

Environmental Policy in Austria as part of the OECD- Family



THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND ACCOMPANYING THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION AND THE CHIEF ENGINEER ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION THROUGH THE OUTFALL SEWER.

"That's a Joke"



Jokes and memories inspired by Willard E. Nelson

Compiled by Kristina Thompson

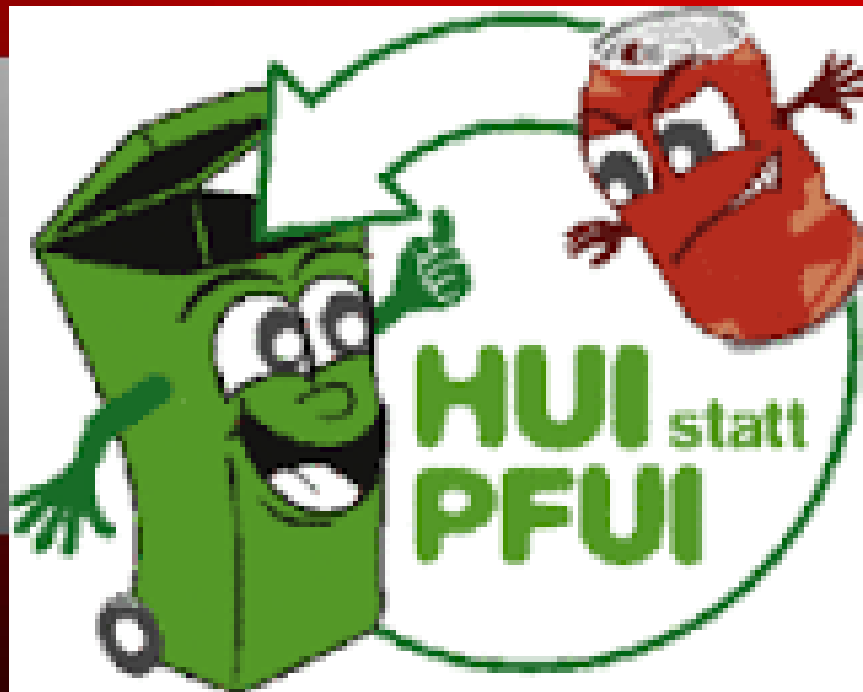
- For a long time after the war, reconstruction and supporting the industrial development were the only priorities even to Austrians.



- Only in the late 1970ies, environmental movements gained momentum and the general awareness of pollution and other issues increased.



- Today Austria is one of leading countries in the field of environmental policy. This is not only recognized by the OECD.



- Already in 1961 Austria signed the Convention of the OECD, thereby becoming a founding member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- Already In the early 70ntees the OECD recognized the importance of protecting the environment and in 1971 The Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) implemented the OECD's Environment Program.

- So why OECD is important for a country like Austria?



- The OECD provides us and partner countries a forum for joint efforts, exchange of experiences and possible approaches for the development of solutions to common problems.
- But the OECD is doing more: they work closely with governments to understand the forces behind economic, social and environmental changes.
- The OECD analyzes and compares data to describe future developments.
- And last but not least, the OECD sets international standards in many areas, from agriculture to the safety of chemicals as two examples.

- Another excellent example how we profit from OECD is the PEER REVIEW PROCESS

- The OECD offers its Member States a framework to share experiences and discuss best practices. Since establishing of the OECD over 50 years ago peer reviews are an important part of their work.
- The policy of a country is assessed by other countries it can learn valuable lessons from the experiences of other countries. This saves time and money.
- Recommendations can help governments to get support for effective measures in their country.
- And as each country goes through the same process, no one is singled out.

Even Austria is still very far away from being a sustainable country. In some areas, maybe even in many areas we are on the right track, on the other hand there is still a lot to do.



We need more mountains.....!

- And therefore we urgently need the help of OECD and its member countries to find appropriate solutions for pressing challenges.

Thank you for your attention!