

Media release

LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein: Taking responsibility and setting the right course

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2013 was an especially important year for the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein. With the revision of the CO₂ Act in September 2013, the state assembly confirmed the continuation of the incentive tax and thus indirectly also secured the financing of the activities of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein and the continuation of the cooperation with the Swiss Climate Foundation. Ratification of the revision of the CO₂ Act in 2013 firmly established the regulatory framework required for this cooperation until 2020, thus enabling Liechtenstein's SMEs to benefit from the funding initiatives in the long term. "In terms of the long-term planning of the activities of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, 2013 can be regarded as extremely encouraging and motivating for the future," said Liechtenstein's Prime Minister and Chairman of the Foundation Board Adrian Hasler on presentation of the 2013 annual report.

Successful cooperation with the Swiss Climate Foundation

Thanks to the cooperation between the LIFE Climate Foundation and the Swiss Climate Foundation, numerous Liechtenstein SMEs used the funding initiatives in 2013. In 2013, eight Liechtenstein SMEs received total funding to the tune of CHF 180,000. The co-operation was made possible by Liechtenstein's three largest banks: LGT Bank AG, Liechtensteinische Landesbank AG and the Verwaltungs- und Privat-Bank AG, which decided to join the Swiss Climate Foundation and to donate their refunds from the CO₂ incentive tax.

Increased funding volume

However, the LIFE Climate Foundation was able to significantly increase its funding volume this year, too. Together with the Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein (MIL) and the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) it was possible to launch the "Kenya Improved Cooking Stoves Programme" among other things. The Lake of Naivasha region in Kenya is home to many Massai, who still cook over open fires in their huts. This causes not only health risks, but often also leads to numerous violent assaults on women, who have to leave their village in order to gather firewood. In addition, collecting firewood is time consuming and buying it is very expensive. The project involves the production of efficient cook stoves in Kenya, which are then distributed to the Massai. "The project creates local jobs and makes an important contribution to society," stresses Hasler.

In a next step, local trade will be supported through the allocation of eco-loans (helping people to help themselves). Through the free distribution of 2,000 cookstoves (spread over two years) it should also be possible to achieve a 6t reduction in CO₂ emissions each year. The project is being initiated and implemented by the Swiss company South Pole.

PR at home and abroad

Another high point of 2013 was the foundation's participation in the Climate Conference in Warsaw, Poland. But some measures were initiated in Liechtenstein, too. The LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein was thus involved in the foundation of the energy efficiency platform, which offers companies in Liechtenstein a forum for exchanging practical experience on the subject of energy efficiency, supported the annual environmental clean-up in Vaduz and, to mark the UN World Water Day, conducted an educational afternoon on the topic "water" according to the motto "every litre counts". More than 200 visitors of all ages informed themselves about water in the energy city Vaduz. The event was hosted by the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, the Miss Earth Switzerland organisation and the environmental protection organisation myblueplanet. One of the highlights of the event included a special mission for the Miss Earth candidates that saw them install water-saving taps at various locations throughout Vaduz. This alone will make it possible to save 5,428 kg of CO₂ each year.

Thus the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein was again able to make an active contribution last year to raising awareness for and promoting climate protection and improving Liechtenstein's reputation. "The activities of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein have enabled it to gain further recognition in the sustainability community and to achieve brand status. It plays a valuable role in creating a positive image for Liechtenstein as a locus of industry, finance and knowledge," explained Hasler.

Consistent continuation of the strategy in 2014

2014 will see us continuing to pursue the current strategy. By supporting promising specific projects in Liechtenstein, we aim to underscore our local focus. In addition, the LIFE Climate Foundation has set itself the long-term goal of playing a leading role in the field of sustainability along with the other Liechtenstein sustainability initiatives and to act as a driver and incubator of innovation, thereby making a valuable contribution to the prestige and reputation as well as to the economic development of the country. "We want to take responsibility, help to set the right course and significantly shape the understanding that Liechtenstein is the source of solutions for important future topics," concluded Hasler.

The **LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein** is a non-profit foundation established in early 2009 under Liechtenstein law. The goals of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein are to raise awareness and promote all aspects of sustainability and climate protection in order to protect our environment for future generations – “for a better life”. The foundation’s supporters include the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association, the Liechtenstein Association of Professional Trustees, the Liechtenstein Investment Fund Association, the Liechtenstein Insurance Association LVV and the University of Liechtenstein. Bringing together the worlds of business, academia and politics, the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein has become a driving force and a private-public partnership that reaches out to key sustainability players and brings them all together.

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