

Austrian National Platform - Good MRV practices -

The overarching good practice in Austria is the centralized approach originating at the national level. However, there are also underlying good practices, which are described in detail below:

Financed capacities for MRV in municipalities

The Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) funds capacity-building in ten Austrian pioneer cities. Through these capacities, the cities gain competencies and develop know-how. The cities can use these capacities to create administrative positions that oversee MRV. Although there is no legal mandate to provide these services, there is huge demand in the cities. These capacities serve as an incentive to accelerate the transition, and personnel positions are an important building block of it.

Governance structures often receive too little attention in relation to achieving climate neutrality goals in cities. **Climate governance** is not yet firmly embedded in the structures of many cities. This instrument's innovation lies in creating these positions in cities through RTI funding and thus embedding climate mitigation within the administration. Without this instrument, this would never have happened to this extent and at this speed. Alongside this new, innovative funding instrument, there is an **accompanying support process** in which cities can exchange knowledge, for example, about MRV in their cities.

CHALLENGE: A major challenge with this instrument is that it is a **temporary measure** dependent on RTI funding, so it cannot fund long-term measures. While this funding instrument can provide an initial push, the cities must anchor these capacities within their own administrations and take responsibility for doing so. It is difficult to obtain political commitment from the federal government and local politicians, and even more challenging to maintain it, particularly during election periods. A resilient system that can endure these times has yet to be established. Additional building blocks and adaptability to new aims are needed.

Developed a carbon accounting tool

The Ministry (BMIMI) commissioned the development of a standardized carbon accounting tool for the ten large pioneer cities. This tool enables greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting in accordance with the GPC protocol. It addresses the common problem in Austrian municipalities of a lack of tools and data for GHG accounting, and it was the first step in supporting cities with these issues and bringing them together. Before this tool was developed, the approach to GHG accounting in Austrian cities was unclear and disorganized. Many tools were created, most of them used standardized data sets, which show to be unreliable in terms of the city scales. The development of this tool helped to bring together all the relevant people in the cities. However, more questions and problems arose during the process than was expected. Nevertheless, it was a starting point, making underlying issues more visible and raising awareness in the administrations for the process and its challenges. The tool is usable and offers calculation methods.

Established a GHG accounting city working group

The number of questions that arose during the development of the GHG accounting tool led to the establishment of a working group consisting of the people responsible for GHG accounting within city administrations. In order for Austrian cities to adopt a common approach, a coordination process is required. This working group is working on that coordination and is also a way for the members to support each other with knowledge and know-how. Initially, the entire group addressed every topic that arose. From the general approach of Austrian cities to small, detailed questions regarding individual calculation factors. While this proved a good starting point, over time it became clear that forming smaller subgroups of 4–7 people, organized solely by those people, was a more practical and efficient approach. These groups work on over ten subtopics, such as 'Data quality', 'Accounting of the city administration' and 'Mobility'. Currently, the entire group meets once a month for an hour and a half and every six months for a full-day physical meeting. The subgroups meet irregularly. This working group is a process that is currently moderated by SIR. The role of SIR is to coordinate the group meetings, host the exchange and document outcomes. Generally speaking, the group could also be self-organised by the cities, in order to provide a format through which the cities' carbon accounting personnel can communicate beyond the period of the mission.

Assigned role of city management

The role of city management (in KNS SIR takes this role) is extremely valuable for the entire KNS initiative. At the beginning of the process, it is helpful to have a driving force that prepares meetings and documents, supports the cities, acts as a moderator, creates an agenda and organizes everything. If the cities were left alone at the beginning, the process would not work.

Organised a joint trial of Climate View for the cities

The ministry has arranged a one-year trial of Climate View for the ten largest pioneer cities. This allows the cities to test an impact monitoring tool that also enables communication with the political and administrative authorities and the local population.

Funded reasearch linked to MRV

The ministry funded a flagship project called ClimateLENS, which is developing a prototype system for greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring based on satellite data.

ClimateLENS | KlimaBLICK is an Austrian project developing a prototype satellite-based system for GHG emission monitoring at both national and municipal levels. It addresses a key gap: while national reporting obligations exist under the UNFCCC, sub-national entities like cities currently have no mandatory monitoring requirements, leading to fragmented and incomplete data.

The system integrates earth observation data, advanced atmospheric modelling, and climate protection indicators (urban heat island, green spaces, surface temperatures) to give cities actionable, data-driven insights for their climate strategies. Results will be publicly accessible via the GTIF-AT platform and tested in selected Austrian pilot cities.

More information is available [here](#).

