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OBERÖSTERREICH

Directorate of Environment and Water Management



The Directorate of environment and water management is the centre of competence for environment and water management in Upper Austria. Under the aspect of sustainability, we see to protect and secure our natural resources within the range of ground, air and water. Another central task is reducing or avoiding pollutants, carrying out legal procedures related to the environment, industrial plants and environmental impact assessments. Our goal is to keep the negative effects on people and the environment to a minimum.

The comprehensive assessment of industrial plants and buildings serves to protect different public interests and is carried out by our technical experts. Balancing the interests of the environment and economy helps to secure the economic location of Upper Austria. In addition to legal measures, we promote initiatives, including financial assistance and consulting, in the sectors of the environment, energy and water. A further special emphasis is set on measures regarding climate protection. One of our priorities is avoiding yet in preparation possible negative effects caused by natural hazards, supply shortfalls or accidents in plants and developing adequate preventative emergency plans. We play an important role in securing a functional, economical and environmentally sound infrastructure for supply and waste disposal in the fields of energy, water and waste management in Upper Austria.

We strive for strengthening the environmental consciousness, in order to show people ways towards an even more environmentally responsible behaviour

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Environment & Water

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DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT



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PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

This brochure provides a short overview of the diverse tasks the Directorate of Environment and Water Management deals with. Highly qualified experts work here in order to protect the environment and water of Upper Austria in a sustainable way.

The scope of our tasks is extensive and reaches from providing drinking water and waste water treatment to climate protection and permissions for industry in accordance with sustainable environmental protection guidelines.

Promoting the awareness of these issues is an important task to motivate people to handle natural resources and our basic requirements sustainably.

Special thanks to all employees of the Directorate of Environment and Water Management for their highly motivated efforts.

Mag. Thomas Stelzer
Provincial Governor

Markus Achleitner
Minister

Stefan Kaineder
Minister

KommRat Ing. Wolfgang Klinger
Minister



UWD



Department of Industrial Systems Law, Environmental Law and Water Law



This department is the governmental centre of competence and provides reliable assistance in any legal matters concerning the Directorate of Environment and Water Management. Our main areas of focus include: Environmental impact assessment, laws pertaining to industrial systems, water law, energy law, waste management law and decontamination of abandoned hazardous sites, as well as laws pertaining to industrial systems, air pollution control and laws pertaining to mineral raw material.

We set legal precautions and measures necessary for the common welfare and the protection of the environment. That way we provide a useful share to safeguarding the business location and maintaining a sustainable infrastructure for services of public interest.

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Department of Environmental, Structural and Industrial Systems Engineering



The department of Environmental, Structural and Industrial Systems Engineering provides expertise and consulting services in legal procedures concerning the environment, construction and industrial systems.

We offer professional assistance in the fields of structural and industrial systems engineering and construction, chemistry and air pollution control, waste treatment, electrical engineering and energy supply, mechanical engineering and industrial plant safety, as well as for the economical management and construction of public surface buildings. These services are offered by centrally-based special experts and civil engineers based in the local district construction offices.

The high professional level of our expertise provides an essential share to ensure best possible decisions of public authorities and most efficient procedures. Based on applicable law and technical guidelines, we place special emphasis on a fair balance between the interests of the applicant, neighbours and public interests.

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Department of Environmental Protection



The Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for environmental monitoring and clean technology. For environmental monitoring we have a chemical analysis laboratory, as well as a network of monitoring stations for air pollution covering the whole province. In the field of environmental technology, we deal with questions of protection from radiation and noise, construction material regulations, waste

management and soil protection. The sections of the department working externally are supported by service providers.

The strategies of the Directorate of Environment and Water Management are further supported by grants. Information and support to residents are provided by a public information office which is often also a drop-in centre for the entire Directorate of Environment and Water Management.

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Department of Water Management



Water in all forms is our topic, whether as groundwater or in the rivers and lakes, whether as rain or snow, clean or used up. The experts of the Department of Water Management help to protect our water from the source to the mouth, to make good use of it and, if necessary, to improve it.

Important concerns are the good qualitative and quantitative status of all groundwater bodies, the comprehensive protection of groundwater as drinking water as well as the protection of important groundwater occurrences. Equally important aspects are a sustainable, crisis-proof and nationwide supply of drinking water to the population in sufficient quantities, the protection and the reliable operation of drinking water supply systems.

For the Upper Austrian water cooperatives, the department has competent contact persons for all issues of water management. Throughout the whole of Upper Austria, we ensure that a state-of-the-art, orderly, economical and sustainable wastewater disposal and cleaning is in place.

Several times per season, we check the compliance with the relevant limit values for bathing waters at designated bathing sites. The Department of Water Management collects water-relevant data and informs citizens about these topics through targeted public relations.

Our tasks are the protection of people and their economic area from natural hazards (floods, mudslides, landslides, geological risks, avalanches, etc.) as well as the avoidance of flood damage through integral flood protection in accordance with ecological requirements.

We want to restore the continuity of the watercourses by setting up fish passages as well as to adjust residual amounts of water and thereby improve aquatic ecology. We pursue our goals through our expert service, water management planning, subsidies, plant supervision, groundwater and water quality supervision.

As a competence centre in the field of water, it is our self-understanding to seek the best possible balance between public interest and the different concerns of water users and to increase the appreciation, awareness and self-responsibility of the citizens in dealing with our water.

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