

Groundbreaking ceremony - small wind turbine at Sonnenplatz Großschönau

On Tuesday, October 4th 2022, the turning of the first sod for project “Small wind turbines for a resilient and sustainable energy system by Smart Cities”, or simply **SmallWind4Cities**, took place.

The University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien is in charge of the scientific accompaniment of said project, while Großschönau and Tulln serve as locations for demonstrating small wind turbines, which are being set up by Blue Power GmbH, an Austrian company that specializes in everything wind energy.

In the municipality of Großschönau, these small wind turbines are being built into one of the halls that are part of the Sonnenwelt, which is located at Sonnenplatz. These turbines will measure an approximate height of eight meters and achieve a rated output of around one kilowatt.

The groundbreaking on October 4th was a first-time opportunity for accessing information around the topic of small wind turbines, as well as a chance to exchange information with industry representatives. Additionally, facts about **SmallWind4Cities** were discussed in an open and transparent manner and numerous residents and other interested groups, even beyond municipality borders, seized this opportunity.

Project aims include topics such as location assessment, approval procedures and acceptance by the general public, which means that especially factors like subjective noise sensation, safety concerns, etc. are of significant importance.

The turning of the first sod, accompanied by the informational event about small wind turbines, successfully reduced and dissolved possible insecurities and fears around the construction of the wind turbines. Moreover, project partners agreed on the following terms: If residents should feel uncomfortable, a first attempt at solving matters will be to improve and adapt the implemented technologies. The deconstruction of the wind turbines will serve as a last resort only.

Experts agree – the technology around small wind turbines represents the optimal complement to photovoltaics. Thus, specifically targeted informational events are intended to help raise awareness around this topic and help it reach acceptance within the general public.

SmallWind4Cities is subsidized by climate and energy funds that are part of a program line called “Smart Cities Demo”. The overarching goal is the application of research into the real world, as well as establishing locations of demonstration and experimentation, which in turn will generate added value for everyone.