



Urban Green Days 2005 – European cities and towns act for environment and climate protection

Cities and towns across Europe will celebrate the annual European Commission initiative Urban Green Days (UGD) in the days around the Brussels European Green Week (31 May to 3 June) that coincides with the UN World Environment Day (5 June). The initiative brings together local awareness-raising on urban environmental quality and protection at the European level. In 2005, year one of the Kyoto Protocol, UGD has its focus on climate change. Local governments are key actors in climate protection as they are the government level closest to citizens. Municipalities do not only impede or promote climate protection themselves, but are role models and providers of information and incentives. Through UGD, the European Commission acknowledges that without local efforts, Europe's environment and the climate cannot be preserved for future generations.

In 2004, over 250 UGD events took place, including both traditional World Environment Day events and newly initiated actions. It is foreseen that UGD 2005 will be celebrated in even more locations all over Europe. Each community has the liberty to celebrate UGD in a manner that best fits their needs and objectives. UGD events may range from field trips in renewable energy power stations, demonstration of energy-efficient electrical equipment, open days with local transport to bicycle rallies.

Locally, UGD inspire citizens, businesses, local authorities and other urban actors to improve the environment's quality and provide information on their local governments' current and future environmental work. At the European level, the European Commission monitors and discusses challenges approached and results from UGDs. Further, all UGD events are showcased on www.urbangreendays.org and visual material on UGDs is available online. In addition, UGD events will be presented at the high-level Green Week in Brussels. UGD will also have a long-lasting impact for years to come as the best aware-raising measure will be awarded through publication in a good practice study that will be widely promoted. UGD not only has an impact now, but supplies guidance to local governments in effectively involving its public in environmental issues for years to come.

Urban Green Days is a European Commission, Directorate General Environment initiative. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability coordinates the Initiative and together with National Partners and Promoters in all the EU25 countries supports all interested local governments, the media and other actors with a range of services. For more information:

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