

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRACTICES

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MUNICIPALITIES – THE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Wawrzyńcowe Hudy, Ujsoły municipality, source:
Inter-municipal association for ecology in Żywiec

Why is environmental education crucial in the Silesian Province?

The Silesian Province, as one of the most industrialised regions in Poland, has been struggling with environmental challenges for years. The burden on the ecosystem caused by heavy industry, dust emissions and air pollution, as well as intensive urbanisation, make caring for the natural environment particularly important here.

In this situation, the environmental education plays a key role in building awareness and changing the residents' attitudes towards the challenges related to nature conservation.

In the region where the problem smog and environmental degradation is felt every day, environmental education helps to understand how personal action, such as sorting waste, saving energy, or using public transport can contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.

What is more, engaging local communities in environmental projects, such as creating green spaces, workshops on renewable energy sources or campaigns related to clean air, helps to unite residents around a common goal – sustainable development of the region.

Silesia is also a region of remarkable potential when it comes to environmental transformation. Investment in cutting-edge technologies and renewable energy sources has to go hand in hand with education so that residents understand the resulting benefits. It is thanks to conscious and committed citizens that it is possible to build a more environmentally friendly future for the province.

Thus, environmental education becomes not just an obligation, but also an opportunity to create a modern, environmentally friendly region that is attractive to live in.



Educational activities at the Environmental Education Centre at the City Botanical Garden in
Zabrze, source: City Botanical Garden in Zabrze

The special role of municipalities in shaping environmental attitudes

Environmental education conducted by municipalities is particularly important because, as the administration level closest to residents, they have a unique opportunity to effectively reach different social groups. Thanks to the knowledge of local needs and problems, they can focus on specific environmental challenges, such as air pollution, waste management, or protection of local ecosystems. Local campaigns and initiatives raise awareness of residents on their impact on the environment and show how everyday activities can contribute to improving the quality of life.

Educational programmes carried out by municipalities, especially those aimed at children and adolescents, have a long-term effect and shape environment-oriented attitudes of future generations.

Additionally, municipalities can combine educational activities with investment, for example, by creating green-blue infrastructure, renewable energy source installations, modernisation of the water and sewage infrastructure, which fosters the local sustainable development.

Thanks to cooperation with local schools, businesses and non-governmental organisations, municipalities can engage residents in activities environment-oriented,

Environmental education in a nutshell

- ❖ ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
- ❖ SHAPING ATTITUDES
- ❖ DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SKILLS
- ❖ ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY
- ❖ CROSS-SECTOR EDUCATION
- ❖ UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL CHALLENGES
- ❖ PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- ❖ RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- ❖ INTEGRATING SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE
- ❖ CHANGING MINDSETS AND HABITS



Award ceremony during the 2023 Pumpkin Festival –
“Feeling green” competition,
source: Racibórz City Hall

building the sense of common responsibility for the environment.

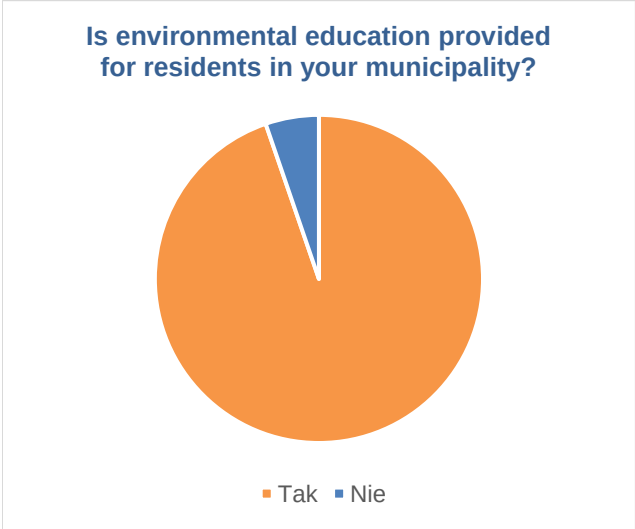
Local initiatives are effective and easier to adjust to the specifics of a given community, which makes it possible to achieve better results with limited resources. Moreover, thanks to the environmental education, residents start feeling responsible for the environment in their vicinity, which leads to increased commitment and care for the common good. Education conducted by municipalities not only addresses current environmental challenges, but also builds foundations for a greener future.

Survey and promoting good environment-oriented practices

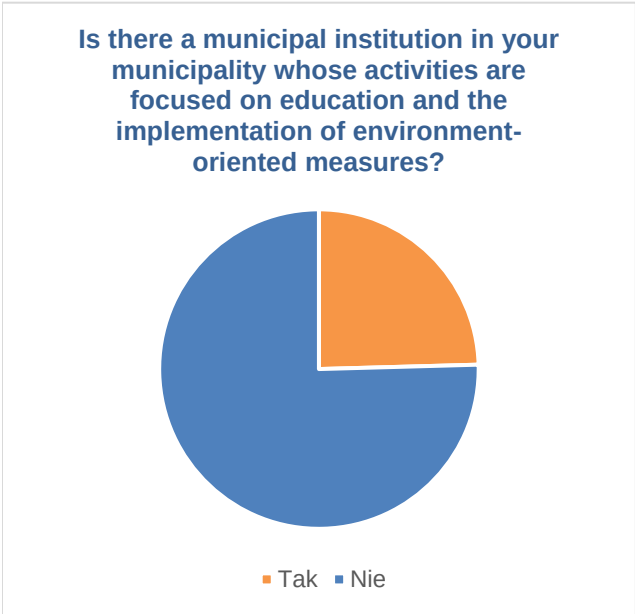
To support and promote good environment-oriented practices in the Silesian Province municipalities, a detailed survey has been developed, which has been provided to all 74 municipalities that are the co-beneficiaries of the “Silesia. Blue Sky Restored” project, data has been gathered and then analysed to develop this paper.

From among 74 partner municipalities, as many as 55 provided detailed data on actions carried out to improve air quality and other actions that contribute to a noticeable change in residents’ quality of life.

It is worth highlighting that, from among 55 municipalities, as many as 51 conducts environmental education for residents from various age groups.



Municipal educational institutions



Fifteen municipalities of the Silesian Province have various educational institutions that conduct valuable programmes related to environmental education. Thanks to their

commitment, residents – children, adolescents, as well as adults – have an opportunity to raise their environmental awareness, gain knowledge on nature and participate in various workshops and educational projects.

The work of local institutions specialising in promoting ecology and environment-oriented activities is extremely important for several key reasons:

1. Social education and changing attitudes

Through workshops, information campaigns and educational programmes, institutions encourage residents to take action to protect the environment, e.g. by sorting waste, saving energy and water, or choosing environmentally friendly means of transport.

2. Implementation of local environmental programmes

Local authorities can coordinate and implement local projects such as the construction of green roofs, city parks, sewage treatment plants and solar farms. In this way, they contribute to sustainable development at the local level, supporting the achievement of global environmental goals.

3. Improving the quality of life

Environmental projects, such as the development of green infrastructure, noise reduction and air quality improvement, have a direct impact on the health and comfort of residents. City greenery not only improves the aesthetics of a city, but also acts as a natural air conditioner, reduces stress and supports biodiversity.

4. Protection of local natural resources

Environmental institutions monitor and manage local resources such as water, soil, fauna and flora. This helps prevent environmental degradation, protect endangered species and ensure the sustainable use of resources.

5. Support in obtaining funding

Specialised entities can apply more effectively for national and international funds earmarked for environmental protection.

6. Building a community engaged in ecology

These institutions bring residents together around environment-oriented activities by organising events such as clean-up campaigns, tree planting and eco-friendly festivals.

7. Counteracting the effects of climate change

Local measures, such as adaptation to climate change (e.g. creating water retention systems or greening urban spaces), can significantly reduce the negative effects of global change on a micro scale.

8. An example for other entities and regions

Cities with active environmental institutions are becoming leaders in sustainable development, setting an example for neighbouring municipalities and inspiring other communities to take similar action.



“Easter hugging” in Rydułtowy, source: Rydułtowy Municipal Office



Save our climate! – Lipie municipality, source: Association of Municipalities and Districts of the Northern Subregion of the Silesian Province

Gmina Gierałtowice zaprasza do udziału w akcji

DRZEWKO ZA ODPADY

7 października
od godziny 8:00 do 12:00
w Punkcie Selektywnej Zbiórki Odpadów Komunalnych
ul. K. Miarki 89a w Gierałtowicach

Będzie możliwość otrzymania drzewka lub krzewu w zamian za dostarczenie odpadów

Mile widziane surowce wtórne i elektroprzęt

Ważne:

- Jedno drzewko lub krzew przypada na jedną nieruchomość (jedną kartę PSZOK).
- Wstęp tylko za okazaniem karty PSZOK. Jeżeli nie posiadasz karty należy udać się do Urzędu Gminy Gierałtowice w celu jej wyrobienia.

Śląskie Przywracamy błękit, LIFE, NFOŚiGW, Województwo Śląskie, Gmina Gierałtowice

LIFE20 IPE/PL/000007 - LIFE-IP AQP-SILESIA-SKY

Source: Gierałtowice Municipal Office



Photography competition “Krzepice Municipality under the blue sky,” source: Krzepice Municipal Office

MUNICIPALITIES OF THE SILESIAN PROVINCE WITH ACTIVE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In **Racibórz**, educational activities are organised by the **Moravian Gate Arboretum** and the **Education Centre at the Ryszard Kincl Municipal and District Library in Racibórz**. The mission of the Environmental Education Centre operating at the library is broadly defined environmental education, implemented in the form of workshops, lectures and competitions. The centre helps visitors learn about nature and its secrets, teaches them how to care for it, and promotes conscious consumer choices. Its activities are aimed at all age groups. The Environmental Education Centre also collects specialist literature on environmental and nature protection.

In **Zabrze**, the **Environmental Education Centre at the City Botanical Garden** has been operating since 2019, organising nature classes to raise environmental awareness and promote knowledge about the environment for all age groups. The City Botanical Garden is a perfect space to observe nature and hold outdoor lessons. It is an ideal place to learn about nature as it provides students with direct contact with nature. The Centre offers a wide range of lessons conducted by a few educators, and the range is constantly expanding and adjusting to the needs of recipients.

In the **Wisła** municipality, the “Wisła Otwarta Turystycznie” social cooperative runs the Wisła **Environmental Education Centre**, which focuses on enriching the nature knowledge of residents and visitors, raising awareness of human impact on the environment, and promoting sustainable use of natural resources. This institution offers a rich programme of lessons for schools and organised groups, including workshops, training courses, meetings, special events, and events on environmental topics.

In **Skoczów**, Environmental activities have been carried out since 2021 by the **Environmental Education Centre**, which was established as part of the project “Ochrona obszarów nadwodnych poprzez wykorzystanie lokalnych zasobów przyrodniczych wraz z kampanią informacyjno-edukacyjną w Gminie Skoczów” (*Protection of riparian areas through the use of local natural resources, together with an information and education campaign in the municipality of Skoczów*). The centre provides an opportunity to learn about the rich fauna and flora of the municipality. An important issue raised in the exhibitions is environmental issues and learning how to behave in a way that benefits the natural environment. The centre is divided into nine themed rooms, which contain natural and educational information presented

in an interesting and engaging way.

In **Tarnowskie Góry**, educational activities related to ecology are carried out by the **Tarnowskie Góry Cultural Centre**, which offers various initiatives aimed at residents. The town initiated, for example, environmental competitions combined with fishing competitions, ecological and educational workshops “Eko-kraina” (*Eco-realm*) and EKO-DZIEŃ (*ECO-DAY*). A video about renewable energy sources was also created. A conference “EKO TG – Jak nie truć i oszczędzać?” (*EKO TG – How to avoid polluting and save money?*) and “Tarnogórskie Święto Drzewa” (*Tarnowskie Góry Tree Day*) were also held. Protection measures were also taken to preserve the otter’s habitat, protect bees from Varroa mites, and preserve the chestnut trees in Tarnowskie Góry. The “Metropolitalna Łąka Kwietna” (*Metropolitan Flower Meadow*) project was also implemented. Ecological management of natural resources was promoted, gadgets for achieving ecological goals and rainwater tanks were purchased. In addition, projects were carried out to build bird feeders and hedgehog houses. It is also worth mentioning presentations, papers, articles, information in the local press and on the town’s website, radio broadcasts, as well as the creation of the **EkoTG** profile on social networks. In order to spread awareness about the environment and provide information about activities undertaken in the municipality, information was posted on the website, including in the Public Information Bulletin, BIOS and other customary means. Information was also posted on the website dedicated to municipal waste management. Residents were provided with a **mobile application** offering, for example, a schedule for the collection of specific types of waste, rules for waste sorting, and information about the Municipal Waste Selective Collection Point. In addition, 25,000 information leaflets were commissioned for residents concerning the anti-smog resolution and the obligation to submit heat source declarations to the Central Register of Building Emissions. The leaflets were sent to residents along with their tax decisions. Posters promoting events related to ecology and the promotion of the city were also printed. The municipality also monitors air quality using Airly sensors. Tarnowskie Góry also joined the campaign as part of the “**Czyste, Zielone Miasta**” (*Clean, Green Cities*) project. In addition, public consultations were held on community forests.

In turn, the **Agricultural Advisory Centre** operates in the **Żarnowiec** municipality, focusing on agricultural, forestry and rural areas.



Educational activities at the Moravian Gate Arboretum, Source: Moravian Gate Arboretum



Centre for Environmental Education in Zabrze, source: website of the City Botanical Garden



The Environmental Education Centre building in Wisła, Source: Website of the Environmental Education Centre building in Wisła



Source: Website of the Environmental Education Centre in Skoczów



Źródło: website of the Egzotarium in Sosnowiec



Workshops entitled “Tajemnice lasu” (*Secrets of the Forest*) as part of the “Ekokulturalni z GCKiS” (*Eco-culture with GCKiS*) project, source: Municipal Centre for Culture and Sport in Bobrowniki



A walk around Cieszyn following the traces of wildlife in the city, source: Cieszyn city information service

In **Bielsko-Biała** there is an “Ekosynteza” Environmental Education Centre. The logo depicts an infographic symbolising man’s concern for nature. A man immersed in the natural environment experiences its cyclical transformation captured in the form of multicoloured leaves. The man sees and respects this, which is expressed by his open, trusting hand. It is the Environmental Education Centre that is to become a space for learning about and protecting our native fauna and flora. The entire logo is enclosed in a symbolic circle of life and interdependence, also indicating the synthesis of knowledge, resources and activities aimed at nature conservation.

In **Bobrowniki**, 2024 saw workshops for children as part of the “Ekokulturalni z GCKiS” (*Eco-culture with GCKiS*) task. The „Dzkie wędrwanie” (*Wild fishing*) workshops helped little adventurers to take a break from screens and spend valuable time outdoors with their peers. During the workshops, children explored local nature, learned how to protect our environment, and took part in interactive and educational games, which developed their environmental awareness. Bobrowniki went for environmental workshops, such as those for primary schools in cooperation with the Silesian Botanical Garden, or “Tajemnice lasu” (*Secrets of the Forest*) in Dobieszowice, where the main theme was forest biodiversity, and the children enthusiastically prepared posters highlighting the diversity of forest plants and animals. Students at the primary school in Dobieszowice also made their own forests in jars.

In turn, in 2022, the Bobrowniki municipality implemented the “Eko-edukacja z Ekobobrem” (*Eco-education with Eco-beaver*) project, which included various events for children, such as Eco-Santa Claus Day, during which the “Środowisko ponad wszystko” (*Environment above all*) programme took place, with the participation of Santa Claus. Meanwhile, an eco-friendly picnic was held in Myszkowice-Łubianki. The municipality also organised environmental workshops entitled “Woda – bezcenny skarb” (*Water – a priceless treasure*), during which topics such as the characteristics of water resources in the Bobrowniki municipality, with particular emphasis on the Brynica River, and raising awareness among children and young people of the need to protect the cleanliness of rivers and water reservoirs were discussed. There was also a competition “Nie ma planety B” (*There is no Planet B*), environmental workshops “Przyroda – znamy i dbamy” (*Nature – known and protected*), which focused on growing the environmental awareness on natural resources in the Silesian Province. It is also worth mentioning environmental workshops called “Boby na straży bioróżnorodności” (*Beavers guarding biodiversity*), during which the history of breeding and protecting beavers in Poland and in the area of the current Bobrowniki municipality was explained.



Source: social media of the Centre

In **Cieszyn**, within the “Cieszyn School of Environmental Thinking,” there were meetings, workshops and nature walks, for example, a walk around Cieszyn following the traces of wildlife in the city. One of the meetings held as part of the project was entitled “Fourth Nature, Soil Science and Miyawaki Forests,” during which the following questions were answered: Are more biodiverse cities more liveable cities? How does urban nature evolve – from “first nature” to “fourth nature”? Why does everything start with “healthy” soil? Why do cities need nature, and how should it be designed? Are Polish cities doomed to become concrete jungles? Is there room for spontaneous greenery? The speaker also discussed contemporary environmental trends in design and opportunities for regenerating urban ecosystems. As part of the educational campaign “Cieszyn School of Environmental Thinking,” there were also “zero waste home – the Earth S.O.S” workshop where participants could get to know if, for example, the climate crisis are just popular slogans, what happens to our climate and what the future holds. Another event as part of the educational undertaking was a lecture on energy transformation. There was also a cycle of workshops on municipal waste management where students got to know how to sort waste properly and how to reduce its generation. The young people learned about new available solutions in various areas of life that can help reduce the generation of waste and curb its adverse effect on the environment. What is more, as part of the National Independence Day in 2023, the city residents planted a pocket forest (Miyawaki forest) in the Podgórze neighbourhood in Cieszyn.

In 2024, Cieszyn also commenced the “Cieszyn – self-sustaining city” project, financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021. A key element of the project is, for example, environmental education, which in 2022-2023 gave rise to the “Cieszyn School of Environmental Thinking,” 5 educational trips of Cieszyn residents to the municipal installation, that is, Zakład Gospodarki Odpadami S.A. in Bielsko-Biała, cooking workshops ZERO WASTE KITCHEN, and the Environmental Picnic for students of Cieszyn schools. Cieszyn also held festivals and environmental picnics – for example, an environmental picnic with the Kultureska theatre – which featured an environmental play “Talent Bouquet”, which aimed at raising children’s environmental awareness by teaching them about nature conservation. The play raised the issue of recycling, waste sorting, and zero waste. It also shaped environmental culture habits in places where we plan, learn, and rest. It showed children that by proper everyday habits, they can protect the environment. The picnic also featured other attractions, for example, ecological games involving exercise, Ecological Wheel of Fortune – a competition for families, ecological championships, and ecological riddles, a giant soap bubble show, as well as singing original environmental songs. The environmental activities of Cieszyn also included: a flea market for second-hand clothes and a gardening competition “Cieszyn miastem kwiatów i zieleni” (*Cieszyn – city of flowers and greenery*).

In **Radlin**, in 2022, funds obtained in 2021 from the government programme “**Laboratories of the Future**” were utilised. Thanks to the funding received, modern classrooms have been created in all schools. Between 2018 and 2023, schools in Radlin obtained funding from the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Katowice. Each school has established laboratories for natural sciences, biology and chemistry classes.

Also in Radlin, as part of the work on Jordan Park, in 2023, an educational zone was created at the Monument to the Victims of the Reden Shaft, which presents the history of this place, as well as a maze zone with plants. In October 2023, an educational and informational campaign entitled “**Odpady segregujesz - zdrowie zyskujesz!**” (*Sort your waste – gain health!*) was conducted in Radlin. The project was co-financed by the the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness among Radlin residents about waste management issues, in particular the proper segregation of waste and reducing its volume, recycling and disposal, as well as promoting the waste collection point. The information and education campaign began with the release of a two-minute animation showing the purpose of the Radlin Selective Municipal Waste Collection Point. In addition, the information and education campaign was combined with an environmental event, while as part of the International Earth Day celebrations, a debate was held on the topic of “What does the forest give us?”, followed by a forest clean-up campaign under the slogan “When we clean up the forest, we can breathe clean air!”. A total of 100 people took part in the event. As a result of the forest clean-up campaign, several bags of waste were collected.

Gliwice organise social actions related to curbing emissions, energy efficiency, and using renewable energy sources, including: publishing information materials on the city’s communication channels. There was also a campaign promoting tap water “**Gliwicka z głębin**” (*Gliwice water from the depths*), which aimed to create a positively-viewed brand “Gliwicka z głębin” that would encourage the residents to drink tap water, as well as the water fountains on the streets of Gliwice action, as part of which drinking water fountains in the form of stations for filling water bottles or flasks were introduced into urban spaces. Moreover, the **Environmental Education Centre** has been established to conduct information and education activities related to the necessity to properly handle hazardous waste.

It should be remembered that the Palm House has been operating in Gliwice for over 100 years, where, in addition to various species of plants, you can encounter



Competition “Cieszyn miastem kwiatów i zieleni”, source: Cieszyn city information service



Opening of the Environmental Information Centre – “Ekosfera”, source: Ornontowice Municipal Portal



Opening of the Environmental Information Centre – “Ekosfera”, source: Ornontowice Municipal Portal



Award ceremony during the 2023 Pumpkin Festival – “Zielono Mi” competition, Racibórz City Hall website



In October 2022, at Preschool No. 23, the first rain garden was created, source: Racibórz City Hall

also smaller animals. The building is divided into various zones where users can feel differences in air temperature and humidity depending on the environmental preferences of fauna and flora.

In **Ornontowice**, in June 2023, the first edition of the “**Ekopracownia pod chmurką**” (*Eco-workshop under the open sky*) competition was decided. The aim of the competition was to subsidise tasks related to the creation of spaces on the premises of educational institutions for teaching nature, biology, ecology, geography, geology, etc. in primary and secondary schools in the Silesian Province. The task also includes earthworks related to site preparation, the purchase and planting of shrubs, flowers and herbs, the purchase of small gardening equipment, a smog LED display, an interactive beehive, a dendrophone, birdhouses and bug houses, teaching resources, sensory trail elements, and the purchase and installation street furniture. All this will serve students and preschoolers, promoting the idea of protecting and shaping the natural environment. The municipality also hosted the Trashchallenge campaign, which encouraged residents to clean up their immediate surroundings: roadsides, ditches, groves and forests.

Another project in the Ornontowice municipality was an information and education campaign on air protection conducted in 2024, entitled “**W naszych rękach błękit naszego nieba**” (*The blue of our sky is in our hands*). The first stage of the campaign was the publication and distribution of the AIR PROTECTION Guide to residents. This paper was a compendium of issues related to atmospheric air protection in the broad sense. The municipality also held environmental competitions in schools, environmental plays in kindergartens, and meetings with residents as part of the “Clean Air” programme.

In the **Rydułtowy** municipality, in 2022, schools participated in the “**Projekt Edukacyjna Sieć Antysmogowa**” (*Anti-Smog Educational Network Project*) – air sensors. The municipality also undertook educational activities – lessons, meetings and workshops on the subject of smog. In addition, residents planted anti-smog plants. There was also a nationwide educational project “**Z Ekologią na Ty**” (*All about the environment*), which included creating a young ecologist’s code of conduct, holding competitions, creating advertising slogans, and making decorations for an eco-Christmas tree. There was also a trip to the forest with a forester, and green corners – eco-absorbers – were established. Earth Day was also celebrated in Rydułtowy under the slogan “Invest in our planet”, with the aim of raising awareness of the need to protect nature. An environmental knowledge competition was held, as well as campaigns such as “**Las w słoiku**” (*Forest in a Jar*), “**Moja torba ekologiczna**” (*My Eco-Friendly Bag*), “**Zielono nam najbardziej**” (*We Are Greenest*), and competitions: “**Coś z niczego**” (*Something from nothing*), “**Zielone wyspy**” (*Green islands*).

It is worth noting that one of the schools in Rydułtowy has introduced an “ecological holiday” into the after-school club’s schedule. The school also teaches students how to save energy and how to sort waste properly, as well as why burning waste is harmful. It also organises clean-up campaigns and joint clean-ups of the school grounds. The school also held a Tree Day, during which pupils walked around the school, identifying plants and learning about their role in improving air quality.

In addition, students planted trees on the school grounds. The air quality was also checked before each visit to the school playground. They were taught how to use weather applications (Weatheronline, Windy, portal.chmi.cz).

In another school, students took part in a nationwide project called “Razem działamy czysto oddychamy” (*Together we act, together we breathe clean air*). The project “**Nauka da się lubić**” (*Science Can Be Fun*) was also implemented, as part of which classes entitled “Nature Can Be Enjoyable” were conducted, as well as other classes on topics such as soil pollution as a result of air pollution, the impact of proper breathing and voice emission in a polluted environment on health, and caring for our planet as part of Earth Day. There were also brochures about saving energy, the dangers of burning waste in furnaces, and the use of old coal- burning furnaces that emit pollutants.

The municipality also held workshops on the climate crisis and the importance of forests, entitled “**The climate crisis and cities**”. There was also the creation of small forests in jars. One of the kindergartens ran a project promoting a healthy lifestyle called “**Klub Zdrowego Przedszkolaka**” (*Healthy Preschooler Club*), and the “Czyste powietrze wokół nas” (*Clean Air Around Us*) programme was also continued. In addition, there was an educational campaign called “**Lekcje Ciepła**” (*Heat Lessons*), which aimed to teach through play, by reading stories about energy production and saving, as well as combating smog. There were also plays, ecological trips, and an ecological theatre play entitled “**SMOG WAWELSKI**” (*Wawel Smog*), performed by a group of children. An eco-fashion show was also organised, promoting the idea of a clean environment, the need for waste sorting and the possibility of creating items from waste. A trip to the Rydułtowy District Heating Plant was also organised. In addition, the “Lekcje Ciepła” (*Heat Lessons*) and “**Ekokulturalne przedszkole**” (*Eco-cultural Kindergarten*) programmes were implemented.

In the **Psary** municipality, educational activities are carried out by the **Municipal Cultural Centre i Gródkowo**. The Centre offers classes to children that promote environmental action. The Centre also annually organises the “Environmental Culture Day”. The initiatives recently implemented by the Centre cover, for example: workshops on designing a green garden, workshops on domestic ways to protect the environment, as well as the en plein-air. All these activities focus on raising environmental awareness, especially among children. The municipality also held workshops on building nesting boxes for birds and bug hotels. In primary school, grades 1-3, the Municipal Services Authority carried out a campaign promoting water conservation.

In **Dąbrowa Górnicza**, the Department of Environmental Protection organises every

Why are environmental measures implemented in educational institutions so important?

Education of future generations

- Schools and preschools shape habits and attitudes of children and adolescents that will stay with them throughout their lives. Promoting environmental awareness at a young age increases the chance that future generations will care more for the environment.
- Children learn how their everyday choices, such sorting waste, saving energy and water can positively influence the environment.

Building social awareness

- By environmental education in schools, knowledge and good practices penetrate the communities – they reach parents, guardians, or local residents. Educational institutions may be a catalyst for an entire community’s change.

Practical learning of responsibility

- Environmental activities, such establishing school gardens, electrical waste collection, or planting trees teach children responsibility for the environment. They give a sense of agency and motivate people to take action to protect nature.

Reducing the environmental footprint of schools

- Educational institutions, through environmental initiatives, such PV panel installation, saving energy, or reducing plastic can curb their environmental impact. It is a practical example that inspires students to act.

Preparing for the challenges of the future

- The climate crisis, environmental pollution and waste management are challenges that current generations of young people will have to face. Early education in environmental protection prepares them for their future roles in a society and economy based on sustainable development.

Shaping values

- Values such as respect for nature, responsibility for one’s actions and care for the common good are an integral part of environmental education. Schools play a key role in implementing them.

year, for example, Earth Day celebrations, **whose theme in 2024 was wild animals in the city**. The initiative was supposed to answer questions of residents: How should you behave when you come face to face with a fox or a wild boar? Where should you report an encounter of a wild animal, often injured and in need of help? Finally, how to feed animals wisely and how to avoid “inviting” them into our neighbourhoods and properties. The celebration promoted positive practices that support animals in our cities and eliminate conflicts with humans.



The “Z pamiętnika młodego ogrodnika” (*From the Diary of a Young Gardener*) competition, source: Racibórz City Hall



Pocket park in Cieszyn, source: Cieszyn Municipal Office



“Dzkie wędrowanie. Wakacyjne warsztaty ekologiczne” (*Wild wandering. Holiday environmental workshops*), source: Municipal Centre for Culture and Sport in Bobrowniki

In **Sosnowiec**, the EGZOTARIUM Environmental Education Centre operates, conducting educational activities, organising environmental events and workshops, and creating educational trails. It is worth noting that this facility has reopened its doors after undergoing extensive renovation. It is a unique combination of a palm house and a zoo. Since 2024, Sosnowiec has been participating in the international CICADA4CE project (climate policy). It also carries out other projects, such as the Bee Path. In addition, the municipality has established cooperation with the Department of Ecological Transformation of its partner city Robuex. There was also a competition called “Zielone innowacje dla szkół” (*Green Innovations for Schools*).

The **Racibórz** municipality held performances on the environmental issues for the residents in the Moravian Gate Arboretum, as well as ecological plays for children in the Racibórz Cultural Centre to celebrate the Earth Day. Apart from that, the city held an ecological festival combined with a cycling eco-race, which aimed to encourage the introduction of sustainable means of transport in cities, the use of public transport, and to promote them among the residents. There was also an ecological festival at the Racibórz Square where it was possible to obtain information on obligations resulting from the anti-smog resolution in force in the Silesian Province, as well as assistance in financing RES investments, heat source replacement and thermal modernisation under available subsidy programmes for residents. Rain gardens were also created in the municipality, accompanied by an educational lecture. There was also a lecture on eco-friendly cosmetics at the District and Municipal Library.

Racibórz also held environmental competitions entitled **“Zielony Racibórz z perspektywy rowerowego siodełka”** (*Green Racibórz from the perspective of a bicycle*), **“Z pamiętnika małego ogrodnika”** (*Diary of a little gardener*) and **“Zielono Mi”** (*Feeling Green*). During the events, educational stands were set up, displaying handmade eco-friendly handicrafts.

Every year, the municipality organises a clean-up campaign, conducts nature walks for residents, and **plants melliferous shrubs in kindergartens**.

Żory also implemented a number of environmental initiatives of educational value, including the funding of activities within environmental education. Beside that, the **“Skrzydlaty odlot”** (*Winged flight*) play was funded and **staged** in the **“Na Starówce”** cinema. The play related to combating smog and was meant for children from schools and preschools in Żory. A provincial environmental competition **“Woda to życie”** (*Water is life*) was also subsidised. Tree and shrub seedlings were purchased and used for planting in educational institutions in Żory on World Tree Day. Other interesting activities included workshops in the form of an eco-town organisation related to renewable energy sources, waste management and air protection.

In **Lyski**, **Krzanowice** and **Pilchowice** municipalities, as part of the environmental education, there were free-of-charge plays called **“Wielka przygoda małej chmurki”** (*The little cloud’s big adventure*). Moreover, the **“Książę and Smog”** (*The Prince and the Smog*) tale was staged and discusses in Pilchowice, and two schools joined the Educational Anti-Smog Network.

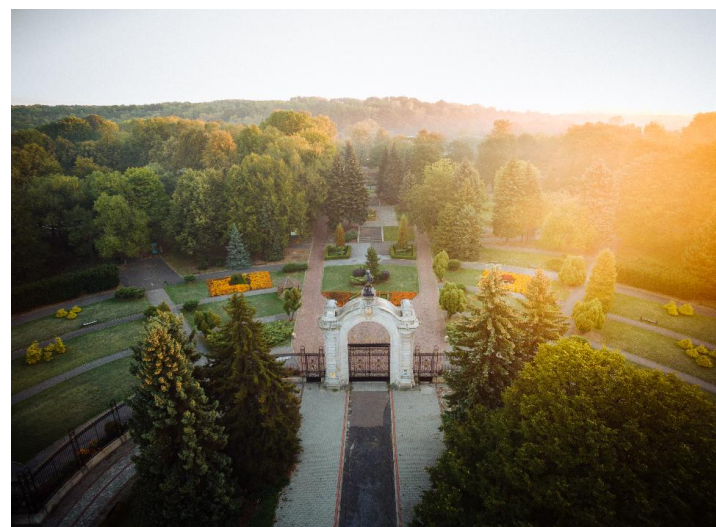
The **Zawiercie** municipality carries out information and educational activities within the proper management of municipal waste. Every year in the City Park, there is also an Ecological picnic, which aims to raise environmental awareness of the residents. One of the most important aspects of the picnic is the collection of municipal waste and its exchange for seedlings. Annually, there are also competitions: **“Zbiórka makulatury”** (*Paper collection*) and **“Zbiórka zużytych baterii”** (*Used batteries collection*) aimed at primary schools and preschools. Moreover, the municipality every year participates in the nationwide Clean Up the World campaign. Besides that, since 2021, as part of educational activities in the field of ecology and proper management of rainwater, the Waste Management Department has been carrying out the **“Czysta Gmina Zawiercie łapie deszczówkę”** (*The Clean Zawiercie Municipality Collects Rainwater*) environmental programme.

In **Będzin**, the municipality purchased and distributed a beekeeping product for spraying beehives **in order to maintain a healthy honeybee population**. Będzin also holds a city clean-up event every year in connection with Earth Day celebrations and the Clean Up the World campaign. There are also environmental competitions, for example, **“Moja Ziemia - Czysty Świat”** (*My Earth – Clean World*) or **“Pamiętajcie o Ogrodach”** (*Don’t forget the gardens*).

Poreba held an environmental picnic **“Zielona przygoda”** (*Green adventure*), combined with the 22nd Papal Run, which featured ecological workshops with science sets, eco-games and competitions with an entertainer, and an environment-themed play by the **“Bajki Agi”** group.

Gierałtowice carries out educational campaigns in schools and preschools, the municipality installs educational boards and issues educational publications.

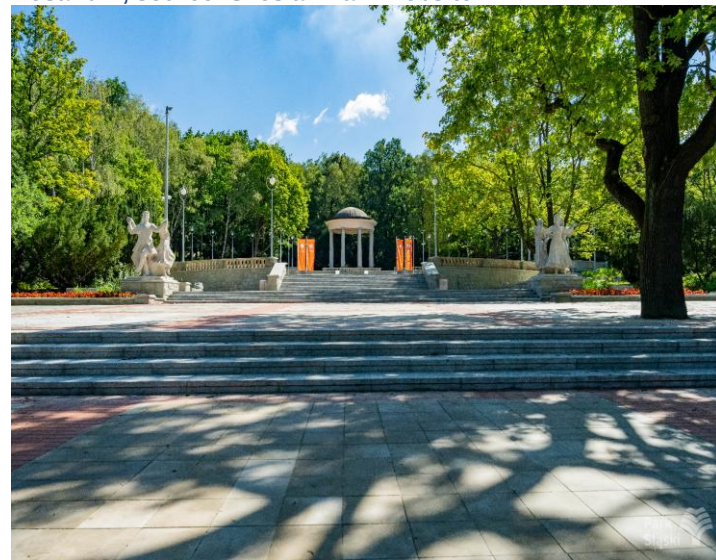
Every year, **Rybnik** organises an event to green up the city. Meanwhile, **Godów** and **Radzionków** carried out river cleaning campaigns. In **Wielowieś**, **Czeladź** and **Świerklaniec** municipalities, environmental actions are implemented by educational and cultural facilities.



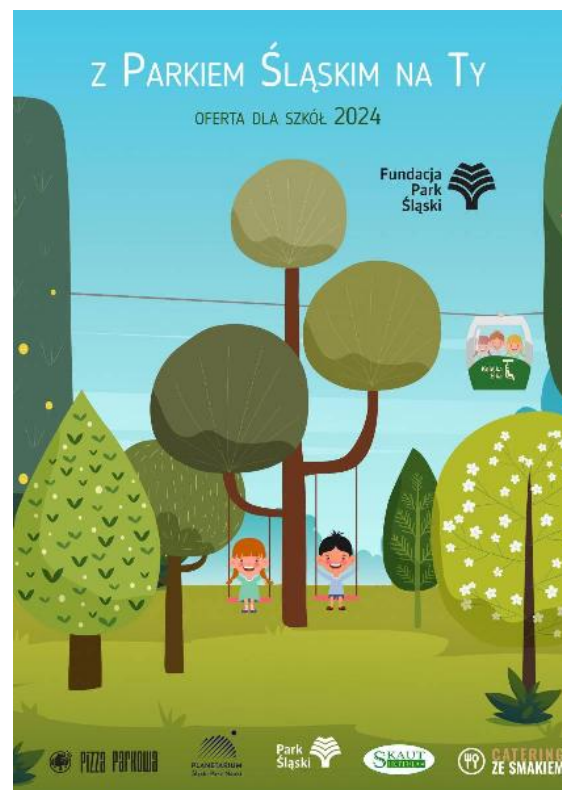
Silesian Zoological Garden, source: Silesian Park website



Rosarium, source: Silesian Park website

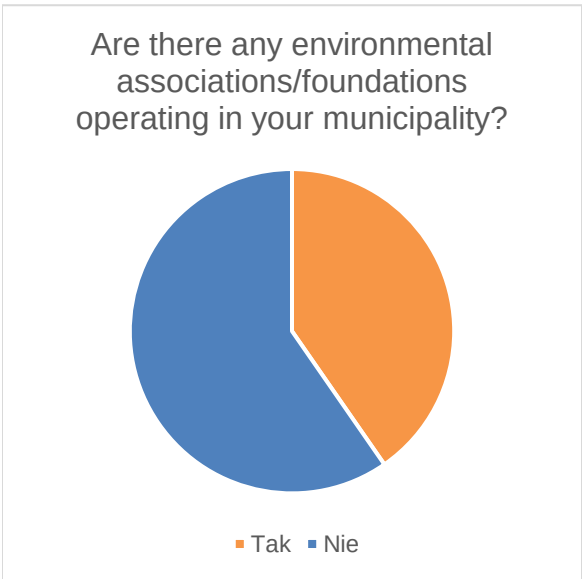


Big Dancing Circle, source: Silesian Park website



Z Parkiem Śląskim na Ty (Meet the Silesian Park), source: Silesian Park website

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS ACTIVE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE SILESIA PROVINCE



There are many different associations and foundations operating in the twenty-four partner municipalities of the “Silesia. Blue Sky Restored” project in the Silesian Province, which are actively involved in activities aimed at protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. The organisations undertake a number of initiatives, that is, environmental education of residents, nature conservation, supporting local communities and promoting an environmentally-friendly lifestyle. Thanks to their operations, residents of the Silesian Province can take part in numerous projects, events, and campaigns, which contribute to building environmental awareness and care for our shared environment.

Radzionków is home to **Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół i Sympatyków Ekologii** (*Association of Friends and Supporters of Ecology*), which provides environmental education at all levels, from preschool to senior citizens, thereby giving people the opportunity to become environmentally conscious people who understand the interdependence of human-environment relations. The key objectives of the Associations are: environmental education of the society as well as provoking and shaping environmental awareness, conducting environment-oriented activities aimed at improving the local environment or restoring it to the natural condition, as well as protecting the environment by following the rule of sustainable development.

In **Rybnik**, environmental activities are carried out, for example, by the **Ecological Foundation EKOTERM SILESIA**, which was responsible for the development and implementation of low emission reduction programmes, development and implementation of a programme on managing energy and utilities, as well as tasks related to the improvement of energy efficiency.

In the **Rydułtowy** municipality, there is **Stowarzyszenie Zdrowe Rydułtowy** (*Healthy Rydułtowy Association*), which initiates environment- and health-oriented operations. It is an organisation working to improve living conditions and protect the environment. Its aim is to promote health and ecology in Rydułtowy and the surrounding area through innovative projects and community activities.

These activities include promoting health and the

local environment, green projects, health education, events and support for local initiatives. Rydułtowy is also home to the **Dobry Duch** (*Good Spirit*) charity shop, which seeks new solutions to strengthen environmental awareness, particularly in the area of reusing items. The organisation is also committed to environmental education, focusing mainly on developing “green skills”, that is, skills, values, and attitudes needed to live, develop, and support sustainable and resource-efficient society. Environmental activities are also carried out by Towarzystwo Miłośników Rydułtów (*Rydułtowy Enthusiasts Society*), which promotes a healthy and active lifestyle, and Moje Miasto Rydułtowy (*My Town Rydułtowy*), which focuses on the protection of animals and natural heritage, as well as health protection and promotion.

Siewierz is home to **Siewierskie Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne “Wawrzynek”** (*Siewierz Ecological Association “Wawrzynek”*), which every year organises the Municipal Ecological Dictation and Ecological Conference, as well as other competitions related to ecology. The Association, in cooperation with the Primary School No. 1 of Księstwo Siewierskie in Siewierz and the School and Preschool Complex in Wojkowice Kościelne, was also responsible for the 14th Municipal Ecological Conference for the Youth, and accompanying events. The Ecological Conference with the “Invest in our Planet” slogan aimed to disseminate knowledge on environmental protection, raise environmental awareness, learn about threats to the environment, and inspire responsibility for its condition, as well as to shape the right attitude towards the environment.

There are a few environmental associations in **Bytom**. The first one – **Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczno-Prozdrowotne “Mały eko-patrol”** (*“Little Eco-Patrol” Environmental and Health Association*) – carries out environmental activities with the participation of children. Meanwhile, **Stowarzyszenie Miechowska Grupa Biegowa** (*Miechowice Running Group Association*) promotes active leisure activities. In addition, **“Towarzystwo Suchogórskie”** (*Suchogórskie Association*) operates in Bytom, bringing together residents and enthusiasts of Sucha Góra and conducting activities related to the environment and nature.

Gliwice can also enjoy a strong social and environmental commitment. There are a few environmental associations. One of them is **Polski Klub Ekologiczny Koło Miejskie w Gliwicach** (*Polish Ecological Club, Gliwice Division*), which aims to shape environmental awareness in the society, provide general environmental education, improve the Polish natural environment, and protect the cultural and natural heritage. **Zielone Gliwice** (*Green Gliwice*) also carries out environment-oriented activities. It is a social movement comprising Fundacja Media 3.0 (*Media 3.0 Foundation*) and Stowarzyszenie zwykłe Ośrodek Studiów o Mieście (*Centre for Urban Studies Ordinary Association*). The aim of the Zielone Gliwice 3.0 (*Green Gliwice 3.0*) project is to create a model to monitor green areas in Gliwice, develop rules for cooperation of local activists and officials in terms of shaping the urban greenery, as well as getting the residents of Gliwice involved in environmental issues.

Gliwice is also home to **Stowarzyszenie Zdrowe Miasto** (*Healthy City Association*), which has an agreement with Centrum 3.0 – Gliwicki Ośrodek Działań Społecznych (*Centre 3.0 – Gliwice Centre for Social Activities*). The Association carries out activities for sustainable development of cities, promotes communication, architectural, and urban solutions that are the best in terms of functional, aesthetic,

Eco-City Award

2024 saw the 11th edition of the ECO-MIASTO (ECO-CITY) competition. It focused on the city's resilience as the ability of cities to survive, adapt, and keep the development direction, despite unfavourable external events.

Awards were granted for:

- energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, air quality,
- sustainable mobility, green-blue infrastructure,
- water management, waste, circular economy.

Among Silesian cities, the award went to:

in the “Circular economy” category” – Rybnik (a city with more than 100,000 residents) – for the Zero Waste Education project + StratKIT + the subsidised Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, which aimed to provide education that addresses the issue of wasting food and ineffective resource management.

Cieszyn (a city with more than 100,000 residents). Given the long-term cooperation of Cieszyn with Cambrai, as well as the comprehensive approach of Cieszyn to the development of the green-blue infrastructure as one of the key aspects of city development, the French Embassy in Poland decided to reward Cieszyn to support the reflection on the role of green-blue infrastructure in

building the city's resilience.



Source: Polish Ecological Club website



Source: Rydułtowy city website

technical, economical, social, and environmental properties. It also works to integrate communities, including preschool children, school and university students from various institutions, representatives of other foundations and associations, professionals from all industries related to investment and city development, as well as enthusiasts supporting the development of Gliwice and the Upper-Silesian Agglomeration.

Zabrze is home to **Zielona Przystań** (Green Harbour) – an association supporting the development of local communities, also working to promote ecology, animal welfare and the protection of natural heritage. The association pursues its goals by creating a functional and friendly place for various social groups to spend time, regenerating wasteland and green areas, organising workshops and events, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. In the city, there is also an ordinary association called **“POD DĘBEM BRYNEK”** (UNDER THE BRYNEK OAKTREE), which primarily aims to promote motor sports, camping and caravanning, but not only that. It also cares for the conservation of nature and the development of activities aimed at improving road safety. The association organises caravanning trips as well as recreational and sporting events for its members. It also provides training for members in the field of caravanning tourism.

It also promotes ecological ideas and nature conservation laws in the life of its members. In turn, Stowarzyszenie Przyrodniczo-Krajoznawcze “Olszynka” (*Olszynka Nature and Local History Association*) promotes and organises a wide range of activities in the field of active recreation, with particular emphasis on nature conservation, ecology, sport and tourism. There is also the **“Sadbre Asso” Association** in Zabrze, which carries out environmental activities to promote and implement any initiatives taken by young people, promote the region, ecology, and environmental protection. It also conducts activities for the sustainable development and promoted a healthy and active lifestyle. The Association pursues its goals by initiating and conducting cultural, information, promotional, scientific, and educational activities, organising actions to promote environmental attitudes, as well as advisory and organisational and economic help.

In **Dąbrowa Górnicza**, there are many associations and foundations that conduct environmental activities. One of them is **Stowarzyszenie “Koń w Służbie Człowieka HUSAR”** (*Horse in the Service of Man HUSAR Association*), which cares for the environment, as well as the natural, cultural, and historical heritage. The association members patrol green areas horseback to prevent fires, combat poaching, informing tourists about the right behaviour in nature, as well as to keep designated horse paths clean. They also establish and maintain feeders for animals, nesting boxes for birds, and stork nests. In Dąbrowa Górnicza, there is also **Fundacja Szkolna Technicznych Zakładów Naukowych** (*School Foundation of Technical Scientific Facilities*), which aims to support education in various areas in Dąbrowa Górnicza, the Zagłębie Dąbrowskie region and Silesia. **Stowarzyszenie Krzewienia Kultury Słowiańskiej “JAWIA”** (*Association for the Promotion of Slavic Culture “JAWIA”*) also carries out environmental activities in the municipality, which aim to promote the history of Polish land and Slavic tribes with their culture, tradition, art, and to promote patriotic, human-oriented, and ecological attitudes. Ecology, education and natural heritage protection are also areas where **Dąbrowskie Stowarzyszenie Sportowe** (*Dąbrowa Górnicza Sports Association*) operates. **Centrum Edukacji Ekologicznej – Ziemia i My** (*Centre for Environmental Education – Earth and Us*) also conducts educational activities in Dąbrowa Górnicza. The goal is to initiate, coordinate, and conduct environmental, cultural, and health education. The entity gets involved in raising environmental awareness among residents. The Centre also promotes the idea of sustainable development, creates a space among local communities to combat the adverse phenomena with regard to protecting nature, the environment, landscape, and culture, as well as carries out educational and popularising activities among children, adolescents, and adults.

Ornontowice municipality saw a two-week action by the Polish Smog Alert – a mini press conference, **Mobilne Płuca** (*Mobile Lungs*), which was conducted with support of the Better Future Foundation – “Zobacz czym oddychasz” (*See what you breathe*). The two-metre-high installation of mobile lungs placed in the municipality centre “breathed” the surrounding air and continuously informed about its pollution. The action showed the poor quality of air breathed by residents and how much work there is with regard to raising awareness among residents to care for the common good, which is clean air. During the action, the lung installation was visited by several school and preschool groups from the School and Preschool Complex in Ornontowice.

In the course of short talks, children got to know in a straightforward way about the support provided by the municipality with regard to replacing inefficient, polluting furnaces and the general rules of caring for the environment.



Mobile Lungs, source: Ornontowice Municipal Office

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRACTICES



Source: social media of the association



Source: Luma Foundation website



Source: Zielone Szkiełko Foundation website

In addition, Ornontowice is home to the **Regional Beekeepers’ Association**, which encourages residents to create flower meadows and plant melliferous plants, and also conducts educational classes for schoolchildren and preschoolers.

In the **Boronów** municipality, there is Stowarzyszenie dla Boronowa (*Association for Boronów*), which **promotes the regional cuisine** and organises various meetings and workshops where residents can learn about the **properties and uses of herbs**. There is also Stowarzyszenie Miłośników Ziemi Boronowskiej (*Boronów Enthusiasts Association*) in the municipality, which, as part of its activities, marked the walking and cycling path around Boronów that shows the most important monuments of the historic, cultural, and natural heritage.

In the **Kroczyce** municipality, Stowarzyszenie Miłośników Jury Krakowsko-Częstochowskiej (*Kraków-Częstochowa Upland Enthusiasts Association*) carries out activities for the protection of natural, landscape and historical values of the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland, as well as its development and the integration of its residents. The Association organises, for example, cultural, sports, and recreational events in the are of Kraków-Częstochowa Upland.

In **Piekary Śląskie**, the environmental activities are conducted by, for example, Piekarskie Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczno–Technologiczne “EKO–TECH SZACHTA” (*Piekary Śląskie Association for Ecology and Technology “EKO-TECH SZACHTA”*), which promotes fishing as a rational form of leisure and recreation. It works for the protection and rational use of waters and the environment and carries out educational activities among adolescents, and environmental education. An additional goal of the Association is to conduct qualitative and quantitative research of microorganisms living in waters and bottom sediment, and their impact on the development of all forms of life. Another interesting organisation is “Włóczybiegi” Association, which carries out activities related to physical culture and sports, health protection, as well as scientific, scientific and technical, and educational activities for the environmental protection, charity, and social help. It primarily promotes sport and a healthy lifestyle. Another organisation carrying out environmental activities in Piekary Śląskie is Związek Ochotniczych Straży Pożarnych Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (*Union of Volunteer Fire Brigades of the Republic of Poland*), including the Volunteer Fire Brigade in Dąbrówka Wielka, which, apart from preventing fires, also participates in rescue missions in the face of ecological threats. It also informs the people about current fire and ecological threats, ways to protect yourself against them, and promotes physical culture and sport among members of the volunteer fire brigade.

There are also some foundations in **Cieszyn**. Fundacja dla Zwierząt i Środowiska “Lepszy Świat” (*Foundation for Animals and the Environment “A Better World”*), in addition to supporting the animal shelter in Cieszyn and running temporary homes for animals, is also involved in educating children and adolescents and environmental activities. Fundacja “Cieszyński Zwierzogród” (*“Cieszyn Zootopia” Foundation*) also helps animals and focuses on protecting their rights in its activities. It also promotes environmental protection, carries out educational activities among children and adolescents to disseminate the model of responsible and proper conduct with animals and promotes healthy eating.

Łaziska Górne is home to Luma Foundation whose task is to support and implement initiatives related to sustainable development based on ecological and social activities. Fundacja Aktywni Społecznie AS (*Socially Active Foundation*) foundation operates in **Ruda Śląska** to protect the environment and animals. It established an ecological site in the Kochłówka Valley. In **Żory**, environmental and alternative education is provided by Zielone Szkiełko Foundation, which increases civic engagement in local communities through its activities. EDUARTE Foundation functions in **Radlin**. It carries out a number of various lessons and workshops for children, adolescents, and adults. **Chorzów** is home to “Nasz Park” Association which looks after the Silesian Park.

POLISH SMOG ALERT SUPPORT IN MUNICIPALITIES

It is worth emphasising that there are as many as 15 Polish Smog Alerts in the Silesian Province, one of which is a community initiative bringing together as many as four municipalities in the Zagłębie region. That is why 12 partners of the “Silesia. Blue Sky Restored” project are cooperating with the Polish Smog Alert. They are: **Zabrze, Będzin, Sosnowiec, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Czeladź, Rybnik, Racibórz, Gliwice, Ustroń, Gierałtowice, Częstochowa, Poraj**.

Activities of the Polish Smog Alert focus on, for example: establishing quality standards for all solid fuels sold in the municipal and residential sector and inspecting the observance of these rules, establishing emission standards for now furnaces and fireplaces sold on the Polish market and inspecting the observance of these rules, establishing and implementing the so-called anti-smog resolutions in regions, which set the date for withdrawal from use of the most polluting furnaces and fireplaces, establishing proper regulations to reduce pollution generated by cars in cities, disseminating knowledge on air pollution and its health repercussions.



Source: social media of the Zagłębiowski Alarm Smogowy

ECO-ADVISOR – guardian of clean air

Eco-advisors work in the Silesian Province municipalities that implement the “Silesia. Blue Sky Restored” project.

Who are they and what do they do?

An eco-advisor is a specialist who provides advice on environmental protection and sustainable development. Their main goal is to support residents, local governments, and organisations in taking environmental activities and obtaining funds for investments related to climate protection.

Eco-advisor’s duties:

- ✔ **Energy advisory** – assistance in selecting environmentally friendly energy sources, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and using renewable energy sources (RES).
- ✔ **Support in obtaining funds** – informing about available subsidies and tax breaks related to environmental protection activities (for example, “Clean Air”, “My Electricity”).
- ✔ **Environmental education** – organising meetings, workshops, and information campaigns on climate change, air protection, waste management, and other ecological aspects.
- ✔ **Cooperation with local governments and organisations** – assistance in developing environmental strategies, analysing air quality and implementing green investments.
- ✔ **Monitoring compliance with the provisions of the anti-smog resolution**

Are eco-advisors needed?

YES!

Meetings and events:

Eco-advisors raise awareness of residents’ of improving air quality during meetings and events organised, which take place in educational facilities and public spaces (e.g., in libraries, municipal facilities, fire brigade depots, churches).
During the above-mentioned meetings, they talk about topics related to, for example, the anti-smog resolution, replacement of inefficient heat sources, increasing energy efficiency of buildings, as well as opportunities to obtain funds for these initiatives.

Since the beginning of the project until 31.12.2024, eco-advisors organised in the Silesian Province a total of **4,199 meetings and events**, which attracted **480,508 people**. In the first three years of the project, eco-advisors reached **759,961 residents** of the Silesian Province.

Check out what has been prepared by an eco-advisor in your municipality ☺

Advice given to residents

Since the beginning of the project until 31.12.2024, eco-advisors gave 279,453 individual advices in the Silesian Province regarding issues related to improving air quality, increasing energy efficiency, and replacing inefficient heat sources.

Educational and information materials

Since the beginning of the project until the end of 2024, eco-advisors distributed **349,817 educational and information materials** during their work, including: 172,832 leaflets and brochures, 6,012 posters, as well as 170,973 other materials, such as pots with seeds, bookmarks with seeds, stress-relief accessories (e.g. clouds), crayons, t-shirts, cotton bags, flash drives, and seedlings, etc.



The Silesian Province also educates on the environment

It should be noted that, the **Silesian Province** is also involved in promoting environmental activities, which is reflected, for example, in the diversity of initiatives carried out in Silesia Park, which include: the EKOPARK Zielona Perła Śląska project, the Silesian Zoological Garden, and the Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park Museum.

Eco-advisors run social media, write articles, appear on the radio and TV

For the first three years of the project, they used them more than **12,176** times. They posted 9,630 posts in social media, 1,881 articles on the Internet, and 557 articles in the press. They participated in 67 radio or TV broadcasts and used other media, such as mass sending of text messages and push notifications, 41 times.

An eco-advisor gives advice on obtaining funds

From the beginning of the project, eco-advisors helped to draw up **9,496** applications to financing institutions (for a total amount of **PLN 132,003,668.65**) and settled **2,374** applications (for a total amount of **PLN 46,735,512.23**).



Ideas for eco-friendly activities in municipalities

EkoSzkoła (Eco-School) – Small steps, big changes!

The aim of the initiative is to raise environmental awareness among children and adolescents, shape environmentally friendly attitudes, and promote environmental protection activities in educational institutions and their surroundings.

Age groups:

Preschools: children aged 3–6.

Primary schools: grades 1–3 (early education), grades 4–8.

Thematic areas:

Nature conservation

- The importance of biodiversity.
- Ways to protect plants and animals.

Waste sorting and recycling

- How to sort waste correctly?
- The second life of items.

Saving resources

- How to save water and energy?
- Impact of consumption on the environment.

Climate change

- What is the greenhouse effect?
- How can we counteract climate change?

Transport and mobility

- Advantages of using public transport, bikes, and walking.
- Curbing CO₂ emissions.

Gardens and plants

- The importance of greenery in cities.
- Establishing school and preschool gardens.

Suggested activities for different age groups:

Preschools (3–6 years old)

1. Art workshops: creating items from recycling (np. toys, decorations).
2. Field lessons: nature walks and observation of animals and plants.
3. Songs and rhymes: learning songs about environmental issues.
4. Establishing a mini garden: planting flowers, vegetables or herbs.

Primary school, grades 1–3

1. Educational games: board games and quizzes on environmental issues.
2. Practical lessons: learning about waste sorting in classrooms.
3. “Small ecologist” project: children prepare posters and presentations on environmental protection.
4. Theme days: e.g. Earth Day, during which competitions and performances are organised.

Primary school, grades 4–8

Social actions: cleaning up the area around the school, collecting electronic waste.

Scientific workshops: experiments on water treatment or the impact of pollution on the environment.

Environmental debates: discussing subjects related to environmental protection.

Long-term projects: e.g. monitoring the use of energy in school, establishing rain gardens.

Methods of programme implementation

Educational activities

- Thematic lessons as part of form time or subjects such as natural science, biology or geography.
- Educational games.

Practical workshops

- Workshops conducted by teachers or invited experts.
- Activities such as planting plants, recycling, creating eco-friendly products.

Events and actions

- Organising thematic days (e.g. Earth Day).
- Actions such as collecting batteries, bottle caps, and electronic waste.

Cooperation with the local communities

- Establishing cooperation with environmental organisations, municipal offices or foundations.
- Organising open ecological events for parents and residents.

Educational materials

- Preparing brochures, posters, and videos.
- Using internet platforms and apps supporting environmental education.

Green Revolution – Earth Day celebration in the municipality

Aim of the event:

Promoting environmental attitudes among the municipality residents through education, joint activities to protect the environment, and building environmental awareness.

Date and place:

Date: 22 April (or the closes weekend) **Location:** City park, square by the municipal office, primary school, cultural centre

Event programme:

Active Participation Zone

- **Municipality clean-up** – residents divided into groups collect rubbish in designated areas.
- **Planting trees and flowers** – joint action to green up public spaces.
- **Recycling in practice** – mobile collection points for electronic waste, plastic bottle caps and batteries.

Knowledge and Inspiration Zone

- **Eco-stands** with presentations on environmental protection, renewable energy sources, and resource conservation.
- **DIY workshops** – creating eco-friendly decorations, bug hotels, learning how to reuse waste.
- **Shows and experiments** related to the impact of human activity on nature.

Fun and Creativity Zone

- **Eco-competitions:** competition for the best recycled outfit, environmental quiz, creative challenges for families.
- **Art workshops:** painting posters and creating collages on environmental topics.
- **A play for children** on environmental protection.

Relaxation and Culture Zone

- **Outdoor ecological cinema** – screening of nature films.
- **Closing concert** featuring local artists.
- **Ecological picnic** – tasting local, healthy products.

Event promotion:

- Posters and leaflets in public spaces.
- Campaign in social media.
- Information on the municipality’s website.
- Cooperation with the local media.

Summary

“Green Revolution” is an event that engages residents in joint activities for the benefit of the environment. Thanks to a variety of activities, there is something for everyone, and the municipality will become more environmentally friendly and aware of the need to protect nature.



Source: Environmental Education Centre in Bielsko-Biala



The grand planting of crocuses in Racibórz, source: Racibórz Municipal Office



source: Bojszowy Municipal Office



Silesian Day at the District Cultural Centre, source: Piekary Śląskie City Hall

Environmental field game – “Green mission – Guardians of nature”

Event description:

“Green mission – Guardians of nature” is an environmental field game for the municipality residents which aims to educate in the field of ecology, promote green infrastructure, and bring the community together through active outdoor play.

Aim of the game:

- Encouraging residents to know local ecosystems.
- Raising awareness of the role of green infrastructure in environmental protection.
- Learning practical environmental actions through interactive tasks.
- Having fun together and building social bonds.

Game mechanics:

 **Teams:** 2-6 people in a team. You can play with your family or friends.

 **Route:** It leads through the green areas of the municipality – parks, forests, meadows and places associated with ecology.

 **Tasks:** At checkpoints, teams carry out various missions:

- **Eco-detective** – recognising native plant and animal species.
- **Save the green future** – quiz on green infrastructure (e.g. the role of flower meadows, rainwater harvesting, urban forests).
- **Recycling journey** – sorting waste on time.
- **Eco-builders** – making birdhouses or bug hotels.
- **Water Guardian Challenge** – task related to water conservation and treatment of water reservoirs.

 Prizes:

Eco-gadgets (reusable bottles, seed kits, books on ecology) and a “Guardian of Nature” certificate for all participants.

Additional attractions

- Educational stands on green infrastructure.
- Ecological workshops for children and adults.
- A picnic at the end with local, ecological products.
- Film screening – outdoor cinema.

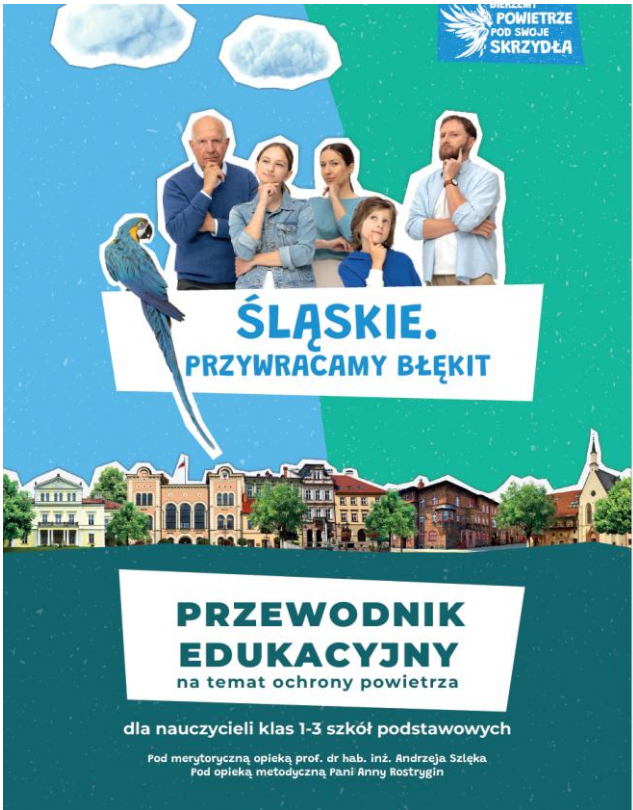


image created using dream.ai

Download our educational guides

On the przywracamyblekit.pl website, in the knowledge base tab – educational materials, there are educational guides for teachers of grades 1-3, 4-8, as well as secondary school teachers on air protection, which contain comprehensive information on how to work together to implement environmental measures.

Download our good practice guides for your home and learn how to improve the thermal comfort of your flat or house by choosing the most economical and environmentally friendly solution.



Educational project - “Air under the magnifying glass”

Aim of the experiments:

Air pollution is one of the most serious challenges faced by the modern world. Every day, we feel its negative effects more and more – from smog in cities to climate change. The aim of the project is to understand how pollution enters the atmosphere, what their properties are, and how we can study it in a simple way, using available materials. Thanks to the experiments, students will not only be able to see, but also feel how our everyday activities affect air quality.

As part of the project, we will conduct a few easy experiments that will make it possible to observe particles of air pollutants, changes in the chemical composition of rainfall, as well as the effectiveness of various filters in air purification. Each experiment will bring us closer to a better understanding of how our environment reacts to pollution and what steps we can take to improve the quality of the air we breathe.

EXPERIMENT NO. 1 Dust trap

Aim:

Showing the amount of pollution in the air.

Materials:

White sheets of paper, petroleum jelly or oil, adhesive tape

Execution:

Spread a thin layer of petroleum jelly or oil on the sheets of paper and stick them in different places (e.g. near a road, in a part, in a classroom). After 24 hours, compare the amount and type of particles trapped.

EXPERIMENT NO. 2 Smoke in a bottle

Aim:

Showing how smoke and dust floats in the air.

Materials:

A plastic bottle, a cigarette or incense, gauze bandage.

Execution:

Place the smouldering source of smoke in the bottle, plug it with gauze and gently squeeze the bottle. Watch how the smoke settles on the walls, revealing the presence of tiny particles.

EXPERIMENT NO. 3 Acid rain index

Aim:

Checking the impact of pollution on the pH of rainfall.

Materials:

Red rose petals or red cabbage juice, rainwater, cups.

Execution:

Add juice or stock to rainwater collected in various locations. If it turns pink, this indicates acidification (presence of sulphur and nitrogen oxides).

EXPERIMENT NO. 4 DIY air filter

Aim:

Testing the effectiveness of various materials in air purification.

Materials:

A fan, different filtration materials (cotton, activated carbon, gauze bandage), white sheet of paper.

Execution:

Fit the filter on the fan and check how much sediment it collects in an hour.

EXPERIMENT NO. 5 Balloon carbon dioxide tester

Aim:

Showing the CO₂ content in exhaled air and its presence in the environment.

Materials:

A balloon, calcium water.

Execution:

Inflate the balloon and blow the air through the tube into the calcium water. Cloudiness in the water confirms the presence of CO₂.

EXPERIMENT NO. 6 Smog box

Aim:

Observing how air pollution affects visibility.

Materials:

A box, water, smoke from incense or cigarettes.

Execution:

Put a piece of white paper or a sheet into the box and create smoke (e.g. using incense or a cigarette). Close the box for a moments and, after it is opened, check how the smoke fill the space and limits visibility. Air pollution may reduce the air transparency, which hinders visibility, similarly to smog in cities.

EXPERIMENT NO. 7 Detection of nitrogen oxides

Aim:

Demonstrating the presence of nitrogen oxides in the air which are generated by car and industry exhaust fumes.

Materials: A white sheet of paper, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), water.

Execution:

Mix the ascorbic acid with water and spray the white sheet of paper with it. Then move the sheet closer to car exhaust fumes or to a place where pollution is likely to occur (e.g. near a busy road). Watch how the sheet’s colour changes. Nitrogen oxides in exhaust fumes cause a chemical reaction, changing the sheet’s colour to yellow or brown, which shows the presence of pollution.



School Anti-Smog Team Połomia. Initiative – w taking photographs of hand-made lungs once a week and checking how their colour changes over the course of a week.

ŚLĄSKIE PRZYWRACAMY BŁĘKIT



Projekt zintegrowany LIFE „Śląskie. Przywracamy błękit”. Kompleksowa realizacja Programu ochrony powietrza dla województwa śląskiego.



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