



NATURFREUNDE
AMIS DE LA NATURE
FRIENDS OF NATURE
INTERNATIONAL

Climate Contest

Friends-of-Nature Houses

Knot International

Climate Network

Climate protection concerns us all!



Climate protection is a global issue that concerns us all! By tradition, the protection of nature is a special concern of Friends of Nature – this is what they are known and valued for. Owing to the increasing pollution of our environment, the “classical concept of nature protection” needs to be broadened and deepened: Action against threatening climate change is called for – and each and everyone can contribute his / her mite.

Friends of Nature can set examples and are actually doing so in many ways and instances!

Friends of Nature knot climate network!

The purpose of this contest is to call upon all managers of Friends-of-Nature houses as well as on the local groups and national federations owning or managing houses to make known and to upgrade all previous climate-protection measures and to launch new projects together with external partners in their local communities and / or regions. Partners will derive mutual benefit from their know-how, experience and technical as well as organisational capabilities, thus helping to ensure the success as well as the long-term positive impact of projects on climate protection. The idea is to create a “climate network” that will attract supporters and emulators and that will continue to spread. Friends of Nature will, as it were, knot the first loop of this network.

Friends of Nature lead the way!

All the projects entered will be presented on the Internet at www.nfhouse.org (in future: www.friendsofnaturehouses.net), to demonstrate to the outside world that Friends of Nature take climate protection seriously. At the same time, the projects presented on the Internet can serve as examples and a source of ideas for other houses that wish to become actively involved in climate protection. We wish to encourage houses in different countries to communicate and to exchange experience and we wish to stimulate cross-border cooperation between Friends-of-Nature houses.

Please note

Background information and many examples of Friends-of-Nature houses already engaged in climate-protection activities can be found in the brochure on “Climate Protection at Friends-of-Nature Houses”.

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Five key areas of action



Climate protection is a complex subject matter with a bearing on many areas of our daily lives. The focus of the contest is on five key areas of climate protection: construction as well as management and operation of Friends-of-Nature houses, mobility, regionality as well as information and public relations.

As Friends of Nature we feel obliged to take “climate protection” seriously. Our own activities are intended both as stepping stones to the set goal, but also as best practice designed to sensitise and inspire others. With a view to laying the groundwork for the “Friends-of-Nature Climate Network”, we are looking in particular for contest entries implemented together with partners from the respective region!

1) Construction

Heat insulation of buildings and the use of regenerative, natural, regional construction and insulation material can add up to a major contribution to climate protection. However, it must be kept in mind that this is a highly complex matter, and it is frequently difficult to identify the solutions best suited for any given building.

So it may be wise to consult an expert, who can also point out further steps required to

achieve optimum heat insulation and retrofitting for improved thermal and energy performance. The expert may also help to cover the financial side of measures by drawing up a cost/benefit analysis. Consulting engineers, energy and eco-counseling agencies, construction companies and other businesses are potential partners for construction projects.

2) Management and operation

Energy and heat supply from alternative, renewable sources, such as solar, wind and biomass energy, etc.: again it is indicated to find out with the help of an expert, which is the most climate-friendly and cost/effective solution for any given building or situation. In the interest of climate protection and in the interest of boosting the local economy it appears wise to cooperate with regional experts and businesses.

3) Mobility

Transport – and in the given case especially private transport – is one of the biggest emitters of CO₂. By devising clever mobility schemes designed to reduce the number of their own car trips and by motivating guests to opt for low-emission access and return trips and/or car-free holidays and hiking tours Friends of Nature can contribute in a big way to climate protection.

Potential partners in these efforts are local and regional transport companies, bike rental outlets, taxi companies, etc.

4) Regionality

The starting point for climate protection is the region! Purchasing from local providers and producers will shorten trips and consequently cause less CO₂ emission – and will, moreover, boost the regional economy.

In this context we are looking for projects and activities implemented together with local farmers, businesses, etc.

5) Information / Public Relations

On the one hand, Friends of Nature inform their guests and those interested about their own efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions and in this way motivate others to contribute their share. On the other hand, the word about “climate protection” is spread at various events staged at Friends-of-Nature houses. Such events may come in the form of climate fêtes, exhibitions, open door days, etc., organised together with schools, associations, nature protection organisations, regional businesses, etc.

Eligibility rules



The contest is open to Friends-of-Nature houses, as well as to local groups or Friends-of-Nature organisations that own or manage and operate houses. Invited are both completed climate-protection projects or measures and ongoing ones that have reached a stage, where outcomes are taking shape and can be assessed.

Moreover, we wish to award prizes to pertinent Friends-of-Nature initiatives that are still in the planning stage, but have reached a point, where the aims are clearly defined and the implementation is clearly formulated.

Assessment criteria

- **Effectivity and efficiency:**
The measure taken combines the greatest possible reduction of CO₂ emission with comparatively low (financial) input.
- **Best practice:**
The idea can be taken up by other Friends-of-Nature houses or other organisations and/or can be transferred to other situations.
- **Long-termism:**
The project extends over a prolonged period of time.
- **Cooperation:**
The project is implemented in cooperation with at least one external partner from the region.
- **Regionality:**
The project makes allowance for regional conditions and incorporates regionally specific characteristics.
- **Broad effect / Public relations:**
Those responsible for the project are in regular close contact with the media; the media report about the activities and the measures taken by Friends of Nature.
- **Guest benefit:**
Guests at Friends-of-Nature houses are integrated in the project and/or benefit from it.

From project to entry



1. Deadline for registration 31 May 2008

Online registration: at www.nfi.at/climatecompetition
Registration by e-mail/fax: please fill in the registrations form and send it to NFI by 31 May 2008
e-mail: climatecompetition@nfi.at
fax: +43 1 8129789

2. Deadline for the submission of entries is 15 August 2008

Online submission: www.nfi.at/climatecompetition
Submission by e-mail/mail: please fill in the entry form and attach information material, project descriptions, videos, DVDs, etc., as required.
e-mail: climatecompetition@nfi.at
snail mail: NFI, A-1150 Wien, Diefenbachgasse 36

3. Prize awarding ceremony on 26 September 2008

The awards for the prize-winning projects will be presented at the Friends-of-Nature Climate Congress in Liberec/CZ, on 26 September 2008.

Please note: All contest documents can be downloaded from the Internet at www.nfi.at/climatecompetition.

The jury

Entries will be judged by a jury composed of members of the IFN Management Committee, experts from national federations and external experts.

Awarding of prizes to best projects

Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the five categories. In addition, prizes will be awarded to initiatives, i.e. to projects that are still in the planning stage.





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