

EU Office, Chemnitz

Chemnitz, 19 February 2018

EUROPEAN CLIMATE AWARD



Chemnitz wins eca – European Climate Award

Climate change is becoming ever more noticeable in Germany, too. At a local level, municipalities are faced with the complex task of dealing constructively with the consequences of climate change. Chemnitz has had an active climate protection policy for years, for which it has received international recognition. As part of the European Energy Award (eea), the city has won the silver eea twice since 2011 for its climate protection activities, and even won gold in 2015.

By request of the Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture (SMUL), Chemnitz is one of two Saxon municipalities to participate in the eea-plus pilot scheme, the European Climate Award 'eca – Adapting to Climate Change', since 2014. The aim was to determine how prepared municipalities are for the effects of climate change and which measures have to be taken in the foreseeable future.

The eca, like the eea, is a certification process and quality management system that gives municipalities the opportunity to record their activities in a structured fashion and to receive feedback. The aim of the eea is to increase a city's energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources. The eca's aim, however, is for municipalities to adapt to climate change effects, and then to determine how the requirements of adaptation to climate change effects can be systematically integrated in municipal planning and structures, and how the necessary tailor-made activities can be continuously promoted.

In addition to the cooling network of Chemnitzer Kliniken gGmbH, some of the city's exemplary projects include the flood protection concept currently in progress, the restructure of the forests in the area around the city to be beneficial for climate and nature conservation, and the green corridor along the Kappelbach river.

Of the 12 participating German municipalities, Chemnitz achieved the second certification stage after three years of work. It also achieved the best results of all pilot municipalities with 51.4% of the potential points. The city was given an award for this achievement on 6 November 2017 by the Saxon State Minister for Environment and Agriculture, Thomas Schmidt. Mayor Miko Runkel, together with the climate team consisting of representatives from various departments and companies, accepted the award at the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden.



Mayor Miko Runkel at the award ceremony with the Chemnitz climate team
Photo: City



Green corridor along the Kappelbach river

Photo: City

StadtWohnen agency awarded URBACT 'Good Practice'

URBACT is a European programme financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the member states, and Norway and Switzerland. The main aim of the programme is to strengthen sustainable and integrated urban development and to promote knowledge sharing between cities. 97 practical examples were awarded the 'Good Practice' label for the first time in June 2017. The StadtWohnen agency from Chemnitz was one of the five winners from Germany; it is dedicated to breathing new life into dilapidated or vacant buildings. It puts building owners, interested investors and users in touch with each other. The award also emphasises the importance of the agency's work for other cities that have to pay special attention to decline and loss of functionality.



RESET – INTERREG Europe project with Saxon involvement

The INTERREG Europe project 'RESET - RESearch Centres of Excellence in the Textile Sector' was launched in April 2016 and comprises ten European partners, including the Sächsische Textilforschungsinstitut e.V. (STFI) from Chemnitz. The aim is to support policies for the implementation of regional strategies and structural funds programmes, thus bolstering research, technology and innovation from the point of view of sustainability in the textile and clothing industry in Europe. It is important to involve regional stakeholders from politics, research and industry in order to effectively transfer the results of the project to the participating regions. The region of Saxony is supported by the Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport (SMWA), the Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture (SMUL), Chemnitz Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) and the textile associations INNtex Innovation Netzwerk Textil GmbH and Verband der Nord-Ostdeutschen Textil- und Bekleidungsindustrie e.V. (vti). Themed seminars on 'Good Practice' examples from the nine participating partner regions provide a space in which to share trans-regional experience, ideas and knowledge. The STFI organised the 'Smart textiles and new ways of production' seminar on 20 June 2017 at IHK Chemnitz. Important stakeholders and regional textile companies, as well as the European project partners, were invited to discuss knowledge sharing, new project ideas and future collaborations



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

For more information, please see:
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/reset>



Project consortium meeting at STFI e.V.
Photo: Ms Naumann STFI e.V.



Lake in the middle of the newly created Krupp Park
Photo: City

Environmental Forum in Essen

The EUROCITIES Environmental Forum took place in Essen from 18 to 20 October 2017. Participants from member cities and partners from across Europe met there under the banner of 'Integrated development for healthy green cities'. The city of Essen exemplifies the transformation of an industrial centre shaped by coal and steel into a cleaner, greener city. This development even landed Essen the title of 'European Green Capital' in 2017. This award is given to cities that manage to combine environmental protection, economic development and quality of life standards for the residents in a unique way. The forum, attended by more than 150 representatives from 62 cities, included a discussion on the effective integration of environmental concerns into urban planning. Ideas were developed on how cities could contribute to the European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Participants were informed about various options arising from dealing with aspects of growth and sociographic change in the future. EUROCITIES offers all participants the opportunity to learn and grow together. Chemnitz was represented by Grit Winkler from the Parks department.



Discussion on 'Green Capital Essen'
Photo: City

Eurocities Annual General Meeting

The representatives of the member cities and partners met in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, from 15 to 17 November 2017 for the annual general meeting of the EUROCITIES city network. The focus of this multi-day conference was on what is known as the circular economy and its implementation in European cities. It is a sustainable alternative to the traditional linear disposable economy, involving the recovery of raw materials. More than 600 participants from European cities came together to discuss projects and options for involving the community, among other things. Ljubljana, 'European Green Capital 2016', presented a series of lectures and tours on its best practice concepts for a city with less noise, emissions and waste. The best projects for implementing circular economy processes were recognised in an awards ceremony. One award was also given to Germany: the city of Munich received an award for its 'Halle 2' project, a second-hand store stocked from a recycling centre. The next annual general meeting will be in Edinburgh, Scotland. The topic there will be creative, competitive cities and young people.



The famous Dragon Bridge, landmark of the city of Ljubljana
Photo: City



'Mit Erfolg reklamieren' [Successful complaining] – the app for better warranties in Europe

We've all been there. You buy a product and it turns out to be defective or plain wrong. But what's the best way to complain? Funded by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, the European Consumer Centre Germany (ECC) has developed an app that gives users legal information and practical tips on warranties. It doesn't matter whether purchases were made online, by phone, in a shop or off business premises. You can find out about your rights with just a few clicks. Simply specify where the product was bought, in which EU country the seller is located and what the problem is. The app will calculate the rights according to country, distribution channel and problem, in particular: What are the time limits? How can you ask for a repair? When are you entitled to a rebate? The app is available for free in the [iTunes Store](#) (IOS) and [Google Playstore](#) (Android) as a direct download.



**das fest
der
nachbarn**



DAS HANDEWERK
DIE WIRTSCHAFTSMACHT. VON NEBENAN.

Diary to May 2018

19/03/2018 19:00-21:00 Jüdisches Gemeindezentrum, Stollberger Strasse 28, 875 years of Chemnitz: The Jewish community of Chemnitz – then and now; 3 euros

23 - 25/03/2018 10:00-18:00 all around the city and surrounding areas, 5th European Artistic Craft Days; free of charge

10/04/2018 10:00-18:00 all around the city, 875 years of Chemnitz: 'Chemnitz reads Heym': literature to go for the author's 105th birthday

26/04/2018 17:00-19:15 at Rosenhof, foyer of Rosenhof 6, Capital of Culture//Rosenhof evening: Chemnitz city culture; free of charge

25/05/2018 14:00-18:00 at Rosenhof, European Neighbours' Day: Old Neighbours, New Neighbours; free of charge

Contact/site notice

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The next newsletter will be published on 01/05/2018.

European Artistic Craft Days consist of local activities offered by participating workshops and businesses. For more information, see kunsthandwerkstage.de.

For more information on 'Chemnitz reads Heym' and other events as part of the city of Chemnitz's 875th anniversary celebrations, see: 875-jahre-chemnitz.de.

