

Digitalization in the circular economy

Dialogue process on potentials and challenges

On behalf of the UBA (Umweltbundesamt), bifa is conducting a stakeholder dialog on the topic of „Potentials and challenges of digitalization in the circular economy“.

On the basis of selected topics, the question will be addressed what potential digitalization offers in this field, how it can be harnessed in particular in the avoidance and recycling of waste, and where flanking support needs to be provided by the authorities.

The aim is to assess now where environmental policy decisions need to be made. Current discussion flows and development trends are to be reflected. The aim is to find out which forward-looking developments are already being implemented thanks to modern information and communications technology and where key players in the recycling and value chain as well as other stakeholders, experts and specialists see particular potential for the environment.

The dialog process comprises three steps

- > **Group interviews:** Fundamental and overarching questions about digitalization in the circular economy.
- > **Online workshop 1:** Closing the loop: How can digitalization help improve marketability and market access of plastic recycles?
- > **Online workshop 2:** Digitalization and citizen communication in the circular economy

The actual dialog process is scheduled to start in the second quarter of 2021.

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Environmental protection with staying power: Reverie?

Talk am Technikum and 30 years of bifa: one day – two events

Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource consumption – Environmental protection is becoming increasingly important, but time is running out. What is the current situation? What should we expect in the future? Is it even possible to avert the imminent massive damage? But above all: What is to be done?

The third talk at bifa’s technical center is dedicated to these questions. In lectures and panel discussions we will have an intensive interdisciplinary discussion with top-class experts.

We invite you

On the occasion of our anniversary, we invite you to this exciting, all-day event. Afterwards we will celebrate „30 years bifa Umweltinstitut“. Take the opportunity to exchange ideas with decision makers from economy, municipalities and science, from politics and administration. Register in time. Participation in both events is free of charge and the number of participants is limited. We look forward to seeing you on September 29.



You can also find the event flyer on our website.

The Talk am Technikum is supported by: vf bifa e. V., the sponsoring association of the bifa Umweltinstitut.

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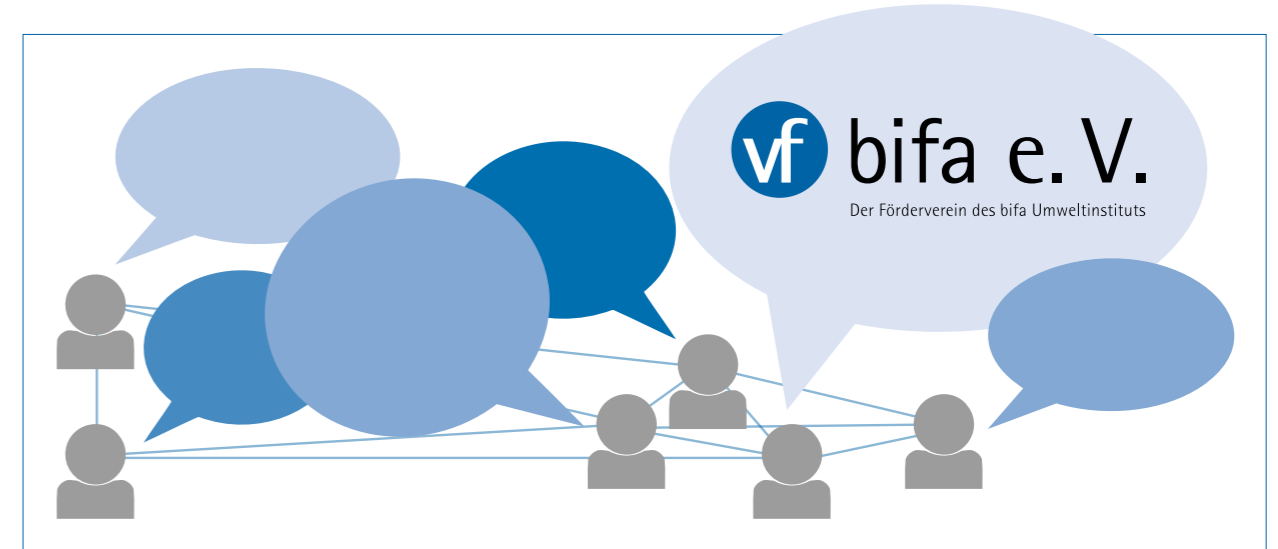
aktuell

newsletter of bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH



Now even more attractive

vf bifa e. V. – The supporting association of the bifa Umweltinstitut



For many years now, bifa has had a supporting association, which has repeatedly given us valuable support, especially in the start-up phase of the institute and in strategically critical situations.

could be won. Further interested parties have announced their intention to join.

What is new?

Among other things, it is new that the vf bifa will also support short studies of the institute financially and ideationally in the future. In this way, bifa will have the opportunity to work on topics that receive too little attention in the public debate and in the professional discussion. The topics for these studies are determined on proposal of bifa in agreement with the association. The project results are published as special issues in the >>

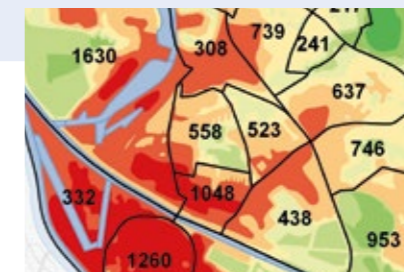
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and member of Umwelttechnologie-Cluster Bayern e.V. www.umweltcluster.net



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Photos: title and page 2 (below): Stadt Zwickau; page 4 (below): pixabay.com; all further: bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH

>> publication series bifa-Texte. Before that, they are discussed exclusively with the members of vf bifa and revised if necessary. The bifa authors are completely independent. They decide for themselves whether and in what way they will take into account the comments of the association members.

The association also stimulates new fields of activity and offers of bifa. For example, it supports the financing of the bifa event „Talk am Technikum“, which takes place every two years. This year, the theme of the conference is „Environmental protection with staying power: Reverie?“ (for more details see p. 4). Of course, members of vf-bifa

have priority in registering for the always well-attended free event with a limited number of participants.

Members of the association take part exclusively in the annual joint meetings of the bifa advisory board and vf bifa, in which, in addition to strategic issues important to bifa, presentations by bifa employees and advisory board or vf bifa members are discussed and the exchange among each other is cultivated. And also beyond that, the exchange between the members of the association will be intensified.

Furthermore, members of the association will receive the latest publications from the bifa-Texte series free of charge in the future, and they will of course have direct access to the bifa experts.



Become part of the bifa network

The vf bifa forms the bridge between bifa and its customers and research partners. Become a member, support bifa, participate in the development of new research approaches as well as in exciting and current interdisciplinary discussions and benefit from the exchange in the diverse circle of friends of the bifa Umweltinstitut.

Further information and the application for membership can be found here: <https://www.bifa.de/bifa/netzwerke/vf-bifa-ev>

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Desire for more electromobility, but...

A digital mobility platform for Zwickau

With the project „Z-MOVE 2025“ („Zwickauer Mobilitätsmanagement für berufsbedingte Verkehrsbewegungen 2025“), the city of Zwickau participated with bifa as a subcontractor in the competition „MobilitätsWerkStadt 2025“ of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF). As one of 50 municipalities in Germany, Zwickau was selected by a jury with this project. The one-year pilot phase has now been completed.

The aim of the pilot phase was to develop sustainable, locally appropriate mobility concepts and, in particular, to make work-related traffic more sustainable. After all, the routes to, from and during work account for two-thirds of the total transport performance of employed people throughout Germany. This causes a number of problems that road users themselves, as well as society and the environment, have to deal with. Zwickau's mobility stakeholders from the city administration, transport service providers, associations, companies and the research community have therefore formed a network to jointly

develop new solutions in workshops based on traffic analyses and representative surveys.

The results show that inner-city commuting behavior cannot be viewed in isolation from surrounding regions. Zwickau is a city with a commuter surplus, >>

How do you rate the accessibility of your workplace for the various modes of transport?



Accessibility of the workplace per means of transport

>> i.e. more people drive to Zwickau to work than leave Zwickau every day for work. For this reason the development of a local digital mobility platform is considered very sensible by many responders and experts alike. Thus, making traffic flows, in particular commutes to work, more environmentally friendly and above all, more user friendly.

However, the surveys also revealed that more than half of the over 900 survey participants do see electromobility as an interesting technology that can help reduce traffic-related climate pollution. Nevertheless, there is still skepticism in large parts of the participant spectrum

with regard to the charging infrastructure as well as the charging process, the acquisition costs and the range. However, this could be due to the fact that almost two-thirds of the respondents have never come into contact with electromobility.

The digital mobility platform to be implemented in phase 2 of „Z-MOVE 2025“, probably starting in the summer of 2021, will take up these analyses in order to develop user-friendly offers and draw conclusions for mobility-friendly planning.

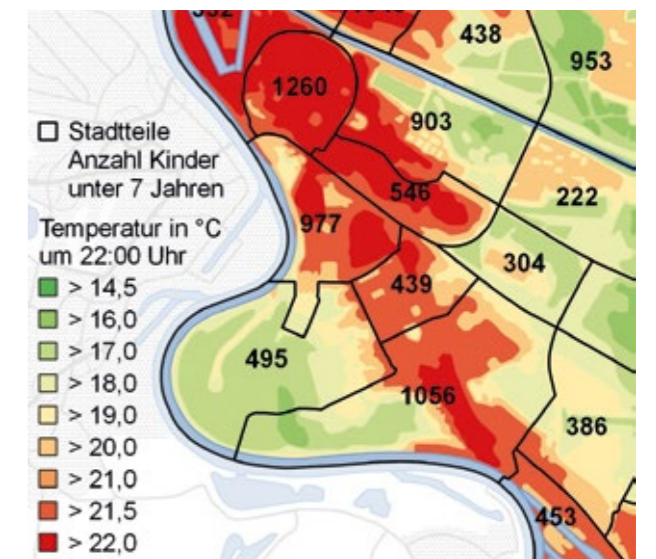
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Healthy through the summer

bifa creates heat action plan for Mannheim

The city on the Oberrheingraben ranks top in Germany for heat waves – for vulnerable people in particular, that can lead to health problems and even heat-related mortality. Mannheim will therefore be one of the first municipalities in Germany to draw up a heat action plan and has commissioned the consortium of bifa (project management), Green Adapt and gsf to do so.

Mannheim has developed its own participation concept for its heat action plan together with the coordination office for citizen participation, departments such as the Youth Welfare Office and the Health Office as well as a project support group. The consortium around bifa has been implementing the concept since November 2020 and has already conducted numerous interviews with multipliers of vulnerable groups such as small children, chronically ill people or homeless people.



First results and planned steps

The results were presented on February 3 in an initial workshop with around 40 representatives from the city council and administration, citizens and multipliers, and were then discussed in greater depth in working groups. Specific educational and awareness-raising measures were developed, as well as crisis management meas-

ures, and the question of where and how these people in particular can best be reached was explored. The next workshop will develop the coordination structure and communication cascade of the heat action plan. Its pilot phase is planned for summer 2021.

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BRIEFLY INFORMED

EVENTS

- > „Berliner Abfallwirtschafts- und Energiekonferenz“ on June 10 and 11, 2021
bifa contribution: Sector coupling at waste treatment plants – options and success factors
- > 22. Bayerische Abfall- und Deponietage on June 23 and 24, 2021, Augsburg

NEW PUBLICATION

bifa-Text No. 70 „Sustainable paper cycle – a factbasis“ can be ordered via www.bifa.de (in German only)

