

The Peat Reduction Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

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The Task:

Cope with climate change - EU to be carbon-neutral by 2050
- > long-term strategy

Production of Peat in Germany

- Peat is continuously depleted
still about 10. 000 ha in Lower Saxony in use
production ~ 8 Mio. m³
- Very few new exploration rights

Consumption of Peat in Germany

- large peat export: 6.1 Mio. m³
- About 4.9 Mio. m³ home consumption
 - of which
 - about 2.7 Mio. m³ in the professional sector
 - about 2.1 Mio. m³ for private uses

Climate Protection Plan 2050

- Use of peat as growing media or soil improver in the in amateur gardening and landscape gardening can be reduced by advice and information
- guidelines for the use of peat substitutes in the procurement directives for public landscaping contracts
- advice and information measures for the professional sector
- research program on peat substitutes

Coalition Agreement

for the 19th legislative period

Establish a peat reduction strategy which provides climate friendly substitutes to peat

and do not

- annoy people
- risk the growing media industry
- harm horticultural production

Timeline

2016: Climate Protection Plan 2050

2017: Coalition Agreement

2018: beginning of ...

The Way Forward:

Replace peat in a manner which is

- social accepted
- ecological appropriate
- economical feasible

Social Acceptance

Climate change is a big issue in Germany

- but peat is not the major climate gas provider
- but peat is a well established production means since 60 years

but peat is a visible symbol for climate gas

major players are willing to adapt

- > let's talk with them !

Players on the field:

- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Growing media industry
- Substitute providers
- Professional gardeners
- Leisure gardeners
- Equipement providers
- Research

First steps

- discussions with the individual horticultural sectors
2 principles: 'voluntariness' and
'transparency'
- guidelines for the use of peat substitutes in the procurement
directives for public landscaping contracts
- Self commitment of the landscape contractors

Ecological Appropriate

Ecologic footprint of peat and its substitutes

e.g. wood fibre

coco mark

compost (bark, landscape residues etc.)

leonardit

...

research results not before 2021

Economic Feasibility

success indicators

competitiveness within the EU

availability of substitutes

knowledge generation

knowledge implementation

Timeline

2016: Climate Protection Plan 2050

2017: Coalition Agreement

2018: beginning of discussions with the sector

2019: demonstration projects for ornamental plant gardeners
guidelines for public landscaping contracts
decision on research projects

2020: research projects running
information for consumers

the amateur gardening and landscape gardening sectors will end
peat use faster than the commercial horticulture

Thank you very much
for your attention!