more people are following their example and getting involved.

There has been a great deal of progress in the energy sector over the past four decades. Here in Lower Austria, we have been generating 100% of the electricity we require from water, wind, sun and biomass since 2015. Approval among the population for these clean energy sources lies at 91%.

This year, there is yet another cause for celebration: the state of Lower Austria was one of the first federal states in Austria to join Climate Alliance 25 years ago. We now have 350 Climate Alliance communities – more than any other region in Europe. We would like to take this opportunity to also give thanks for this.

Mag. Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria

Dr. Stephan Pernkopf, Vice Governor of Lower Austria



Mag. Johanna Mikl-Leitner



Dr. Stephan Pernkopf

One platform for common solutions

The Climate Star is more than just a climate protection competition. Rather, it has since become an internationally renowned and proven platform for the exchange of innovative ideas, practical solutions and feasible measures for climate protection and adaptation to the consequences of the climate crisis. We already emphasised the importance of such platforms at this year's annual international conference in Barcelona.

Today, we are more closely interconnected than ever before. Taking full advantage of this ever-expanding network in our towns, cities and municipalities will help us to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Together, we can better decouple our production and consumption structures from the depletion of natural resources while combatting climate change. Together, we can become more resilient, alleviate social tensions and diminish financial uncertainty. Our towns, cities and municipalities are already cooperating on the development of solutions to these challenges. The Climate Star is the best proof of this. We would like to congratulate all of the winners and to wish them continued success!

We are also particularly delighted to welcome representatives from Climate Alliance's partner organisation FOIRN, the umbrella organisation of indigenous organisations on the Rio Negro in Brazil, to the Climate Star stage. This successful partnership with Climate Alliance Austria has existed for 25 years now. Thank you – and we look forward to a continued fruitful cooperation!

Tine Heyse, President of the Executive Board, Climate Alliance

DI Thomas Brose, Managing Director, Climate Alliance



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 eighth Climate Star once again provides a stage for model projects this year. In the historic ambience 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. 122 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.

Michelbach river habitat



An all-round project developed from the initial idea of creating flood defences for the town. It all began in 2010 with plans to renaturalise the Michelbach river in Böheimkirchen. The greening project, which included adding fish ladders to a 4.3 km stretch of the river whose course was previously regulated, was used to also implement other measures. A retention area of 6,000 m³ in size was created shortly before the town centre to moderate flood peaks following heavy rain. Lowering the low-flow channel will also prevent the river from drying out during summer heat waves and dry spells, and stop the water from overheating. Local citizens were involved in the design of a new recreation area featuring a sunbathing lawn, swimming area, barbecue zone and rows of fruit trees. The car-free recreation area can be accessed on foot or by bike. The €3 million project moreover helped to densify the town centre. By simplifying the water legislation, developed building plots could already be made available close to the town centre.

CATEGORY 1

Böheimkirchen
Austria
5,100 inhabitants

DENSIFICATION
LOCAL RECREATION
TOWN REJUVENATION
FLOOD DEFENCES
SUNBATHING LAWN
CAR-FREE
SHORT DISTANCES



Internal before external development



In 2011, Climate Alliance organised a training course in Krummnußbaum for municipal land use planning and soil officers. Four people from the local municipality took part, including the mayor. The municipality in the Mostviertel then devoted itself entirely to space-saving, cost-efficient residential development. Areas on the town's outskirts previously foreseen for development were ruled out in a moderated process with local inhabitants. The "Energieausweis für Siedlungen" ["Energy Certificate for Settlements"] calculation tool was used to rationalise the discussion. The primary goal is to revitalise the town centre and reduce motorised traffic. A new square has been created and a community centre built. The square connects the community centre with the town's church. This new, central building ensemble is to fulfil a variety of functions: local retail, municipal administration, event space, gastronomy offers, offices and living space. One pleasant side effect: a project that was initially criticised by many people now ensures a sense of identity and optimism throughout the town.

CATEGORY 1

Krummnußbaum
Austria
1,444 inhabitants

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE
ZONING
LOCAL RETAIL
MODERATED PROCESS
REDUCED CAR TRAFFIC
ENERGY CERTIFICATE
TRAINING COURSE



Multi-generation project

CATEGORY 1

Kunsziget
Hungary
1,227 inhabitants

SOLAR ENERGY
HIRE BIKES
COOPERATIVE
PLANTING TREES
ECO-SCHOOLS
LOCAL MARKET
PROGRAMME

Kunsziget is a climate protection role model for villages in Hungary. An environmental programme has been in place since 2003, which is evaluated every two years. 124 solar cells on four municipal buildings cover 75–95% of the electricity requirements of public buildings. Two administrative buildings have been heated with wood since 2015, the sports hall has been thermally retrofitted and solar energy is used to heat the hot water. There are 40 hire bikes available for tourists. A market has also been established for local products. 1,700 hectares of agricultural land are cultivated by a cooperative. 230 cattle supply more than 5,000 litres of regional milk every day. In addition, more than 300 trees have been planted in recent years as part of a tree planting campaign. About 20 awareness-raising events take place every year, with the support of up to 200 volunteers. Even the very young get involved: both the kindergarten and school are part of the Hungarian eco-school network. The kindergarten kitchen is supplied by several local producers and feeds over 300 people.



Cyclist-friendly municipality

CATEGORY 1

Marcallo con Casone
Italy
6,254 inhabitants

CYCLING PROMOTION
SAFE CYCLE ROUTES
ROUTING SYSTEM
CHANGE
CYCLE ROUTE MAP
SEPARATE CYCLE LANES
INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Marcallo con Casone is located between two busy roads: the A4 motorway and the 6-lane Strada Statale 11. There is also a high proportion of cars in the town, primarily due to commuters – not an easy starting position for cycling! The municipality in Lombardy is nevertheless resolutely tackling this challenge. Since 2007, a cycle route plan has gradually been developed and implemented. An intermunicipal cycle route has been built to the south of the motorway. The cycling network with separate cycle lanes is now 17.31 km in length. It connects all important locations in the municipality. Children can also reach key destinations such as their school and leisure facilities independently and safely by bike. A bike link has also been created from the neighbouring towns to the local railway station. Trees and shrubs have been planted along the cycle routes. A simple colour-coded routing system ensures good orientation. The signposts are made of wood and recycled plastic. The construction measures were accompanied by an information campaign.

Sustainable town rejuvenation



An average of 230,000 vehicles pass through the town every day. One third of the private motorised vehicles on the town's main roads are local. This statistic was the starting point for the campaign launched in 2015. The community leaders resolved to set a new course and initiated an ecological turnaround. The measures were laid out in a general transport plan. The Wiener Neudorf travel card can now also be used for services of the Badner Bahn. Seating has been installed on the town's streets, at most every 400 m apart. The length of the cycle network has since been trebled and will be completed in 2019. There is also an electric car sharing scheme. The flagship environmental project is Anningerpark. For the first time in Lower Austria, a park was created on an area of fallow land on several hills according to environmental criteria and a dry grassland area typical of the region established. Energy milestones: the thermal retrofitting of municipal residences has been completed and four PV systems constructed on municipal buildings. Since 2015, the Wiener Neudorf Woche town festival has concluded with a laser show instead of fireworks.

CATEGORY 1

Wiener Neudorf
Austria

8,773 inhabitants

TRANSPORT PLAN
CYCLE NETWORK
WIENER NEUDORF CARD
ELECTRIC CAR SHARING
NEW PARK
REGION-TYPICAL
DRY GRASSLAND AREA



Energy-saving boxes



How can citizens be motivated to save energy? The town of Ettlingen answered this question with a series of energy-saving boxes, sold at highly subsidised prices. First came the electricity-saving box, which includes an energy cost measuring device, an LED energy-saving lamp, a power bar and a fridge thermometer. The first edition sold out very quickly. A total of 231 electricity-saving boxes were sold alone in the first year. Heat-saving boxes were then introduced before the start of the heating season. These contained three programmable radiator thermostats as well as a combined thermometer and hygrometer. The biggest sales success came with the water-saving box, which has already found its way into 258 homes. It includes a water-saving showerhead, mixer nozzles and aerators for self-installation as well as a shower timer. The mobility box then followed in which alternatives to using the car are promoted with vouchers for pedelecs, public transport and the town's car sharing scheme.

CATEGORY 2

Ettlingen
Germany

38,731 inhabitants

SAVING ENERGY
RAISING AWARENESS
REDUCING COSTS
HIGH DEMAND
VOUCHERS
ENERGY-SAVING AIDS
FUN FACTOR



CATEGORY 2

Judenburg
Austria
10,100 inhabitants

Long-term climate protection

The comparison between 1990 and today makes it clear: 27% less energy consumption, 58% fewer CO₂ emissions in municipal buildings and 18% fewer CO₂ emissions in the city of Judenburg (excluding transport and industry). In addition, there has been a 500-fold increase in photovoltaic systems since 2009 to almost 1,800 kWp. Every year, 13.9 GWh are generated from hydropower. And 44% of households are connected to the biomass district heating. This sustainable approach was initiated back in 1986 when the town established an environmental agency, prepared its first environmental report in 1989 and became the second municipality in the state of Styria to join Climate Alliance. Building on the energy and transport concepts, things really got going in the 1990s. The first Upper Styrian thermal insulation campaign and "VerkehrSparen" transport project then followed, and a district heating network was installed and gradually expanded throughout the entire urban area. As early as 2003, all municipal buildings underwent thermal retrofitting and in 2006, Judenburg joined the Austrian e5 programme. The aim of the "Judenburg 2020" sustainable energy action plan is to reduce the town's CO₂ emissions by 28% compared to 1990.

PV SYSTEMS
1986
ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY
ENERGY & TRAFFIC CONCEPTS
BIOMASS DISTRICT HEATING
JUDENBURG 2020
ENERGY SAVING PLAN



CATEGORY 2

Narni
Italy
19,543 inhabitants

Zero waste

Narni in Umbria has resolved to reduce waste as part of its sustainable energy action plan. Since 2010, the recycling rate has risen constantly. From 36% in 2010 to 75% in 2017. Minimum standards have been defined for public events: organisers are obliged to provide information on waste separation, use biodegradable tableware, offer drinks by the glass rather than in plastic bottles and favour "0 km products". 200 composters were distributed to local households for free. Since 2015, mobile phones have been collected for charity. The use of eco-friendly waste presses is also rewarded. 40 points can be exchanged for a free public transport ticket, for example. Four drinking water wells were also dug. In 2016, the SOLIDO initiative was launched, which distributes surplus food to needy families. In a pilot project, zero-waste families are raising public awareness for this issue. Since this year, associations and citizens have been able to reduce their waste disposal fee if they contribute to the maintenance of public spaces, green spaces or the waste collection system.

REDUCE WASTE
ACTION PLAN
MINIMUM STANDARDS
REWARD
SOLIDO
ZERO-WASTE FAMILIES
RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Separating waste is easy and saves money



In 1996, every single person in Schiffingen produced 260 kg of waste. Today, it is 165 kg – so almost 40% less. But how did they manage this? By introducing the cost recovery principle and new waste regulations. Households that separate waste are rewarded. In residential buildings comprising more than ten apartments, there must be a waste lock for residual waste. This allows the amount of residual waste produced by each individual residence to be calculated. Residential buildings containing more than 20 apartments must also have recycling facilities, with containers for collecting fluorescent lights, medicines, paint and varnish, ink and toner cartridges, spray cans, dry cell batteries, edible oils and fats, and hazardous packaging. In the first year following introduction of the waste regulations, the amount of recyclable materials collected more than doubled – this far exceeded the targets set. The amount of bulky waste has been reduced so much that they are considering stopping the collection service. The ambitious goal for 2020 is to reduce the amount of waste produced to less than 100 kg per person.

CATEGORY 2

Schiffingen
Luxembourg
10,750 inhabitants

NEW WASTE REGULATIONS
REWARD
RECYCLING FACILITIES
LESS THAN 100 KG/PERSON
ACCURATE CALCULATION
40% LESS WASTE
TARGET EXCEEDED



Tübingen macht blau



"Tübingen macht blau" ["Tübingen is going blue"] is the motto of the urban climate protection campaign launched by Lord Mayor Boris Palmer on 26 April 2008, which is International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. The campaign has since become renowned in the university town, with the motto used in countless different contexts relating to climate protection and beyond. Because more and more people are going "blue": the number of green electricity customers has shot up from 800 to 12,000 and the amount of people using public transport has risen from 17.4 to almost 21 million. In the past ten years, more than 100 events have been organised; these include consulting stands, information and lecture evenings, all-day exhibitions and trade fairs. Although Tübingen is booming and the number of jobs has increased by 21.4% since 2006, it has succeeded in decoupling its growth as a place to live and work from energy demand and emissions. The total energy requirement for heating, cooling, process energy, electricity and mobility has been reduced by 19% – from 2.15 to 1.74 MWh. Absolute CO₂ emissions decreased by 23%.

CATEGORY 2

Tübingen
Germany
89,011 inhabitants

2008
MORE PASSENGERS
PUBLIC TRANSPORT
GROWING CITY
RAISING AWARENESS
DECOUPLING
ENERGY DEMAND



Foodsavers

CATEGORY 3

Ghent
Belgium
248,358 inhabitants

FOOD LEFTOVERS
LOGISTICS
DISTRIBUTION
SOCIAL
FESTIVAL
RESTORESTJE
EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED

During the “Nothing is wasted” festival, delectable dishes were rustled up for 5,000 citizens using surplus food. The “Restorestje” campaign followed in 2015 during which more than 100 restaurants in the city provided food boxes for diners to take leftover food home with them. The Foodsavers initiative launched in 2017 goes one step further: together with a welfare department and other stakeholders, a logistics platform was set up to redistribute leftover food. Such initiatives exist in many cities. What’s special about Ghent, though, is that the city functions as a central coordination office, enabling the professionalisation of local voluntary work. Food leftovers from retail and local facilities are distributed to 31 social organisations. The success achieved in the first three months exceeded all expectations. An average of four tonnes of food were distributed every week. 30,090 portions were passed on to needy citizens – 11,058 through community kitchens and 19,032 in food packages. At €117,000, the total value of the redistributed food was higher than the project running costs.



Seeland solar cup

CATEGORY 4

**Energy Cities Biel, Brugg,
Nidau and Lyss**
Switzerland
80,400 inhabitants

DAY OF THE SUN
SOLAR POWER
SELF-BUILT
SOLAR MODEL CARS
COMPETITION
SOLAR CHALLENGE
ENERGY CITIES

The Day of the Sun certainly lived up to its name: the sun beat down on the eight-metre racecourse, ensuring the ideal conditions. 120 schoolchildren from Lyss, Biel, Brugg and Nidau made it to the final. A total of 500 children from the Seeland district participated in the competition with self-built solar-powered mini-model cars. The Seeland solar cup achieved its goal in full. Solar energy was promoted during a variety of action-packed activities during a closing event, which also served to strengthen cooperation within the region. It was initiated by the four energy cities together with the Seeland Solar Region platform and local stakeholders. The solar model cars were assembled at schools using ready-made kits. Either just the drive unit or the entire kit could be used to construct the cars. The Solar Cup was also combined with a competition between towns: the Solar Challenge. The municipality with the largest proportion of solar power in its energy mix is Walperswil with 20.2%.

Friends of the Earth campaign



Two thousand visitors to the climate musical, 1,700 collection passes, 800 children from local primary schools and kindergartens along with their families, and 170 trees planted. These are the impressive statistics from the “Friends of the Earth” campaign. Activities kicked off with the climate musical “Dr. Ping the Polar Bear and the Friends of the Earth”. They composed their own song and shared climate tips for everyday life as “Licenses to act” during eleven performances. In parallel to this, schoolchildren got involved as energy detectives, designed organic fair trade cotton bags, created a “therapy garden”, learned about recycling and upcycling at the repair café, and created a video entitled “Start Acting” together. The idea of a collection pass campaign also proved popular. All of the businesses in the town took part. Friends of the Earth stickers were awarded for every environmentally-friendly, fair trade or regional purchase as well as for opting for a climate-friendly method to get to school, events and club meetings. The campaign concluded with “Unser Dorf” [“Our Village”], a two-day festival featuring a bread baking station, waste cooking and a fair trade fashion show.

CATEGORY 4

Sterngartl-Gusental climate and energy model region
Austria
49,700 inhabitants

CLIMATE MUSICAL
COLLECTION PASS
ENERGY DETECTIVES
REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTALLY
FAIR TRADE
REPAIR CAFÉ



energieland2050



The district of Steinfurt wishes to be energy self-sufficient by 2050. The course for this major project was set in 2017. Even before this time, countless climate protection activities were implemented in the 24 towns and municipalities in the district. One example is the “Haus im Glück” initiative launched in 2005. Homeowners and building permit applicants from the district of Steinfurt are able to obtain comprehensive, independent and affordable information and advice on environmentally-friendly construction methods. With establishment of the energieland2050 non-profit association, these activities have now been pooled. Private individuals, companies and institutions all work together. The association consists of six networks that it coordinates: the business network comprising 50 regional companies, the network of climate protection managers and environmental representatives of all cities and communities, the wind energy round table, the over 500 citizens who are ambassadors for energieland2050, the citizens’ energy networking meetings and the “Haus im Glück” initiative.

CATEGORY 4

District of Steinfurt
Germany
444,200 inhabitants

HAUS IM GLÜCK
NETWORKING
TO BUILD ECOLOGICALLY
AMBASSADORS
PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
COMPANIES
INSTITUTIONS



Water brings life

CATEGORY 4

Ternitz and the local area
Austria
19,124 inhabitants



The municipal water board for Ternitz and the local area supplies around 20,000 inhabitants living in an area covering 80 km² with high-quality drinking water. The earmarked fees have been used specifically for energy and climate protection measures for years now. The savings are impressive: between 2012 and 2017, water losses were reduced from 14% to 9%. The electricity demand is largely covered by photovoltaic electricity and the corresponding control of the well pumps. The amount of additional electricity that had to be purchased could consequently be decreased by 30%. The association is also prepared for possible future scenarios caused by climate change, such as water shortages and emergencies. The installation of emergency power transfer boxes in all outstations and the purchase of a 150 kVA emergency power generator will ensure the supply of drinking water during emergencies – even in the event of a total power outage. Every year, countless school classes visit the water well field. Further attractions include a bee pasture with old fruit trees and a current total of 12 bee colonies.

DRINKING WATER
FEWER WATER LOSSES
ADAPTATION
PREVENTION
EMERGENCY CARE
ENERGY SAVING
WATER WELL FIELD

© Rodion-Kutsaev (Unsplash)/Christian Redtenbacher

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



Partnership



More than just a shared journey



A unique Climate Alliance partnership was launched back in October 1993. Since this time, people on both sides of the globe have worked within Climate Alliance to conserve the Amazon rainforest and combat the climate crisis. Today, the cooperation between Climate Alliance members in Austria and FOIRN, the umbrella organisation of indigenous organisations on the Rio Negro in Brazil, is an internationally recognised success story. FOIRN represents 50,000 indigenous people from 23 peo-

ples. In Austria, Climate Alliance currently comprises over 970 municipalities, 560 educational institutions and 1,100 companies.

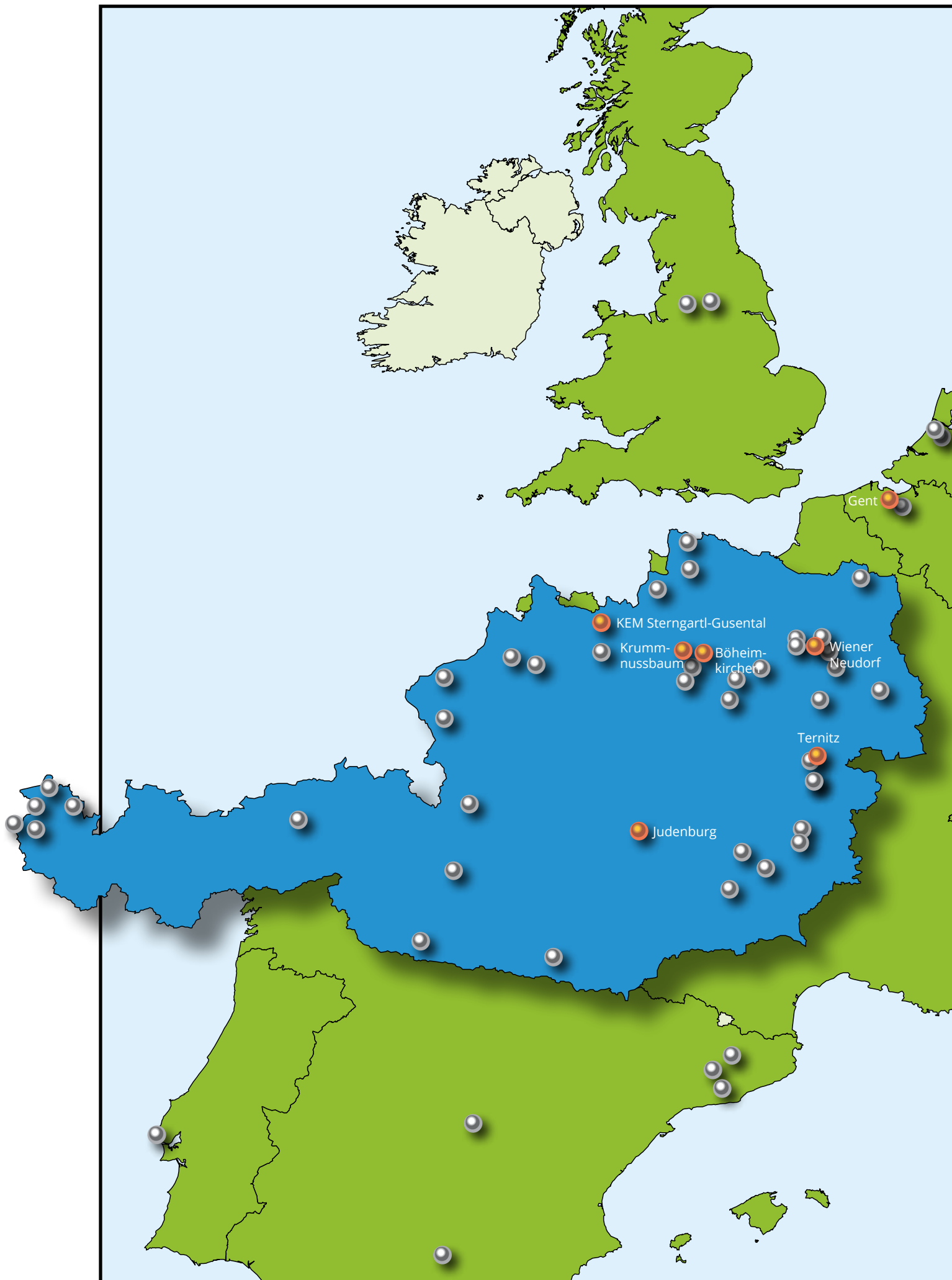
Together they have succeeded in creating one of the world's largest continuous areas of protected rainforest – it is now 1.6 times the size of Austria. There's still work to be done though. Climate warming is also having an impact in the Amazon region, while economic and political pressure on indigenous peoples and the rainforest is growing.



Profile

The Rio Negro drainage basin covers a total of 714,000 km² and extends into Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. More than 6% of this area has been recognised and protected as indigenous land and 24% has been designated nature reserves. Less than 0.06% of the indigenous areas and less than 5% of the area as a whole were cleared.

www.klimabuendnis.at/rionegro





Climate Stars in Europe