

Vienna Strategy for Pesticide Minimisation

Insect Diversity & Biodiversity - Minimise Pesticides Permanently and Sustainably

The Central Federation of Allotment Gardeners and Settlers of Austria is one of the organisations that participated in the initiative "Vienna Strategy for Pesticide Minimisation". In the working group "private users" measures were elaborated to achieve the common goal of minimising the use of pesticides in the whole urban area in a permanent and sustainable way.

Numerous scientific studies show that insect diversity in Europe has been declining for decades. Pesticides can have a wide range of negative impacts on biodiversity, insect diversity and subsequently on birds and other animals. *"Insect diversity has declined massively in recent decades. That is why it is particularly important for us to actively counteract this and to permanently and sustainably minimise the use of pesticides throughout Vienna,"* stresses Climate City Councillor Jürgen Czernohorszky.



This is also the goal of the "Vienna Strategy for Pesticide Minimisation", which was unanimously adopted by the Vienna City Council this week. With this strategy, the City of Vienna confirms its high ambitions for the protection and promotion of biodiversity.

City of Vienna sets a good example

A central component of the new strategy is the reaffirmation of the city's commitment and pioneering role. In addition, the use of pesticides is now also to be minimised as far as possible in the city's indirect sphere of influence. This includes private allotment gardens or terraces and commercial areas as well as the approximately 5700 hectares that are farmed in Vienna.

Numerous partner organisations showed interest in working on minimisation measures. *"In the development of the strategy and the corresponding, comprehensive programmes of measures, a cooperative multi-stakeholder approach was particularly important to us from the very beginning,"* explains Wolfgang Khutter, Deputy Head of the City of Vienna - Environmental Protection, who coordinated the process together with the Vienna Environmental Advocacy Office and the Vienna Ecosocial Forum. *"Representatives of municipal companies, the federal government, agriculture, garden designers, allotment garden associations, environmental organisations and many more were on board from the very beginning. Our strategy forms the common umbrella under which everyone pulls together. The principles and measures laid down in it will be supported by the partner organisations and implemented together step by step."*

Concrete implementation programme

1. Sharpening the legal framework for the home and allotment garden sector
2. Promotion of counselling
3. Educational measures
4. Communication measures, awareness raising and sensitisation
5. Procurement and awarding
6. Continued ecologisation of Viennese agriculture (more organic farms)
7. Inclusion of the funding system
8. Specific measures in the biocide sector

Further information on the initiative and the individual measures can be found in the published strategy of the City of Vienna:

<https://www.wien.gv.at/umweltschutz/nachhaltigkeit/pdf/pestizidreduktion.pdf>

Press release of the City of Vienna: "Insect Diversity & Biodiversity/Czernohorszky: Minimise Pesticides Permanently and Sustainably".

https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20220331_OTS0069/insektenvielfalt-biodiversitaetczernohorszky-pestizide-dauerhaft-und-nachhaltig-minimieren



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