



Climate Alliance news **2**

Climate Alliance's response on the EU Energy Strategy
Pro-EE: Public Procurement boosts Energy Efficiency
Smart Energy Buildings Campaign
ZOOM – Kids on the Move for Climate Action 2010

Climate Alliance events **3**

Cities adapt: local water strategies in a changing climate
European Mobility Week 2010: Travel smarter, live better
Open Days 2010 – Covenant of Mayors
Public Contracting Authorities Meet – pro-EE Conference

Amazon news **4**

Guaraní official second language
Peru: Government against right to consultation for indigenous peoples

European news **5**

No illegal wood in Europe (FLEGT regulation)
Certification for agro-fuels
Energy poverty in southeast Europe

Competition **6**

Practical solutions to climate change

Imprint

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Climate Alliance news

Climate Alliance's response on the EU Energy Strategy

The EU is working on a new energy strategy for the time from 2011 to 2020. In the framework of the public consultation Climate Alliance has delivered a statement which you please find here:

<http://url.bb6.org/EUenergy>

Pro-EE: Public Procurement boosts Energy Efficiency

If you want to know more about energy efficient in public procurement, please check our project newsletter no. 6. In the current issue you get information about the new tools as the pro-EE manual and the guidelines for LEDs and pedelegs. Furthermore we inform you in detail about the pro-EE conference in Linz in October and a helpdesk for green public procurement.

<http://www.pro-ee.eu/news.html>

Smart Energy Buildings Campaign

Climate Alliance has joined forces with 9 European associations to prepare the Smart Energy Buildings Campaign that will be launched within the EU's Intelligent Energy Europe programme in 2011. The objective of the campaign is to achieve a massive EU-wide mobilisation and empowerment of citizens, the industry sector, public bodies, parliamentarians and the media, also using web 2.0 technologies. It shall contribute to a fast and significant development of Europe's building stock towards net-zero energy standards of both private and public buildings.

You are warmly invited to submit by 10 September good practice proposals for the categories listed below and defined in more detail in the documents which can be downloaded here:

http://ftp.kbserver.de/Smart-e_buildings_good_practice_examples_explanation.pdf

http://ftp.kbserver.de/Smart-e_buildings_Template1_Policy_Measures.doc

http://ftp.kbserver.de/Smart-e_buildings_Template2_Building_Examples.doc

ZOOM – Kids on the Move for Climate Action 2010

Since 2002 the ZOOM Campaign is inviting children all over Europe to make their daily journeys independently and in an environmental-friendly way by collecting Green Footprints. Each journey completed on foot, by bike, roller skates, scooter, bus or train counts one Green Footprint for the World's Climate. The collected Footprints will be handed over to the participants of the next UN Climate Summit in Mexico to show the “big ones” that are only talking, what the “small ones” already do for Climate Action!

In this year already 50,000 children from Austria, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland have announced 185,000 collected Green Footprints. Many children in nurseries and primary schools however only begin after the summer holidays with the collecting. Therefore still all can take part.

<http://www.local-climate-protection.eu/index.php?id=829&L=0>

Climate Alliance events

Local Governments' Day

Cities adapt: local water strategies in a changing climate

13 September 2010 in Munich, Germany

The event will take place in the framework of the 15th Symposium Water, Wastewater, Waste, Energy during the IFAT ENTSORGA from 13 to 17 September 2010.

<http://url.bb6.org/water>

European Mobility Week 2010: Travel smarter, live better

16 – 22 September 2010, Europe-wide

2010 the European Mobility Week with the main focus on health and mobility takes place for the ninth time. Climate Alliance invites all cities and municipalities to take part and to point the way to a sustainable traffic-behaviour. From now on local authorities can register online to open their actions to the public.

<http://www.mobilityweek.eu>

Open Days 2010 – Covenant of Mayors

4 – 7 October 2010 in Brussels and locally in whole Europe

During the Open Days more than 130 seminars, workshops and debates as well as exhibitions and networking opportunities will take place, organised in partnership with 245 regions and cities from all over Europe and 30 companies, banks, associations and academic organisations.

In the morning of 6 October 2010 the workshop “Covenant of Mayors: Participatory local governance in action” will take place organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office, in which Climate Alliance is a part of the consortium, and the European Commission.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2010/index.cfm?nmenu=1&sub=100

Public Contracting Authorities Meet – pro-EE Conference

7 – 8 October 2010 in Linz, Austria

<http://url.bb6.org/proEE>

Amazon news

Guaraní official second language

The administrative district Tacuru in the Brazilian federal state Mato Grosso do Sul has declared the indigenous language Guaraní to the second official language besides Portuguese in middle of June 2010. With it the second district in Brazil has equated an indigenous language with the national language. Tacuru is located at the border to Paraguay. There Guaraní is besides Spanish official language in the entire country. Furthermore Guaraní is spoken in the northeast of Argentina and partly in Bolivia. There are approximately 4 to 5 millions Guaraní speakers. In the English language there are some words, which go back to Guaraní, for example jaguar, tapir, manioc and piranha.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guaran%C3%AD_language

Peru: Government against right to consultation for indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples should have – accordingly to the Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), that was already signed from Peru in 1995 – a right to consultation on planned laws. However the president of Peru Alan García halts a law which has already passed the congress in May 2010. Although one year ago indigenous peoples protested against governmental decrees, which should pave the way for international companies to oil production in the Amazon area, now García declared, that the state could not be limited in decisions that serve the interest of the entire nation.

<http://blog.amnestyusa.org/iar/indigenous-rights-in-peru-we-just-need-one-signature>

European news

No illegal wood in Europe (FLEGT regulation)

The EU environment committee has passed an effective wood commercial law with the votes of all big parliamentary parties. If also the EU parliament agrees in the beginning of July, the regulation will come into force in 2012. With it the import of wood and wood products from illegal sources is prohibited and businesses are committed to a responsible wood procurement.

Climate Alliance supports the recommendations of environmental NGOs on the “Regulation on the placing of timber and timber products on the EU market”. With it the member states of EU are requested to join the vote of the EU environment committee and adopt the final regulation. The decision over the regulation against the trade with illegal wood is a first test case for all member states for the even bigger tasks in forest protection. In the near future for instance they will have to face up to climate change and the goal of the EU to halve the global loss of forests until 2020.

<http://url.bb6.org/timber>

Certification for agro-fuels

The Renewable Energy Directive of 2009 of the EU contains binding targets for the use of renewable energies, which among others require a share of 10 percent agro-fuels in the field of traffic. Now the EU Commission encourages the economy, the governments and NGOs, to introduce voluntary certification systems for the sustainability of agro-fuels. With it the conversion of forests into oil palm plantations is excluded. Also the savings of greenhouse gases during the production of the agro-fuels must amount at least 35 percent compared to benzine and diesel fuels.

To this Claude Turmes, former Climate Alliance coordinator in Luxembourg and today MEP: “The Commission has still made no progress in setting out how to take account of the climate impact of indirect land-use change (ILUC) for biofuels. This issue is absolutely crucial for assessing how much greenhouse gases these fuels account for over their lifecycles and is therefore fundamental to assessing the 'sustainability' or not of biofuels.”

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/247&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Energy poverty in southeast Europe

On the basis of exploding energy prices more and more people must cover their energy needs with wood in southeast Europe. More than half of the people in southeast Europe use wood and lignite for heating and cooking. This can lead to chronic diseases since the fewest households, which heat with wood, have adequate ventilation. Also the environment suffers from the reinforced use of wood, the deforestation and the increasing CO₂ emissions. Not only are the West Balkan States concerned but also the EU Member States Bulgaria and Romania.

<http://www.undp.org/energy/stuckpast.htm>

Competition

Practical solutions to climate change

Do you have a practical solution that can counteract against climate change in cities and municipalities? Your solution can be a new or not yet established method, business idea or technology that contributes to get climate change under control. Take part with your input at the international competition, which is announced amongst others by the Associations of Local and Regional Authorities of Finland, Sweden and Norway. Closing date is the 30 September 2010.

<http://www.solutions2011.fi/contest>