



# Shaping the future of EU environmental policy:

From the Austrian EU Council Presidency to the 8th EU Environment Action Programme









### **About the Project**



## "AT 18 - From the Austrian EU Council Presidency to the 8th EU Environment Action Programme"

- project on the Austrian Council Presidency and the 8th EU Environment
   Action Programme (8EAP)
- realized by Umweltdachverband (UWD) in collaboration with European
   Environmental Bureau (EEB) and supported by Ministry of Sustainability
   and Tourism (BMNT) and the European Commission









### Aim of the Project



- large percentage of national environmental laws originate in Brussels (80%?)
- to actively contribute to the debate on EU and national environmental policies after 2020
- to build a strong case for an 8EAP and
- to use the Austrian Council presidency to present a basic proposal for its contents









#### What happened so far?



- Published a background paper on the 7EAP: objectives, progress to date, status today, and suggested required actions of each priority to 2020 and beyond
- Hosted a Policy Forum in Vienna
  - explore the status of implementation of the 7EAP at EU and Austrian levels
  - discuss challenges for environmental policy in the next decade
  - discuss what its priorities should be with regard to an 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP)
- Summarized the findings of the Policy Forum in an "Executive Summary"









### What is happening today?



#### Moving from theory to practice we invite you to

- actively participate in the development of concrete action steps for future EU and national environmental policy
- develop practical ideas for both content and structure of an 8EAP





#### What is happening today?



I. Driving systemic change through future EU and national environmental policies (Workshop I)

II. The role of business and finance in future EU and national environmental policies (Workshop II)

III. Implementation - Strengthening accountability and sharing responsibilities in future EU and national environmental policies (Workshop III)









### What happens next?



- The results of the workshops and the project will be presented at the Informal Environmental Council on 29th October in Graz (Austria), which will focus on the "added value of an 8EAP at EU level"
- The outcomes of the project will be presented in a concluding action paper for an 8EAP in December





#### **About the 7 EAP**



- EU's Environment Action Programmes provide a general policy framework for the EU's environment policy
- Most important medium & long-term goals defined
- "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits."
- The 7th Environment Action Programme was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in November 2013, came into force in January 2014
- Priority objectives need to be met by 2020









#### About the 7 EAP



#### Three key objectives -> thematic priorities:

- to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital
- to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
- to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing

#### Four "enabling" priority objectives:

- better implementation of legislation
- better information by improving the knowledge base
- more and wiser investment for environment and climate policy
- full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies

#### Two horizontal priority objectives:

to make the Union's **cities more sustainable** to help the Union address **international environmental and climate challenges** more effectively.











#### ...and now: let the workshop begin!





