



BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM DEUTSCHLAND



ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

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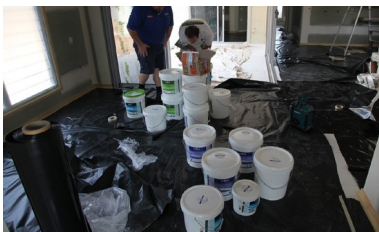
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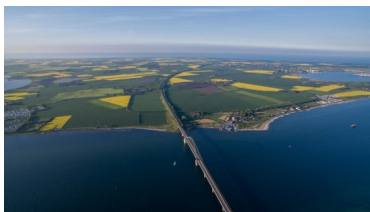
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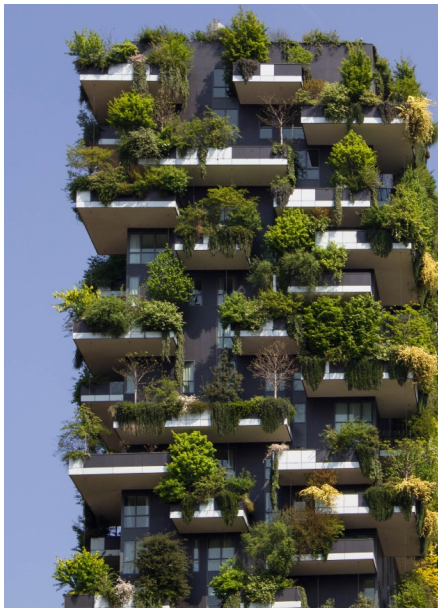


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Dear Readers,

2022 was the third year dominated by Corona – with a lot of coming out of the home office, a lot of Corona alerts, related tests and also some illnesses in the team. The impact of the pandemic on our work has been strong. Especially with regard to the acquisition of new project funds, but also with regard to the situation of the staff. Due to the low project turnover, there were some departures – also of people who had shaped the association over many years.

After the two online years 2020 and 2021, we finally held international events again in 2022: There were intensive meetings with our partner organisations and project presentations in Brussels and Paris. Finally, towards the end of the year, the opening events of the new major EU projects took place. It was a great pleasure to see our partners again. We experienced the quality of personal communication, exchanged ideas in lively discussion groups and enjoyed the informal conversations during the breaks or at the evening get-togethers. How nice!

Even though we have been operating on a tight budget in 2022, both financially and in terms of personnel, we have nevertheless carried out many small projects with local funding, made ourselves better known in Hamburg, tapped new sources of fund-

ing and paved the way for new projects in a marathon application process. 2023 will see the start of further major projects that were written in 2022. In addition, our team has grown again: at the end of the year, we hired six new employees who have already started their work with us. That makes us very happy and proud.

And as will be read at the end of this report: In the end, we came out of this financially critical year 2022 relatively unscathed. The balance sheet deficit is small and could be absorbed by reserves.

In terms of content, we have not changed in 2022: We have done a lot of work on chemicals policy and policy instruments such as procurement, eco-labelling and environmental management systems. We have prepared information on substances of concern for the public, carried out participatory campaigns on sustainable lifestyles and worked more intensively on the topic of plastics – both in terms of materials and circularity. Climate adaptation strategies and sustainable mobility are still part of our programme.

Here are some exciting details from our projects.

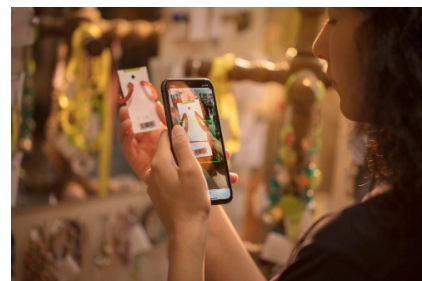
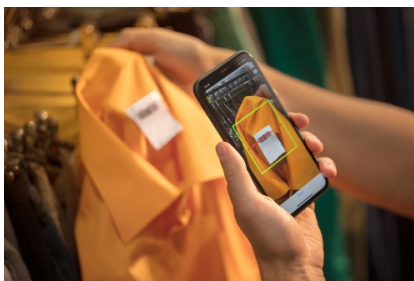
For the Board of Directors

Heidrun Fammler



LIFE ASKREACH

- Funder: LIFE programme of the EU
- Duration: 09/2017 – 08/2023
- Website: www.askreach.eu
- Contact: Heidrun Fammler



LIFE AskREACH supports the implementation of the European Chemicals Regulation REACH, which entitles consumers to request information from producers and traders on whether a product contains substances of concern, so-called SVHCs.

To speed up this individual question-and-answer process, an app for smartphones was developed that scans the barcodes and then provides information on whether products are of concern or not. The app has been available since the end of 2019 and is now used in 19 countries. In the meantime, product enquiries can also be made via the project website – without scanning the barcode.

In order to make the app known throughout Europe, we carried out information campaigns, especially in the social media. In addition, producers and traders were invited to fill the database behind the app with their products. There were many information events and seminars.

In 2022, we will have completed most of the work on the content of the project, and we will have drawn a conclusion – also on the inadequacies of our app, which are based on the inadequacies of the legislation: the companies do not have to respond if there are no substances of concern above 0.1 per cent of the weight in a product. Consumers then often receive no information at all, which is incomprehensible from our point of view.

We ask ourselves the question: Is the company not answering because there are no problematic substances in the product or because it does not want to provide information?

We analysed this issue and wrote a letter to the European Commission informing them about it – this is how our project contributes to improving the implementation of the law. We also participated in consultations at EU level, which was very exciting.

The Baltic Environmental Forum Germany is still entrusted with the project management and ensures that the huge engine – a consortium with 20 partner organisations – keeps running smoothly. At the moment we are preparing the final report of the project and will compile it in 2023.

Link to the app -> www.askreach.eu/app/



AHACHEM II, LIFE CHEMBEE and LERNCHEM

- Funding: Association funding from the German Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, EU LIFE Programme, North German Foundation for Environment and Development
- Maturities: 09/2022 – 08/2024, 10/2022 – 03/2026, 07/2019 – 06/2023
- Website: www.giftfreie-stadt.de (DEU), www.thinkbefore.eu (ENG)
- Contact: Fee Widderich, Siobhan Protic

The training to become a chemical ambassador goes into the next round with **AHAChem 2** and, as in the previous project, aims to encourage volunteers to identify pollutants in their everyday lives and to find and use alternatives. Large quantities of harmful emissions come from private households: Everyday products such as electrical appliances, cosmetics, cleaning agents and textiles permanently emit substances such as alkylphenols or phthalates.

Complementing this, the **LIFE ChemBee** project aims to bring the ready-to-use educational programme to Europe. It aims to involve up to 2,300 people and multiply the number of households to 43,000 during a compact two-year campaign. In parallel, we will apply the concept of eco-supporters tested in Finland within **NonHazCity** and deploy about 200 in-house advisors to public institutions such as municipalities or cities in France and Greece.

The short training takes place digitally and is designed to enable volunteers to advise households. For this purpose, we would like to multiply the successful concept of the "household check" from our pioneer



project **NonHazCity** nationwide. Households are informed about hazardous chemicals in their homes and more sustainable options for action, and are supported during the transition period. The ambassadors learn practical chemical knowledge, communication strategies and the basics of self-organisation. The materials are to be made available to the public so that it is possible to learn and apply the knowledge even after the end of the project.

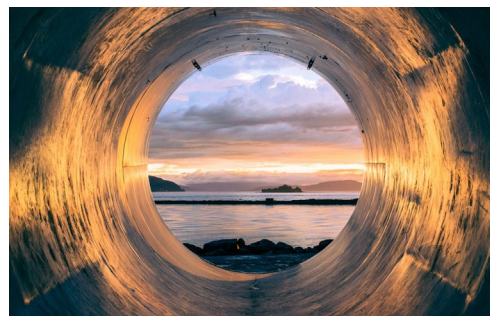
In addition, knowledge about "hazardous chemicals" is also brought to schools through the **LernChem** project and disseminated to various target groups via information stands and other face-to-face workshops.

The aim of all projects is to create awareness of the problem and to train people to change their own consumption behaviour.



CHEMCLIMCIRCLE SEED, CHEMCLIMCIRCLE and CHEMCLIMCIRCLE HAMBURG

- Funders: Swedish Institute, INTERREG Baltic Sea Region
- Maturities: 10/2020 – 03/2022, 10/2022 – 09/2024, 11/2022 – 06/2023
- Website: www.giftfreie-stadt.de (DEU), www.thinkbefore.eu (ENG)



ChemClimCircle – Chemical Aspects, Climate Criteria and Circularity in Public Procurement

In 2022, we had three projects in different funding programmes, which we summarise in this chapter.

Municipalities in Germany – as well as throughout Europe and the world – procure services and goods on a large scale. For this reason, they can use the procurement process as a means to achieve environmental goals. However, procurement managers often focus on individual goals, mainly climate neutrality. The issue of avoiding hazardous substances and its connection to the desired circularity of goods and materials has received far too little attention so far.

And this is where **ChemClimCircle** comes in: It combines the topics of chemicals, climate and circularity and will help municipalities to further develop their procurement strategies. First, a concept paper will be developed, on which a guideline and a training programme will be based. Subsequently, it will be used for concrete implementation in individual municipalities in the

Baltic Sea region.

In 2022, we at the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany took the lead in developing this project in the SEED project financed by Sweden. We looked for partner organisations and submitted the project to the INTERREG Baltic Sea Programme. With success! Then, in October 2022, the main project started, led by the City of Stockholm – we act as co-lead to support Stockholm in partner management and project implementation. We also organised the first international seminar of the project with all partner organisations and external guests in Hamburg at the end of November. We received a small amount of co-financing from the Hamburg Climate Fund at the end of 2022 – particularly in order to anchor the project more intensively in Hamburg and to engage Hamburg actors who are involved in the public procurement process. First contacts have been made with the Hamburg environmental authority and we have already received positive feedback on the project idea and for a future cooperation. We are now looking forward to the year 2023, when this project will fully develop. It will certainly be very interesting!



OUTLOOK FOR 2023: NONHAZCITY 3

- Funding body: INTERREG Baltic Sea Region
- Duration: 01/2023 – 12/2025
- Website: www.interreg-baltic.eu/project/nonhazcity-3
- Contact: Lucas Schmitz



The building sector is responsible for 38 percent of CO₂ emissions worldwide and accounts for more than half of the waste volume in Germany. Although the idea of sustainability has increasingly found its way into this sector in recent years, different aspects of sustainability – such as energy efficiency or circularity – are too often considered separately from one another. We are convinced that only a holistic approach can lead to the goal.

An often underestimated lever for the sustainable transformation of the building sector is the reduction of substances that are hazardous to health or the environment, which can be found in many building materials. Among other things, they are washed out of the facades with rainwater and accumulate in nature. In addition, they reduce the recyclability of the materials and thus prevent a circular construction industry, which would, however, be necessary in order to build in a climate-friendly and resource-saving way.

The NonHazCity 3 project is about solutions for a climate-neutral, recyclable and toxicologically unthinkable building industry. We want to reduce the omnipresence of hazardous substances in buildings in order to enable a holistic, sustainable transformation.

NonHazCity 3 was applied for and approved by the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme in 2022, and

the contract was signed and preparatory work carried out at the end of 2022. The project will officially start in January 2023.





PLASTIC DIET(S) FOR HAMBURG

- Sponsor: #moinzukunft - Hamburg Climate Fund
- Duration: 01/2022 – 12/2022
- Website: <https://www.bef-de.org/portfolio/plastic-diets-for-hamburg/>



In 2022, we conducted three social media campaigns as part of the Hamburg Plastic Diet: The first campaign ran over Easter and was entirely based on the motto of ridding one's own household of plastic products bit by bit without having to make major sacrifices. In the summer, the campaign dealt with the connection between clothing and plastic and the influence of the fashion industry on climate change. Finally, during Advent, we looked at a more sustainable Christmas – including exciting alternatives to established classics.

Easter campaign

Over Easter, the campaign took place under the hashtag #PlastikDiätHamburg and aimed to sensitise consumers to the health and waste issues of plastic. In addition to regular posts on Instagram, we called on people to participate via challenges, DIYs and quizzes. To increase the reach, we cooperated with various influencers and a total of thirteen environmental organisations.

Summer campaign

Under the hashtag #MeineKleidungUnserKlima, we have provided information on the topic of textiles and their contribution

to climate change. Here, too, we cooperated with well-known personalities in order to increase the engagement of the people reached. Due to further actions in the run-up – such as the request to distribute the content in other networks – the reach in this campaign could be significantly increased compared to Easter.

Christmas campaign

The last Christmas campaign was carried out under the motto #MerryChristmasHappyPlanet! Starting on Black Friday, one of the world's most consumptive days, we educated people about sustainable gifting and gave new impulses with practical DIYs and recipes. The focus was on celebrating Christmas in a more sustainable yet beautiful way. Therefore, we also showed how established gifts can be given better.



PLASTIC AND ITS INVISIBLE DANGERS

- Sponsor: German Postcode Lottery
- Duration: 03/2022 – 03/2023
- Website: <https://www.bef-de.org/portfolio/plastik-und-seine-unsichtbaren-gefahren/>
- Contact: Fee Widderich

Plastic, climate and chemicals – what is the connection?

With a campaign based in Hamburg, we have raised awareness. The special focus was on the exposure to chemicals that are harmful to health and the environment and are found in plastic products. We passed on knowledge about this to people of all ages at various events such as street festivals, in interactive workshops with the testing of DIY recipes and at information evenings with experts.

This is what we have concretely done and achieved:

Supervising information stands at street festivals with a sustainability focus, advertising the events we organise, holding interactive information evenings and workshops, designing educational offers for schoolchildren, such as a participation campaign as part of Wetter.Wasser.Waterkant, targeted dissemination of the topic on our social media channels.

Through this broad offer we were able to reach and educate many people.





NORD SPART SOFORT

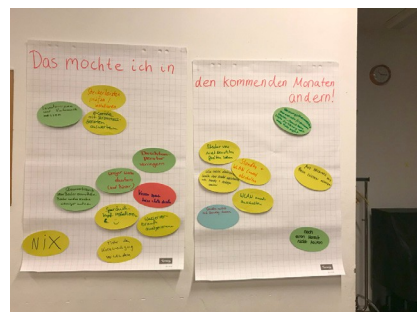
- Funder: #moinzukunft – Hamburg Climate Fund, as subcontractor
- Duration: 08/2022 – 02/2023
- Website: www.nord-spart-sofort.de
- Contact: Heidrun Fammler

Nord spart sofort is a new project in our sustainable consumption programme. It aims at a mindful consumption of resources. In concrete terms, it is about saving energy and plastic in one's own household and achieving a measurable reduction of initially ten percent.

The project is one of seven projects in the districts of Hamburg within the framework of the initiative of the Master Plan 2030 for Education for Sustainable Development. We have initially concentrated on the districts of Barmbek and Winterhude in order to have an accessible radius and to become known in the districts. Our long-term goal is to involve all people in the district of Hamburg-Nord in order to actively save energy, plastic and other resources. In this way, we can make a significant contribution to climate protection together.

At the beginning of the project, we were able to get about 15 pilot households interested in our project. Now we are working with them to get clarity on the biggest sources of consumption and then to consider how consumption can be reduced. We mainly want to achieve a change in behaviour and implement fewer investment measures.

Based on the insights already gained in this process, and together with our fantastic pilot households, we then developed a simple online tool that people can use



to find out their concrete consumption, see the success of their own reduction measures and also have alternatives suggested. The tool will be published from 2023 and will be internationalised and used in other projects as well.

Nord spart sofort has held several seminars in autumn 2022 and is slowly becoming known in the district. It is a promising project that we would like to pursue further, because it has great potential.





OUTLOOK FOR 2023: BALTIPLAST

- Funding body: INTERREG Baltic Sea Region
- Duration: 01/2023 – 12/2025
- Website: www.interreg-baltic.eu/project/baltiplast
- Contact: Loreta Wüstenberg



Plastic consumption in society can only be reduced if actors such as public administrations, private households, schools and companies work together. With the **BaltiPlast** project, we want to promote the transfer of knowledge on an international level and thus contribute to the reduction of single-use plastics and plastic packaging in the Baltic Sea region. In order to change the way we deal with plastic and to achieve a reduction in the input of plastic waste into the environment, concrete measures are to be developed, new knowledge gained, and solutions tested and permanently established. And this on a communicative, strategic and technical level.

On a local level, we have already tested measures on a small scale before the start of our project – in the above-mentioned project **Nord spart sofort** – and have continuously looked for private households that are willing to take on the project topic. These experiences are now to be transferred to an international level in **BaltiPlast**.

True to the motto: less is less.

BaltiPlast was applied for and approved by the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme in 2022, and the contract was signed and preparatory work carried out at the end of 2022. The project will officially start in January 2023.



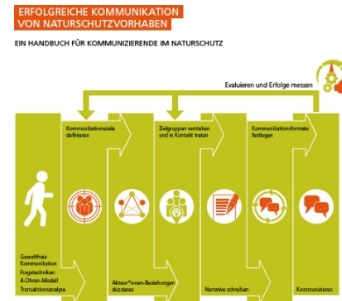
LIFE WIESENVÖGEL – „LIMOSA“

- Funder: LIFE Programme of the EU
- Duration: 10/2011 – 12/2023
- Website: www.wiesenvoegel-life.de
- Contact: Heidrun Fammler

The LIFE **Wiesenvögel** project of Lower Saxony, in which we play a small role in the acceptance of nature conservation measures, is one of the largest LIFE+ projects that the EU has co-financed so far. It has now been extended for three years. The reason for this is the country's difficulty in acquiring or leasing land for the rewetting of pastureland. No person who farms likes to give away land because the price of land is constantly rising. The budget figures, which were written in 2010, are far from correct. The pandemic has made these lengthy land purchase negotiations even more difficult. In principle, the project has been completed – with the exception of some land purchases.

2021, a beautiful short film has been produced that gives impressions of what has been achieved in selected project areas in Lower Saxony since 2011. The film combines impressive landscape shots with vivid bird scenes and informs about what has been achieved. Project manager Heinrich Belting from the State Bird Protection Agency NLWKN and National Park Ranger Sebastian Keller from the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park Administration explain how the measures implemented work together and will help the meadow birds beyond the end of the project:

https://www.wiesenvoegel-life.de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldung/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=116&cHash=113d86cca11e5541467ad4e638a8e917



The Baltic Environmental Forum Germany did not carry out any real activities in 2022. We continued to distribute our communication guide – it was even translated into Bulgarian by another nature conservation project – and participated in the final conference in September with a small presentation. For us, the project ended in December 2022, even though we are still working on the land acquisition goals.



CAMS PLATFORM

- Funding body: INTERREG Baltic Sea Region
- Duration: 08/2019 – 03/2022
- Website: www.interreg-baltic.eu/project/cams-platform
- Contact: Damian Arikas



The **CAMS Platform** project, which stands for Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Synergies, had the following objectives: To improve the quality of energy audits and the training of the professional groups and owners involved, to increase the renovation rate of buildings – and at the same time to focus on adaptation to climate change.

The renovation of buildings is not only a contribution to climate protection, but can also reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change if appropriate structural measures are taken into account. For example, solar technology, cool or green roofs, climate-neutral renovation materials and the switch to decentralised generation all contribute to climate protection and at the same time arm buildings against extreme weather events. For this reason, renovation projects should ideally always take adaptation aspects into account. However, this has hardly been a widespread practice so far.

The **CAMS Platform** project aimed to pool knowledge on climate adaptation measures in the building sector. Among other things, the project developed a macro-regional database for energy audits and standardised and verified criteria for the energy efficiency of buildings, defined guidelines for creating synergies between adaptation and climate protection, made recommendations for policy and provided a qualification programme for

energy refurbishment in the residential building sector. Baltic Environmental Forum Germany was responsible for the qualification programme for energy-efficient refurbishment in the project. However, since the focus was on measures that owners can plan and implement on their property, many small measures were presented that could contribute to climate change adaptation.



KNOWING CLIMATE

- Funder: Horizon 2020
- Duration: 06/2022 – 05/2025
- Website: www.bef-de.org/portfolio/knowning-climate-en/
- Contact: Damian Arikas



How can we ensure that we meet our climate targets and adapt as best we can to the inevitable effects of global warming? Can adaptation measures have unexpected rebound effects on other areas of life or the economy? How great is the risk that the climate protection goals will be thwarted by emission-intensive adaptation measures?

KNOWING Climate researches different aspects of climate change in various European model regions. These include, for example, a decrease in soil fertility, heat waves or flooding. Measures for climate adaptation and greenhouse gas avoidance as well as their interactions are examined – as well as the awareness and support of measures by local people.

The project will develop a modelling framework to calculate the correlations between adaptation measures and climate change mitigation strategies to determine the optimal combination. Concrete methods will then be tested and evaluated in sample regions in Germany, Estonia, Italy and Spain. Based on these results, the procedure will be repeated in other regions in Germany, Croatia, Austria, Spain and Vietnam in order to develop generalisable climate protection pathways.

Baltic Environmental Forum Germany is working in **KNO-WING Climate** with the climate protection management of the district of Herzogtum Lauenburg – an agricultural region east of Hamburg with numerous villages and smaller towns such as Geesthacht, Lauenburg, Mölln and Ratzeburg. In this pilot region, the area of agriculture in climate change is being examined and the topics of drought and humus build-up as a carbon sink and to promote the natural resilience of the soil are being scrutinised.





OUTLOOK FOR 2023: BALTIC SEA2LAND

- Funding body: INTERREG Baltic Sea Region
- Duration: 01/2023 – 12/2025
- Website: www.interreg-baltic.eu/project/balticsea2land
- Contact: Damian Arikas



Renewable energies, fisheries, nature conservation, shipping, tourism – our coasts are used in many ways. However, a goal-oriented discussion about the best possible planning and use of coastal areas often fails due to the coordination of the many stakeholders, as some interests may conflict with each other.

The **Sea2Land** project – a successor to the Land-Sea-Act project, in which the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany was also involved – deals with the various concerns that come together in coastal areas. To bring these together, we are developing a compass – a guide to action on how coastal space can be used efficiently and wisely. This will serve as a tool for governments and administrations and will be tested in pilot regions.

One pilot region with which we will be working closely is the island of Fehmarn. The municipality on the Baltic Sea island with its 13,000 inhabitants has set itself the goal of making the island climate-neutral by 2030. Fehmarn also wants to become energy self-sufficient and make the tourism sector more climate-friendly. We are participating in this project and support the development of renewable energies on Fehmarn. To this end, we are drawing up a concrete plan that also includes possible obstacles such as NIMBY – the acronym stands for not in my backyard, in Germany it is known as the Saint Florian principle

– is taken into account. Together with the stakeholders, we develop concepts to overcome possible conflicts so that the regional energy supply is strengthened.

Sea2Land was applied for and approved by INTERREG's Baltic Sea Programme in 2022, the contract was signed at the end of 2022 and preparatory work was carried out. The project will officially start in January 2023.





CYCLURBAN +

- Funder: European Climate Initiative EUKI
- Duration: 10/2019 – 02/2022
- Website: www.cyclurban.eu
- Contact: Damian Arikas



Cyclurban+ Traffic change instead of climate change

The Cyclurban+ project ended in 2022. The aim of the project was to analyse and improve the cycling situation in the cities of Bratislava, Brno, Prague and Tartu. The Baltic Environment Forum Germany was in charge of the project and coordinated the activities of the partner organisations in the respective target countries.

The decades-long preferential treatment of car traffic with its enormous space requirements hinders the development of an attractive and safe cycling infrastructure. People who travel on foot or by bike have often been literally marginalised in recent decades and have to make do with a small share of public space. There is a growing awareness of this spatial inequality and of the need for better climate protection, more quality of life and less noise in cities. However, many local decision-makers are either unwilling or do not dare to withdraw privileges from car traffic, as they have become a habit and are usually only given up again under protest. In addition, the number of newly registered cars is still rising. Therefore, there is a big difference between the commitment to climate-friendly urban development and the actual rededication of land, without which a real traffic turnaround will not be possible.

The **Cyclurban+** project initiated workshops with representatives of municipalities and ministries and developed guidelines – among others on the topics of cargo bikes in the city and road safety for cyclists. A funding platform for Slovak municipalities was set up to facilitate the application for public funding for cycling measures. One of the main activities of the project was also the trial rental of cargo bikes in Bratislava, Brno and Tartu. In Tartu, the pilot project was considered so successful that it was continued by the city on a permanent basis.

The project also participated in national lobbying in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The result was that a distance rule of at least 1.5 metres for overtaking bicycles was passed in both national parliaments. Even though this distance is often not observed and is difficult to control, it creates a legal basis for more safety for cyclists.

JugendUmweLtTreff EimsbütteL: JUTE II + III

- Donor: BürgerStiftung Hamburg
- Duration: 08/2021 – 08/2023
- Website: www.bef-de.org/jute
- Contact: Heidrun Fammler

JUTE II and III: the project goes into the next round

The aim of the **JUTE** project is to sensitise young people to the issue of sustainability and to promote their commitment to the environment. **JUTE** also aims to provide a space where young people can exchange ideas and learn with and from each other. The project has been running since 2020 and is run by volunteers from the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany.

At the beginning of last year, we decided to offer workshops to existing youth groups such as school classes instead of the original environmental meeting. Due to the reduced acquisition work, we could better concentrate on the preparation of the content.

The workshops dealt with everyday topics such as saving energy or reducing our own plastic consumption. We tried to make our workshops as interactive as possible by trying out DIY recipes, discussions and games. It was also important for us to meet the young people at eye level, not to prescribe solutions to them, but to develop new approaches together with them and thus strengthen their own initiative. So that it did not remain with one-off impulse lectures, we organised several



workshops conducted with the same group.

In the course of 2022, we were able to cooperate with many different youth groups and schools and reach about 170 young people. We held a total of 11 of our 22 workshops in the Eidelstedt district school. In addition, we worked together with the Albrecht-Thaer-Gymnasium, the Berufliche Schule City Nord, the Jugendclub EimsbütteL and the Naturschutzjugend. Last but not least, we were allowed to be part of the Asphaltsprengrer Stadtnaturfestival 2023.

We have further expanded our online presence to accompany the workshops.

Instagram: [@jute_hamburg](https://www.instagram.com/jute_hamburg) and TikTok: [@jutehh](https://www.tiktok.com/@jutehh)

TRANSPARENCY



About us

Baltic Environmental Forum Deutschland e. V. is a non-profit association registered in 2003 and part of the BEF network, which also includes three sister organisations in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Since 1995, the network has been working on numerous environmental protection issues in the Baltic Sea region and beyond. The Baltic Environmental Forum Germany has been recognised as a non-profit organisation by the Hamburg tax office without interruption since its foundation. The association promotes charitable purposes in the fields of education, research, environmental protection and science. The last notice of exemption is dated 10.12.2020. Tax number: 17 / 403 / 05707.

Names and function of the Board of Directors

Heidrun Fammler, Chairwoman

Ina Küller, 1st Deputy Chairwoman

Matthias Grätz, 2nd Deputy

Staff structure

In 2021, the association had 11 permanent employees – one of them full-time. In addition, there was one federal volunteer and two FÖJ workers in 2021/2022 as well as one federal volunteer and three FÖJ workers in 2022/2023.

In addition, two part-time employees worked for the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany.

We regularly offer young people the opportunity to undertake compulsory work placements in our organisation.

Finance

The turnover in 2022 was 369,931.66 euros. Overall, the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany generated a net loss of 12,192.29 euros in 2022, which was due to a lack of coverage of overhead costs, as no large EU-funded projects could be carried out with a corresponding flat rate for overhead costs. However, due to the balance sheet profit from previous years, this deficit could be balanced out, so that we started the new financial year 2023 with a positive balance sheet result of 34,014.38 euros.

Affiliation under company law with third parties and payments from third parties

There is no affiliation with third parties under company law. There was one individual donation of € 2,000, but there were no other donations of more than € 1,000 from either private individuals or legal entities.

SUSTAINABILITY



Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ)

We were able to successfully continue the cooperation with participants of the FÖJ in 2022. One position was assigned to the chemistry team, one to the climate team and one to the area of public relations.

Federal Volunteer Service (ÖBFD)

Since the summer of 2020, the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany has been a recognised volunteer organisation for the Federal Volunteer Service and offers those interested in sustainability issues a varied activity in the areas of sustainable consumption and environmental protection.

In the year 2021/22, the Baltic Environment Forum Germany employed a federal volunteer who also took on tasks in the field of public relations. In 2022/23, a new volunteer worked on the topics of circular economy and plastics.

Sustainability in events

Our concept for the sustainable implementation of events is very well received by venues and participants. We offer vegan or vegetarian catering and tap water as the main source of drink – but also coffee, tea and other drinks in returnable bottles. Products such as disposable tableware

or coffee cream in mini packs are not used. We also do not use plastic name tags, but reusable paper ones. We want to maintain these measures and improve and expand them in the future.

Office management

We avoid printing documents as much as possible and thus save paper. Office supplies are purchased from an office supply shop that offers fair trade and ecological products. Professional prints are commissioned from certified ecological printers. We use equipment with the highest possible energy efficiency and generally pay attention to low energy and resource consumption. The regulations to curb covid-19 have been implemented with seriousness. We worked a lot in the home office, but returned to the office with a larger staff once the pandemic had ended. However, the home office is still common practice.

PUBLICATIONS

- Damian Arikas, Dr Luis Costa, Dr Philipp Siegel, Fee Widderich: Case study Fehmarn, Germany. Coastal conflicts, climate impacts and adaptation, from the project: LandSeaAct, January 2022, https://www.bef-de.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/LSA_Case_Study_Germany.pdf
- Damian Arikas, Matthias Grätz, Dr Philipp Siegel et al.: Downscaling climate change impacts, socio-economic implications and alternative adaptation pathways for Islands, from the project: Soclimpact, January 2022, https://soclimpact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/climate_change_completo_web_low.pdf#page=1&zoom=auto,-78,771
- Damian Arikas, Lotta Böckmann: Guideline for the establishment of cargo bikes in municipalities, from the project: Cyclurban+, October 2022, <https://www.bef-de.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Cyclurban-Cargo-Bike-Report-Design-Final.pdf>
- Damian Arikas, Sophie-Marie Iraschko: Lessons Learned Report, from the project: Cyclurban+, October 2022, <https://www.bef-de.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CyclurbanLessons-Learned-Report-final.pdf>

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

In 2022, 337 people followed us on Facebook. This is 16 more than in the previous year, so we see a slight gain here. Our posts reached a total of 64,406 accounts over the year, which corresponds to an increase of 40 percent compared to 2021. Unfortunately, this increase in reach could not be converted into a significant increase in the number of followers.

Instagram

On Instagram, we gained about 220 new followers in 2022, mainly due to our successful Christmas campaign. Our publications achieved a good overall reach – our outreach was 103,796 accounts. This has increased strongly in some cases with our campaigns.

Website

Our website got a new look in 2019. Since then, we have been fine-tuning it – making small adjustments and, of course, continuing to improve it. At the end of 2022, we have restructured the website again so that it should now be a little clearer. The website is maintained more intensively and updated regularly. One of the main focuses in 2022 was the publication of exciting content such as news articles.

EVENTS



Events

As part of the projects **Plastic and its invisible dangers** and **Nord spart sofort**, we were able to organise many different events in 2022. Together with the unpacked shop streubar, we organised a well-received do-it-yourself workshop in spring 2022. In addition to providing input on harmful substances in cosmetics, we made our own shower gel and scrub with the participants. During the summer, we were represented with an information stand at various street festivals: the Altonale, the Eppendorfer Landstrasse Festival, the Winterhude City Festival and the "No Plastic Planet" action day organised by the Rüm Hart Foundation at the Planetarium. Through this we playfully imparted knowledge about the effects of plastic as well as hazardous chemicals in products.

In the autumn and winter, we held a number of information evenings. In autumn and winter, we held a number of information evenings. These included, for example, a chemicals workshop at the Eppendorf Art Clinic and an interactive workshop entitled "Escape from the plastic house", which we developed together with the "plastic-free city" initiative. In addition, there were regular meetings with our pilot households in the **Nord spart sofort** project as well as lectures on the topic. We have also held numerous school workshops: Among other things, we were again involved in the free educational programme Wetter.Wasser.Waterkant for school classes in Hamburg.

TEAM



Matthias Grätz, Dipl.
Energy and Climate Policy
Sustainable Mobility



Heidrun Fammler, M. A.
International environmental
policy



Parvina Samadova, B. A.
Financial management



Dieter Felten
IT and data
protection



Astrid Kaiser
Administration



Jutta Hörnschemeyer
Accounting



Annabell Maahs
Finances & Administration



Damian Arikas, Dipl.
Energy and Climate
Policy Sustainable
Mobility



Anna Sieber, M. A.
Organisational
Management Renewable
Energies



Fee Widderich, M. Sc.
Chemicals & Health



Susanne Hanfler, M. A.
Project Accounting
Ambassador Programm



Marina Vogel, B. A.
Chemicals & Health



Lotta Boeckmann
Volunteer (FÖJ)



Sophie Iraschko
Volunteer (FÖJ)



Antonia Fettke
Volunteer (FÖJ)



Alena Keite
Volunteer (FÖJ)



Emily Carr
Volunteer (ÖBFD)



Jonas Gscheidmeyer
Volunteer (FÖJ)



Celina Lucht
Volunteer (ÖBFD)

IMPRINT

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Contact

Baltic Environmental Forum Deutschland e. V.
Osterstraße 58
20259 Hamburg
Website: www.bef-de.org
E-mail: info@bef-de.org
Tel.: 040/53307075

Graphic design

Jonas Gscheidmeyer

Editorial

Damian Arikas, Fee Widderich, Heidrun Fammler,
Jonas Gscheidmeyer, Loreta Wüstenberg, Lucas
Schmitz, Sa- mantha-Josephine Kiesel, Sophie
Iraschko,

Picture credits

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Unknown Wong, AbsolutVision, Karsten Winegeart,
Joshua Earle, Rainer Kant

Image origin

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