

Hartberg
is Città
Slow

2017

Ecology in Hartberg for the project Città Slow



Città Slow Hartberg

The future starts now! Ecology in Hartberg

Results and achievements in the field of energy and environment

- 1) Ecology is important to us! 2
- 2) HARTBERG in 2050 – My Vision 2
- 3) HARTBERG a climate Alliance Municipality 3
- 4) Environmental meeting Hartberg 3
..... 4
- 5) Air Quality Index 5
- 6) How the Ecopark came into being 6
- 7) The power plant for everyone! 7
- 8) Photovoltaic – Power Plant Sun 7
- 9) Installation of 54 electronic charging points in Hartberg 8
- 10) European Nature Reserve Gmoos Hartberg 9
..... 9
- 11) Annual spring cleaning in Hartberg 11

Background

In autumn 2011 the local population envisioned the future of Hartberg in connection with the project „Smart City meets Città Slow“.

By means of questionnaires, the internet, via facebook, a writing competition and a workshop for experts and members of the local council over 200 concrete ideas, what the town should be like in 2050, were collected.

Besides visionary concepts many concrete project ideas were assembled.

Topics

Energy and environment, lifestyle, mobility, living, economy and work.

3) HARTBERG a climate Alliance Municipality

The town regularly takes part in climate protection activities like a car free day, transfers information, joins activities for CO2 neutrality and eco-relays.

Energy Concept (1985)

As early as 1985 the municipality of Hartberg worked out an energy concept. As a result a lot of municipality owned buildings were refurbished in an energy-efficient way and many other measures in that vein were taken.

The concept for a CO2 neutral Hartberg is the continuation of that work.

CO2 neutral Hartberg

The goal of this project is to establish a scientifically exact database. This should enable the municipality of Hartberg to periodically test set measures for their effectiveness. This helps to monitor the changes in private households, industry and trade, farming and public buildings over a period of time.

Therefore the current trends of CO2 emissions can be charted and measures for saving energy plus the change to renewable energy forms can be pictured.

Eco Electricity

The municipal utility of Hartberg offers CO2 neutral electricity for the same rate to all customers.

Citybus

To minimize the traffic in town the municipality of Hartberg provides an affordable way of traveling for everyone in the form of the „Citybus“.

Insect friendly lighting

A large part of the city lighting in Hartberg is run with low energy lamps. Additionally, special care was taken to use insect friendly lighting systems.

4) Environmental meeting Hartberg

Environmental meeting Hartberg: Città Slow goes biking



5) Air Quality Index



For continual monitoring purposes an air quality facility was installed. Hartberg was one of the first district towns to do so.

The environmental committee has instigated the installation of a plant with a corresponding measurement system in Hartberg. This plant was financed by the municipality of Hartberg and accompanied and supported by the government department FA17C for air quality.

Today, the measurement station is one of the most modern facilities of its kind and continuously provides information on air quality for the catchment area.

Climate

The current recording of weather conditions in Hartberg is carried out via a partially automatic measurement point in the Federal School Centre Hartberg and its sports fields.

Every 10 minutes all the relevant data is transferred to the Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics in Vienna where it gets fed into a database.

At the same time, this station is part of a supraregional measurement network for weather and climate research (T.A.W.E.S. System).

Particle Pollution

Due to its orographic location, the area in and around Hartberg is at risk of being affected by particle pollution in certain situations.

Increased particle pollution often occurs in basin-shaped and wind-protected valleys.

Hartberg Municipality has long been trying to reduce “home-made” particle pollution and to constructively contribute in this matter.

Funding to switch to particle-reducing heating systems and vehicles, a new approach to street maintenance in winter and a collaboration with chimney sweepers have already been successful.

Public relations activities such as a study on lichens involving schools and the general public were important in raising awareness to the problem.

Another approach to reducing particle pollutants is to promote the incorporation of particle filters in CO₂ neutral heating systems.

6) How the Ecopark came into being

At the current location, on the edge of Hartberg, the town's public utility company as a municipal subsidiary ran the municipal brick company for decades.

After the clay reserves were exhausted at the end of the 1990s the production had to be closed for good in 1999.

A comprehensive production site analyses and studies were carried out to determine a possible further use of the 15 ha site. Starting an ecologically-oriented innovation centre was found to be the most promising option. The intention was to unite commercial, research and adventure sites at one location under term ecology. In the coming years companies were settled there with the aim that they cooperate and ideally become part of an economic cycle.

Especially in the fields of alternative energies and waste management companies could be won over for the Ecopark site. Furthermore, service, catering and trade businesses settled there.

At present there are more than 30 enterprises at the Hartberg Ecopark site with about 130 staff. The Hartberg utility company workers and the site operator have not been included in these figures.

The future-oriented Park

The idea of the Ecopark as a commercial enterprise not only covers ecological and sustainability objectives but also concentrates on high-quality workplaces for all the enterprises located there.

It is of great importance to increase the attractiveness of the park by providing a unique ambience and a sensible infrastructure. The closeness to the Centre of Applied Research as well as the link-up to leisure and adventure destinations helps to create that „plus“.

The Ecopark not only provides a positive environment for the entrepreneurs as well as the customers but also for the entire staff. Ecopark is an especially attractive and motivating workplace for everybody.

Ecopark is a symbiosis of work, research and education - A unique project in Europe!

Ecopark is based on an innovative three-column-concept, enclosing a network of independent commercial enterprises dealing with environmental concerns and an Applied Research Centre as well as leisure and exhibition facilities.

It is the only place where one can find the combination of work, research, leisure and adventure. This interaction is decisive for many resident enterprises, which not only creates a great location but which also gives them an image boost.

Park for commerce and research

Ecopark is an ideal environment for enterprises which are commercially engaged in ecology. Besides general operation activities, from a scientific point of view, state-of-the-art circular economy is applied (supply and waste management on the entire premise are more or less a closed circuit). What is more, in cooperation with our partner Joanneum Research, University of Applied Sciences, on-site research is being done. Seminar rooms for scientific, cultural and economic training nicely round off this microcosmos.

Adventure park

Austria's first „infotainment“ park came into being by connecting ecology, economy, leisure and adventure which resulted in a sustainable experience for all its visitors. The notion of adventure is an integral part of Ecopark and offers unique attractions for the whole family. Companies close by allow visitors to have a look behind the scenes. We invite you to come here and gain an insight into how work and research is done in harmony with nature.

MAXOOM at Hartberg Ecopark – Austria's largest screen

The former IMAX®-Vienna is now at the Ecopark site as one of 35 large format cinemas Europe wide. It inspires the young and the old with its 400 m² screen. Spectacular films about nature can be viewed and the impressive „AQUA & terra“ exhibition in the foyer of the cinema is a unique experience.

Exhibitions and Events

The MAXOOM cinema is not the only popular event location. Periodically changing exhibitions and seminar rooms with the latest technical facilities make Ecopark a popular place all year round.

7) The power plant for everyone!

The future has already started: The public utility company of Hartberg is building a virtual power plant for the whole region – Join us!

Because of the interconnection of existing photovoltaic and other eco-electricity facilities as well as the expansion of sites there will be a regional, distributed but centrally governed eco-power-plant developed. The output will be 5 megawatt which is adequate for the need of 1500 households. Everyone can join: Whether it be to invest in the large pv-facility or as an eco-shareholder, whether it be by installing a private pv-system or as a commercial partner, whether by self-financing or via financing from the utility company of Hartberg.

8) Photovoltaic – Power Plant Sun



Pioneers of the region

Already a decade ago, when photovoltaik technology was just starting, the public utility company of Hartberg was investigating alternative ways of energy production. The sensible economic use of solar power was realized for Hartberg with the utilization concept in form of a 200-roof-pv-programme.

In the meantime more than 1000 pv facilities of different sizes were planned and installed. The sizes of the facilities range from 5 kWp from private clients to 200 kWp from commercial customers.

Different facility and module types

The public utility company of Hartberg can offer their clients facilities on roofs, in open spaces and tracker-systems. The high number of installed facilities, all of them technically different, add up to an extensive know-how in this field.

The varied use of different module types (polycrystalline, monocrystalline and thin-film modules) provide every client with the optimum for their installation.

Strong partners – high technical standard

With strong international partners in the field of inverters, modules and subconstructions valuable knowledge and a longstanding network have been established with which we can easily realize large projects. We plan and calculate for everyone the fitting pv facility.

9) Installation of 54 electronic charging points in Hartberg

With the electronic charging points project the municipality of Hartberg and the energy suppliers have managed to achieved the highest density of charging points in Austria. The last testing activity to find the fastest charging point in the world has yielded positive responses from Hartberg visitors who arrived with their e-car (almost 50 recharges in 14 days).

Hartberg ist he only town where you can charge up your car for free – a big plus for your holiday in Austria.

10) European Nature Reserve Gmoos Hartberg



Defining for the landscape in Hartberg and its development is not only mount Ring but also Gmoos Hartberg which is located in a spacious valley south of the town. Until the 15th century this area was covered by an approximately 30 ha large lake (Edelsee) which was documented in the Hartberg Simmler chronicles from 1736.

After a century-long drying up process of these shallow waters and continual drainage for agricultural use the Hartberger Gmoos has now become a characteristic swamp.

Through changing landscapes – sourgrass was needed less and less – mother nature could reclaim valuable land step by step. Today the swamp is the last large wetland in Eastern Styria.

Due to a great biodiversity in flora and fauna, the Hartberger Gmoos has gained major ecological importance. Lasting large sedge populations and generous reed areas have developed. Marge bushes and marge trees grow without any interference. They now are characteristic elements of this stretch.

Extensive surveys (detailed lists and analysis of the territory, ornithological and animal videos, butterfly studies etc.) have shown that the importance of the Hartberger Gmoos goes beyond its regional borders.

In 1992, due to the outcome of these studies, an application was filed to list this area as a nature reserve. The nature reserve comprises two core areas (K1, K2) and a fringe zone (R). All in all, it covers an area of about 65 ha.

Ecological quality:

- Marsh areas
- Reed areas
- Primeval trees and hedges
- Ponds
- Living spaces for diverse animal and plant communities

Parts of the marsh meadows are completely left to mother nature (succession areas). Others, however, need attention, for example meadows that have to be mowed twice. Natural habitats are not only important for preserving plant and animal species, but are also invaluable recreational spaces in close proximity to the town.

Due to these distinctive features, the Hartberger Gmoos became a European Reserve on June 11, 2005. This stretch of land is registered as the European Reserve no.24, Hartberger Gmoos. (Regulation according to § 13a art. 1 of the Styrian Nature Protection Act 1976, Regional Law Gazette no. 65, as amended Regional Law Gazette no. 56/2004.)

The conservational aim is to maintain or recover favourable conditions for protected commodities according to the fauna-flora habitat regulation and the ornithology regulation. Today the Hartberger Gmoos is an integrated part of the town - a protected area for rare animal and plant species, nestled into a cultural landscape worth living in. The Hartberger Gmoos is a stabilising climatic factor and, simultaneously, a generous space for relaxation and recreation with sport and health facilities at its borders - Natural Adventure Hartberger Gmoos.

Functions of the Hartberger Gmoos:

Economic area:

- Attractive space close to nature that characterises the town's appearance
- High-profile recreational area with options aplenty

In contrast to shopping centres at the western and eastern town borders the historic town centre is a very appealing market area due to its aesthetic look. The townscape is framed by surrounding parks, mount Ring and the Hartberger Gmoos.

Cultural space:

- Plenty of get-back-to nature opportunities for visitors, guests and pupils alike
- Time for contemplation

The Hartberger Gmoos fulfills its role as a cultural space on the one hand through educational purposes and on the other hand with a route which is close to the Natura 2000 sector. Hidden treasures can be made visible and perceptible. Exciting encounters with nature can be experienced, all senses can be refined and know-how can be passed on.

Living space:

- Easy to access hiking, jogging and cycling areas
- A wide variety of experiences for everybody

Due to the possibilities of walking, jogging and cycling in the Gmoos, Hartberg as a living space has been upgraded. At the town's edge sport fields invite the health conscious. Those who seek contemplation can dwell close to the ponds or at the rim of the core zone to tune into nature. People can leave traffic noise behind and immerse themselves into the enthralling habitat of animals and plants.

Hartberg Ornithological Station

Since 1995 birds have been monitored continuously in the Natura 2000 zone in the Hartberger Gmoos. This nature monitoring is supported by the municipality of Hartberg and carried out by the Austrian Society for Nature Conservation, BirdLife and interested individuals.

A bird ringing station at the edge of Natura 2000 zone makes this project easier. More than 140 bird species have been monitored so far, 78 species were ringed, among them many rare animals.

The intention is to set up a monitoring station to watch migrating birds in cooperation with national and international bodies (Austrian Ornithological Institute).

11) Annual spring cleaning in Hartberg

Every year volunteers meet up to do the spring clean. The aim is to remove rubbish from fields, meadows and the wayside.

12) Initiation of the first e-carsharing project in Styria



To use a car without owning it is right on trend. On average cars are being parked for approximately 23 hours a day which makes it a rather inefficient and expensive investment. Because of increasing costs for car owners many people chose to eschew a second car. The internet and smartphones make it easy to share cars.

Two models for Hartberg!

There are currently two options for carsharing in Hartberg:

- Private carsharing: Individuals with a hardly used car offer it to other individuals and the two share the costs.
- Carsharing from the municipality of Hartberg: Since May 2014 HARTI, the environmentally friendly e-car, can be hired for a small charge.

13) Bike event „Anradeln“ – the annual start into the bike season

On your bikes, ready, go! Biking knows no age limit.

Whether as a healthy hobby or as an environmentally friendly alternative to a car – there are many reasons to hop on your bike. Together with the citizens of Hartberg the bike season is officially opened at this event. A colorful programme awaits with plenty of information about the topic bikes.



DANKE! MERCI! GRAZIE!