

Foreword

The principal aim of the OECD Environmental Performance Review programme is to help member and selected partner countries improve their individual and collective performance in environmental management by:

- helping individual governments assess progress in achieving their environmental goals;
- promoting continuous policy dialogue and peer learning;
- stimulating greater accountability from governments towards each other and public opinion.

This report reviews the environmental performance of Austria since the previous OECD Environmental Performance Review in 2003. Progress in achieving domestic objectives and international commitments provides the basis for assessing the country's environmental performance. Such objectives and commitments may be broad aims, qualitative goals or quantitative targets. A distinction is made between intentions, actions and results. Assessment of environmental performance is also placed within the context of Austria's historical environmental record, present state of the environment, physical endowment in natural resources, economic conditions and demographic trends.

The OECD is indebted to the government of Austria for its co-operation in providing information, for the organisation of the review mission to Vienna and Graz (17-22 September 2012), and for facilitating contacts both inside and outside government institutions.

Thanks are also due to all those who helped in the course of this review, to the representatives of member countries participating in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance and especially to the examining countries: Finland and Switzerland. The team that prepared this review comprised experts from reviewing countries: Mr Esa Nikunen (Finland) and Mr Thomas Probst (Switzerland); members of the OECD Secretariat: Ms Ivana Capozza, Mr Brendan Gillespie, Mr Reo Kawamura, Mr Michael Mullan; and Mr Bill Kennedy and Ms Dian Turnheim (consultants). Ms Carla Bertuzzi and Ms Elvira Berrueta-Imaz (OECD Secretariat) and Ms Rebecca Brite (consultant) provided statistical and editorial support during the preparation of the report. Preparation of this report also benefitted from inputs and comments provided by Mr Ralf Aschermann (University of Graz), Ms Nicola Brandt, Ms Eva Hübner and other members of the OECD Secretariat.

The OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance discussed the draft Environmental Performance Review of Austria at its meeting on 3 June 2013 in Paris, and approved the Assessment and Recommendations.



From:
**OECD Environmental Performance Reviews:
Austria 2013**

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264202924-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Foreword", in *OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Austria 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264202924-2-en>

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