

Bridging Partners, Regions and Concepts...

Presentation of
The Regional Environmental Center

for Central and Eastern Europe
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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



Regional Environmental Center (REC)

- “... is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems (...)”
 - The REC is legally based on a **charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the EC**
 - **Multi-stakeholder International Board**
 - **190 staff** (some 30 nationalities)
 - **100% project based organization** (over **300 running projects**)
 - **10 - 12 million Euro annual turnover**
 - **Offices in 17 countries**
 - **Population served ~ 200 million**
 - **Operations beyond Central and Eastern Europe**



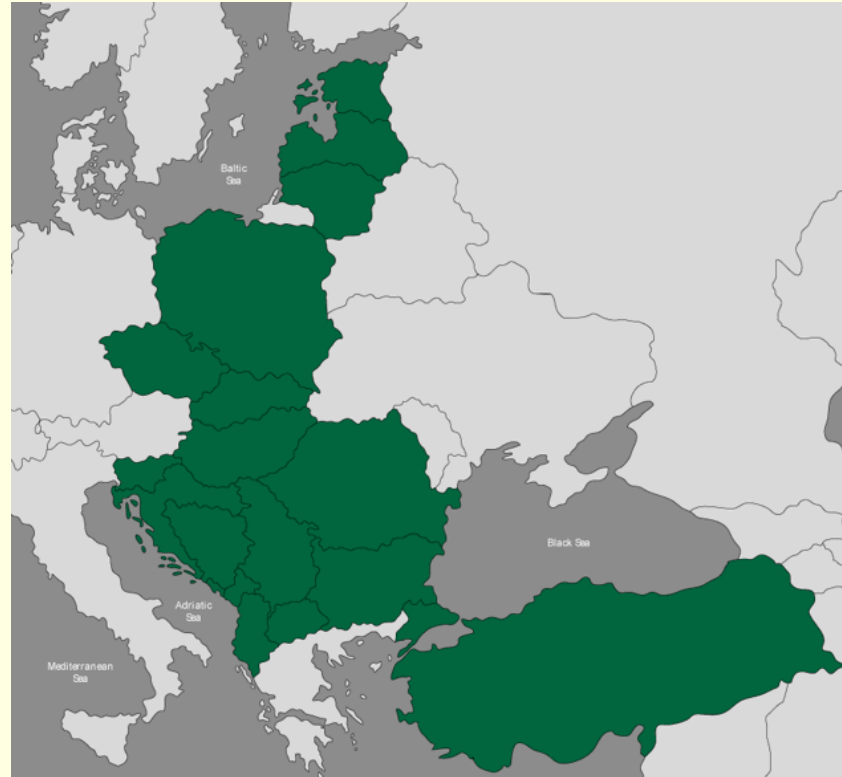
Fulfill our mission by...

- Promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.
- Facilitate, support and initiate dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders for the successful solution of environmental problems that would otherwise be harder to achieve.



Beneficiaries

- **EU member states**
 - Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- **South Eastern Europe**
 - EU candidates countries – Croatia and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - potential EU candidates- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia
- **Turkey**
- **Operation beyond the REC Country Office Network**
 - EECCA, Asia, Africa, Latin-America



Environmental Education Topic Area

Based on Article 6 (Education and Outreach) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, REC serves as a focal point for cooperation and strengthening synergies for coordination and preparation of education and outreach for climate change in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, and Turkey.



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Topic Area Climate Change Activities

- Green Pack-Climate Change (Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro).
- Municipal Climate Change Education (Albania and Turkey).



Why is there a need?



National and International Action

- Painstakingly slow and bureaucratic
- Low targets=little impact
- Example: possibility of a legally binding treaty at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference seems unlikely.
- Local action often is a quicker and more affective means for action than on a national or international.
- Can influence decisions on a regional, national, and international level.



Think Globally Act Locally: Educating Municipalities on the Practical Measures They Can Take on a Community Level for Carbon Reductions”



Arlington's seven-day diet plan

We've made it easier than ever to start your Car-Free Diet – just follow this simple, fun day-by-day diet plan, and you'll be car-free in under a week!

Let's Go! ▶

The graphic features a circular logo with a silver SUV and a yellow car lift. The text 'Arlington's seven-day diet plan' is written around the circle. To the right, a green banner contains the text 'We've made it easier than ever to start your Car-Free Diet – just follow this simple, fun day-by-day diet plan, and you'll be car-free in under a week!'. At the bottom right of the banner is a white button with the text 'Let's Go!' and a green play button icon.



Interactive Web Resource

Purpose:

- (1) Educate small to medium sized municipalities on the concrete measures available on a local level to combat climate change.
- (2) Spark interest and dialogue on such a plan at the municipal level.
- (3) encourage municipal action even without technical tools.
- (4) Create a draft Climate Action Plan.



Goal of the site

- To be clear (Climate Change for Dummies)
- To be comprehensive (all major sectors on one site)
- Easy to navigate (not to be “Lost in Translation”)
- Interactive (Google Earth tool)
- Free of charge (no emissions inventory needed and no registration fee)
- Translated into the local language
- Both international and national context



7 Sectors of Focus

- Transportation
- Land Use
- Building
- Green Purchasing
- Waste Management
- Community Outreach and Integration
- Adaptation



Structure

- Introduction
- 12-15 recommendations
- 3-6 points per rec.
- Link to additional resources
- Blog



Example: Community Outreach Tab

- **Recommendation (As action sentence)** Plan and coordinate community meetings to generate ideas and to understand community concerns in the development and implementation phases of the CAP.
- **First Sentence** Key constituents must be brought into the CAP formation, draft plan, and implementation process.
- **1 (make the case)** Invite diverse stakeholders and key municipal constituents, such as the chamber of commerce, schools, religious institutions, organized labor, NGOs, and youth groups.
- **2** Ensure that community needs are considered, such as language, time constraints, and the accessibility of the meeting location.
- **3** Foster community input through the administering of regularly scheduled community meetings.
- Example of how to organize these meetings can be found on the following website (<http://www.stc-cdx.org/node/714>).



External links

- Designed to supplement the materials provided online
- These links will provide additional resources to those who wish to learn any additional information on any of the topics provided
- Sectorial Blog



Google Earth Resource

- Municipal size
- Characteristics (i.e. types of industrial base-primary, secondary or tertiary).
- Best Management Practices.
- Contact information of municipal employees in key departments i.e. zoning, environmental protection, public works, energy, elected officials.



Follow up Activities

- 15-25 one day web-training seminars in 15-25 different municipalities.
- 15-25 one day CAP formulation round table events with administrators and elected officials within the municipalities, as well as local constituents (creation of a draft proposal).



- You will find that the State is the kind of organization which, though it does big things badly, does small things badly, too.
John Kenneth Galbraith

