

Case Study 014	from www.communityplanning.net
<i>Theme</i>	Waste management
<i>Project Title</i>	Viennese Waste Management Plan
<i>Location</i>	Vienna, Austria
<i>Project leader</i>	Waste management department of Vienna's city administration



Broad participation of interest groups and public sector departments in the preparation of the Viennese waste management plan 2007 and in carrying out a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for this plan. Good use of a 'round table' approach.

Context

- Viennese law requires the Viennese waste management plan to be updated every five years and a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to be undertaken as part of the process.
- The Viennese waste management plan contains objectives and measures for waste management in Vienna (population 1.6 million) for the next 5-15 years. It includes waste avoidance, the separate collection of waste, waste treatment facilities and the transportation of waste.
- The steering group decided that the plan could only be implemented effectively if it was supported by the affected interest groups, departments and the general public and if environmental aspects are given equal weight to social and economic aspects.
- So the waste management department of Vienna city administration decided to set up a participative planning process and to carry out a participative SEA. The core of the SEA was an assessment of different planning alternatives concerning the environmental, social and economic effects. The best alternatives were taken into the final Viennese waste management plan 2007.

Process

Year Month Activity

2006	Mar/ May	Preparation	Process planned by the Steering group, comprising: Waste management department; Department for environmental protection; Viennese environmental ombudsman.
2006- 2007	Jun/ Feb	Round table workshops 1–4; Aims and alternatives	<p>4 workshops (each 1-2 days) to define the aims of the plan, explore alternative ways to achieve these aims and assess their environmental, social and economic effects.</p> <p>Participants: Planning and SEA team, comprising 16 organizations including the most affected departments of Vienna city administration (waste management, environment, water, finance, construction & technology, climate protection), the Viennese environmental ombudsman, two environmental NGOs and external waste management experts.</p> <p>Product: Interim draft environmental report with the results of the process documented</p>
2007	Mar	Feedback workshop	<p>1–day event to discuss the interim draft environmental report and obtain a broader range of opinion. After the session the planning and SEA team decided how to take the new ideas into account.</p> <p>Participants: Planning and SEA team (23 people) plus Chambers, NGOs, interest groups, teachers and representatives from administration (28 people).</p>
2007	Apr/ Jun	Round table workshop 5: Selecting best alternative	<p>Optimizing the alternatives and selecting the best ones to prepare a draft Plan and draft environmental report</p> <p>Participants: Planning and SEA team.</p>
2007	Aug/ Jul	Public display	<p>Draft plan and draft environmental report exhibited at 3 different departments of Vienna city administration for 8 weeks. Public display announced in two daily newspapers. Draft documents downloadable from waste management department website which also contained information on how to submit comments, how to get further information and the next steps in the process.</p>
2007	Sep	Round table workshop 6: Final draft	<p>Taking the comments received from the public display into account and reaching consensus on the final draft of the plan and the environmental report.</p> <p>Participants: Planning and SEA team.</p>
2007	Dec	Adoption	Adoption of the Viennese waste management plan 2007 by the Viennese government.
2008	Jan	Publication	Final Viennese waste management plan 2007 and the environmental report made publicly available.

Outcomes - Successes

- The planning and SEA team cooperated effectively throughout the process at the "SEA Round Table". They found consensus on the draft plan and the environmental report, which they forwarded to the political decision makers as a sound recommendation.
- The feedback workshop provided new ideas and enriched the content of the plan. Most of the comments were included in the plan or the environmental report. All received comments and the way they were taken into account were transparently documented in the environmental report.
- The Viennese government adopted the plan as recommended by the planning and SEA team and took the results of the process fully into account.
- A monitoring group will follow up the implementation of the measures in the plan.

Outcomes – Shortcomings

- Few members of the general public became involved. Only 15 comments on the draft plan and environmental report were submitted. Five of these were identical and a further five very similar.

Outcomes - Lessons learnt

- At the strategic planning level it is difficult to motivate people to participate unless it is clear that individuals are personally affected by the plan.
- The assessment of alternatives could be simplified next time to reduce effort and to focus on the most relevant aspects

Parties involved

<i>Party</i>	<i>Role</i>
Waste management department of Vienna city administration (MA 48) www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/ma48/	Project leader
Department for environmental protection of Vienna city administration (MA 22) www.wien.gv.at/umweltschutz/	Steering group
Viennese environmental ombudsman (independent) wua-wien.at/home/	Steering group
Other affected departments of Vienna city administration (water, finance, construction & technology, climate protection)	Planning and SEA team
Environmental NGOs ("die umweltberatung", Umweltdachverband)	Planning and SEA team
External waste management experts	Planning and SEA team
Other interested organizations (chambers, NGOs, interest groups, teachers) and representatives from administration	Feedback-group
General public	Invited for comments
Büro Arbter – Consulting engineers www.arbter.at	Process management & facilitation

Funding and resources

- Funded by the waste management department of Vienna city administration
- One environmental NGO received reimbursement for its contributions as a member of the Planning and SEA team. Otherwise it could not have participated due to lack of resources.

Special features

How the Round Table workshops functioned:

In the Round Table workshops the Planning and SEA team met to define the aims of the plan, to explore alternative ways to achieve these aims, to assess their environmental, social and economic effects, to take external comments into account and to select the best alternatives for the plan. The team agreed on the draft waste management plan and the draft environmental report before they were put on public display or forwarded to the political decision makers.

The Planning and SEA team included the most affected departments of the Vienna city administration, the Viennese environmental ombudsman, environmental NGOs and external waste management experts. Team members acted as equal partners throughout the process and shared responsibility for the results. The team tried to reach consensus on the plan which integrates the environmental aspects, using elements of mediation.

The Round Table workshops were chaired by an independent facilitator (Kerstin Arbter of Büro Arbter), who also prepared the agenda and helped to bring differing views together. Before the workshops the team members received input papers or drafts. These documents were discussed and revised in the workshops.

The Round Table approach resulted in pro-active participation rather than mere consultation and provision of information, and provided possibilities for the main interested parties to contribute to the whole planning and SEA process and to influence its results.

More information on the feedback workshop:

Other interested departments and organizations were invited to a feedback workshop. 10 days before the workshop they received an interim draft environmental report and were asked to submit comments at the workshop. There they worked in smaller groups from 6 to 12 persons. They could choose from 6 "topic tables", depending on their interests and possibilities to contribute. Each table was chaired by two Planning and SEA team members who took the comments received down on a flip chart and answered questions. After the feedback workshop the Planning and SEA team went through all the comments recorded on the flip charts and decided how to take them into account. Afterwards the minutes of the workshop and a short report on how all the comments were taken into account were sent to the participants.

Photos

Viennese Waste Management Plan In sequence



'Round Table' workshop
Planning and strategic
environmental assessment
(SEA) team
January 2007

Vienna01.jpg
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Feedback session
Involving wider interests
March 2007

Vienna02.jpg
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Feedback session
Involving wider interests
March 2007

Vienna03.jpg
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**Planning and strategic
environmental
assessment (SEA) team**
After achieving consensus
on a draft plan
May 2007

Vienna04.jpg
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Documents

Viennese waste management plan 2007 and environmental report (final versions) - available in German only.

<http://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/ma48/beratung/umweltschutz/awk.html>

Quotes

"The experiences to date have been promising, providing opportunities to reconcile the interests concerned and to strengthen the implementation of a final plan supported by all interest groups."

"Members of the planning and SEA team were asked for their feedback about the process and if they would participate again next time. All of those who answered the questionnaire (20 out of 25) agreed to participate again!."

Kerstin Arbter, Büro Arbter – Consulting engineers

Contacts and links

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