

Tyrolean Office of the Environmental Ombudsman

and its initiatives concerning Light Pollution in Tyrol Province (Austria)

In Austria, legislation concerning nature protection and environment lies mostly within its nine provincial governments' own responsibilities.

In general, Austria has no legislation against light pollution, however, some ecological aspects of light pollution may be concerned when general environmental laws are made use of.

The Austrian standard for the prevention of light pollution is *ÖNORM O 1052 Light immissions – measurement and assessment (2012)*. It defines limit values and describes ways of avoiding negative impacts of light on the human habitat and environment. The *Austrian Outdoor Lighting Guideline (2018)* is a national guide to planning eco-friendly outdoor lighting installations. Compliance with those standards is not mandatory by law, however considered as technological state of the art.

Every province in Austria has an *Office of the Environmental Ombudsman*. This office of the Tyrolean regional authority is participating as a party to administrative proceedings concerning the natural environment. Criteria developed on the *Plight with Light* platform (www.plightwithlight.org) are considered the rank of additional standards by the *Tyrolean Office of the Environmental Ombudsman* and therefore have to be met in administrative proceedings concerning the natural environment. Such proceedings are necessary e.g. for the lighting of ski slopes or for illuminated parking spaces out of the built-up area. The *Tyrolean Office of the Environmental Ombudsman* is willing to discuss lighting plans with applicants before proceedings and try to find a consensual agreement. The *Tyrolean Office of the Environmental Ombudsman* has also the right to file an appeal against administrative decisions by provincial and local authorities; the higher instance then is the Tyrolean Administrative Court.

The objective of *Plight with Light* Project is to draw attention to the negative effects of poor regulation concerning artificial light and to provide recommendations for the practical implementation of less problematic lighting solutions. Subprojects were running on this platform in the past: Lighting Check-up for Tyrolean Municipalities, Attraction of Modern Light Sources for Nocturnal insects, Innovative Outdoor Lighting, Nature Education Program and a Travelling exhibition. More Information: www.plightwithlight.org

Starting with January 2020, the *Tyrolean Office of the Environmental Ombudsman* is participating in the INTERREG Project SKYSCAPE ITAT 2047, co-financed by the European fund for regional development and Interreg V-A Italien-Österreich 2014-2020. Main target of this project is *“to protect and promote the dark and unspoiled night sky, reduce light pollution, and sensitize for the value of a dark night sky for the health and wellbeing of people, animals and plants”*. By implementing initiatives and events to sensitize for the topic of light pollution, implementation of Best Practice Examples in the field of festive, sportive and/or monumental lighting, development and implementation of new astro-touristic products in selected areas and promotion of these new astro-

touristic products by public events, local and transborder communication activities, benefits for the conservation and promotion of the nocturnal life and landscape in the Alps as well as health, wellbeing and quality of life for people shall be expected.

More Information: www.tiroler-umweltanwaltschaft.gv.at/en/nature-conservation/nature-conservation-and-projects/skyscape/

Contacts:

SKYSCAPE

Stefanie Pontasch, PhD (+43 680 2078728, s.pontasch@tiroler-umweltanwaltschaft.gv.at)

DI Andreas Hudler (+43 512 508 3485, andreas.hudler@tirol.gv.at)

PLIGHT WITH LIGHT

DI (FH) Stefanie Suchy (+43 650 6233500, s.suchy@tiroler-umweltanwaltschaft.gv.at)



The project SKYSCAPE is co-financed by the European fund for regional development and Interreg V-A Italien-Österreich 2014-2020