
Efforts and partnerships for strengthening of greening and biodiversity in Burgenland

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Territory: 4000 km²,
Number of population:
300000

Centre town: Eisenstadt

Situated: at East of
Austria

Burgenland is adjacent
to Hungary

Burgenland

- Why I choosed Burgenland?
- Burgenland, as the "No.1 model eco-region", is setting a further example for sustainability and the promotion of biodiversity and habitats.
- It is characterized by active nature conservation and the preservation of biodiversity
- This concept of protection must extend beyond protected areas (such as nature parks and national parks)
- **Principal drivers for greening (not completely):**
 - **Nature Academy Burgenland**
 - „**Die Gärtner Burgenlands**” - as the professional association for horticulture
 - **Adult Education Centre, „Nature in the Garden” movement** are partners since 2017
 - **Unser Dorf (Our Village Association)** – close connection to the all municipalities of Burgenland

Adult Education Centre and „Nature in gardens” movement

The "Nature in the Garden" movement aims to recognise gardens that are particularly close to nature.

- The task of Adult Education Centre: numerous brochures and presentations offer help with the sustainable creation and pesticide-free maintenance of gardens.

Unser Dorf (Our Village) association

- Unser Dorf was founded more than **30 years ago**.
- **Key objective:** sustainable shaping of the future, natural design of squares, the greening of buildings and ecotourism
- **Importance** of municipalities for the conservation of biodiversity: traffic areas, narrow strips along roads, paths have to be involved to greening in municipalities as important habitats for insects and micro-ecosystems
- The Association provides and serves as a platform and hub and acts as a network between municipalities, institutions and nature conservation programmes
- The Association supports the municipalities in the form of public relations work, awareness-raising measures and training programmes

Connection between Municipalities and Unser Dorf

- The nature-oriented development of villages and towns in Burgenland is particularly close to the aim of the Unser Dorf association
- Green spaces in municipalities - if they are designed in a near-natural and diverse way - can become important retreats for animals and plants, valuable habitats and food sources for many important insects such as wild bees and butterflies. - better for biodiversity and better for our future!
- Pressure from the society on mayors – conflict situation - demand for the usual "tidiness" in public green spaces
- The UNSER DORF association supports the municipalities in the form of public relations work, awareness-raising measures and training programmes.

Beefit project

- WHO IS BEHIND THE BURGENLAND BEEFIT PROJECT? - **The UNSER DORF association**
- Why the Beefit project is important?
 - There are almost 700 species of wild bees in Austria! Each of them contributes significantly to the preservation of biodiversity and is an important component of a functioning ecosystem.
 - In recent decades, there has been a dramatic decline in wild bees throughout Europe.
 - The use of pesticides, the progressive sealing of soils, the "cleaning up" of the landscape and gardens and climate change are causing major problems for bees.
- Half of butterflies are already threatened with extinction.
- The fact that 80 % of all plants and almost 70 % of all food plants are pollinated by insects emphasises the great significance of beneficial insects and the importance of protecting them.
- **The aim of the Beefitproject:** to have a positive impact on the preservation of biodiversity throughout the province and to sensitise and activate communities and the population to the topic of "biodiversity / wild bees / insects / habitats" through active information work and conscious public relations

How a municipality becomes "beefit" municipality?

How to achieve the award beefit community: meet the criteria

- 1. Avoidance of harmful substance** (pesticides, synthetic chemical fertilisers, etc.) – 3 points - mandatory
- 2. Active promotion of biodiversity** (to create a project plan, undertake concrete steps, creation food supplies for insects) – max: 26 point
- 3. Supplementary measures** to promote biodiversity (nature –oriented design, to plant old robust fruit trees, etc.) – max: 24 points
- 4. Educational measures and public relation work** – max 18 points

Beefit Community Burgenland award

- Min. points: 28
- Independent evaluation jury
- After positive assessment – the municipality signs a declaration of commitment to

„WONDERFULLY CLOSE TO NATURE“

Benefits for the community:

- Increasing the quality of life
- Raising awareness for the preservation of our habitats from an early age
- Municipalities benefit from the initiative and the "Beefit Gemeinden Burgenland" platform
- The knowledge, experience and practical examples of a growing network
- Further training programmes, workshops and information materials – free of charge
- **Fact: „wild“ areas requires considerably less labour in terms of maintenance, watering, weed control – and more beautiful!**

Wild flowers along the road

blends seeds of colourful flowers and herbs

Thank you for your attention!

● Irén Kukorelli



● Nov 2023

