



Urban Green Days 2005 in full swing! – European action in support of Environmental Protection

European cities and towns have responded to the European Commission's invitation to celebrate the annual Urban Green Days 2005. Preparations are well on their way! Urban Green Days (UGD) is a European Commission initiative being commemorated during May and June, in conjunction with Brussels European Green Week (31 May-3 June) and the UN World Environment Day (5 June). Local governments from UK to Romania have joined by organising activities to raise awareness on the urban environment in their communities.

The UGD framework allows local governments to organise unique and decentralised activities that highlight environmental issues of high importance in each city and town's agenda. For example, Fleetwood, UK, has reported that it will open eighteen hectares of reclamation land, which has transformed the site of the former power station into an attractive wildlife, leisure, and recreational facility for the public. Initiatives being celebrated across Romania by as many as six local governments include educational sessions open to all citizens on renewable sources of energy, urban green areas and the promotion of the Universal Declaration Of Tree Rights. In Preston, UK, citizens welcome the opening of a recycling plant. The vertical composting pilot plant is designed to process kitchen waste into usable organic compost that will bring benefits to the local population.

All Urban Green Day events are centrally recorded in a database on the official website, www.urbangreendays.org. The database contains over 250 activities from 2004 to 2005 –all stories that highlight challenges cities and towns are faced with, their core role in preserving the environment and the creativity with which they fill this role. The fully searchable database contains information in English and a range of other languages. Further, the website features information material from many local events. Why not, for example, find out about the Solar Week that will take place in Bonn, Germany? Cities and towns are also invited to submit photos and video footage for the website. Also serving as a one-stop shop, the UGD website features a resource centre and an area dedicated to the press.

UGD will also be present at Brussels Green Week, which this year has a focus on climate change and a full programme of conferences and events. For more information on Green Week, visit <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek>.

Urban Green Days is a European Commission, Directorate General Environment initiative coordinated by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI supports local governments, the media and other actors with a range of services.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
European Secretariat
Leopoldring 3
79098 Freiburg / Germany
Phone: +49-761 / 36 89 2-63 or -0, fax: +49-761 / 36 89 2-29
E-mail: urbangreendays@iclei-europe.org
www.urbangreendays.org