4.2025

aktuell

newsletter bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH

bifa Umweltinstitut

Climate adaptation in municipalities

Climate adaptation concepts and heat action plans as part of municipal public services

Climate change is advancing and climatic changes will continue to intensify: above all, a sharp rise in temperature, combined with extreme heat events, will become more frequent.

For local authorities, it is therefore a key public service task to embed climate adaptation and heat protection in urban processes and to implement measures. This is because a lack of or insufficient adaptation increases the vulnerability of local authorities and causes high follow-up costs in the event of damage.

Climate adaptation concepts and heat action plans

These are key tools for identifying risks, taking targeted countermeasures and reducing damage. Based on its many years of experience and expertise in the field of climate adaptation, bifa offers the development and implementation of locally appropriate, application-oriented and highly effective adaptation concepts and heat action plans. Unique selling points include a participatory approach with the continuous and consistent involvement of local stakeholders, as well as content support and processing by interdisciplinary project teams con- >>

page 2 EPD in the context of the new Construction Products Regulation (EU)
Bridge to sustainable construction products and the circular economy

page 3 vf bifa e. V. at the AI Production Network Augsburg
Review of the 2nd association meeting 2025

page 4 Review Talk im Technikum
Prosperity at its limits – how can we save our resources?

>> sisting of social scientists, engineers and economists. In doing so, bifa pursues a consulting concept that does not seek to impose ready-made solutions and concepts 'from outside.' Rather, local decision-makers, experts and stakeholders are involved and, with the help of technical input, enabled to jointly identify and implement consensus-based and locally appropriate concepts and measures. This stakeholder-oriented, holistic and systemic approach can also yield unexpected insights, innovative strategies with a high degree of practical relevance, and a strong commitment on the part of those involved to the concept and implementation of the adaptation measures developed. Instead of transferring standard solutions, measures that are acceptable to all and tailored to the specific situation are developed jointly.

Current projects

Since the summer, bifa has been developing a heat action plan for the city of Aschaffenburg. The aim is to link proven health care strategies with municipal structures, protect particularly vulnerable groups and prepare the city for heat waves. Here, too, the focus is on a participatory approach in order to create an effective, sustainable and locally appropriate action plan.

Developing a climate adaptation concept for the city of Merzig has been bifa's focus since November 2025. This involves systematically pooling existing knowledge, analysing regional challenges and climate risks, and working with local stakeholders to develop sustainable measures to prepare Merzig as best as possible for extreme events such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and drought.

Contact: Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch
nwarkotsch@bifa.de

EPD in the context of the new Construction Products Regulation (EU)

Bridge to sustainable construction products and circular economy

The new 'BauPVO' will come into effect in January 2026 and, for the first time, will define binding regulations for taking environmental and climate protection into account throughout the entire life cycle of construction products.

With the introduction of the digital product passport, comprehensive environmental information such as material composition, recycling content and carbon footprint will be made transparent and digitally accessible. An Environmental Product Declaration according to EN 15804 (EPD) is the established procedure for consistently providing the required environmental information.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

As a scientific institute, we support manufacturers in creating EPDs to make their construction products future-proof. Thanks to our extensive project experience in various industries, we not only contribute methodological expertise, but also a deep understanding of industry-specific challenges. By consistently incorporating resource conservation and circularity aspects, we identify new potential for sustainable growth and innovation in the construction industry.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular benefit from our cost-efficient solutions for measuring the environmental sustainability of construction products. This allows regulatory requirements to be combined with practical added value for product and market development.

Contact: Thorsten Pitschke
tpitschke@bifa.de

The vf bifa e. V. support association at the Augsburg AI Production Network

Review of the 2nd association meeting in 2025

The meeting offered a varied programme with insights from science and research. A particular highlight was the appointment of Prof. Wolfgang Rommel as an honorary member.

The long-standing managing director of the bifa Environmental Institute was honoured for his services to the association. In addition, the meeting reviewed the successful 'heat network' workshop held in July 2025 and presented the upcoming 'critical raw materials' workshop, which is to be held in July 2026.

New additions and current projects

New members introduced themselves and ongoing projects were presented in a flashlight presentation. Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch provided information on current research topics at bifa. In a conversation between Dr Wolfgang Spiegel and Prof. Wolfgang Rommel, participants gained insights into 30 years of environmental research. In his presentation on applied microbiology, Dr Felix Biefel (bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH) highlighted the potential of microbiological processes for addressing ecological challenges.

Finally, the participants visited the AI production network in Augsburg. The meeting once again highlighted the importance of exchange between companies, science, and the bifa Umweltinstitut and has made the association optimistic about the coming year.

Contact: Anita Gottlieb
agottlieb@bifa.de

bifa at trade and industry fairs in 2026

Where encounters, exchange and innovation come together

We look forward to welcoming you in person to the 27th Bavarian Waste and Landfill Days and IFAT 2026 Munich. Take this opportunity to talk directly to our experts and discuss new ideas, solutions and opportunities for cooperation.

Bavarian Waste and Landfill Days 2025: Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch, Anita Gottlieb and Markus Schönheits

27th Bavarian Waste and Landfill Days on 25 and 26 March 2026 at the Kongress am Park in Augsburg

The event addresses current issues in the circular economy and landfill technology and is aimed at plant operators, waste disposal authorities, licensing authorities, specialist agencies and specialist lawyers. It serves as a forum for exchanging information on new legal and technical developments and discussing current issues in waste disposal practice.

IFAT Munich on 4–7 May 2026 – the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management

With over 3,000 exhibitors from more than 60 countries, the event will showcase innovative solutions for a sustainable circular economy. It will also feature the latest trends in resource management, climate protection and digitalisation. IFAT is therefore the ideal meeting place for experts who want to design innovative environmental solutions.

Contact: Anita Gottlieb
agottlieb@bifa.de

Review Talk im Technikum

Prosperity at its limits – how can we save our resources?

Panel discussion with Thomas Weber, Dr Rüdiger Recknagel, Prof. Wolfgang Rommel, Prof. Nadine Warkotsch, Dr Wolfram Dietz and Prof. Alexander König

On 9 October 2025, we had the opportunity to discuss the future of our resources with more than 100 guests and leading experts from science, business, politics, and society.

The event was opened by Bavaria's Environment Minister Thorsten Glauber, who emphasised our shared responsibility for climate and resource protection. The Mayor of Augsburg, Eva Weber, and Dr Marc Lucassen (IHK Schwaben) also welcomed the guests and paid tribute to Prof. Dr Wolfgang Rommel, who was given a ceremonial send-off after many years at the helm of the bifa Environmental Institute.

Environment Minister Thorsten Glauber gives the opening speech

The focus was on pressing questions

How critical is the current situation? What scenarios do we need to consider for the future? And how can we still prevent impending damage to the climate, the environment, and society? There was also discussion of whether our political and economic structures provide sufficient support for long-term action.

High-ranking representatives from AUDI AG, WWF Germany, the Wuppertal Institute and the Technical University of Munich enriched the event. The contributions of Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch and Dr Wolfram Dietz from bifa were also greatly appreciated. The afternoon was moderated by Thomas Weber, who skilfully guided the dialogue between the different perspectives.

The lively discussion and the subsequent panel discussion provided space for intensive exchange. Many guests seized the opportunity to gain new impetus for their own activities in companies, local authorities or institutions.

Contact: Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch
nwarkotsch@bifa.de

und im Umwelttechnologie-Cluster Bayern e. V.
www.umweltcluster.net

UmweltCluster Bayern

bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH ist Mitglied im Förderverein KUMAS e. V.
www.kumas.de

KUMAS UMWELTNETZWERK

Redaktion:
Anita Gottlieb
Tel. +49 821 7000-229
presse@bifa.de

V.i.S.d.P.:
Geschäftsführung
Prof. Dr Nadine Warkotsch,
Thomas Weber

bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH
Am Mittleren Moos 46
86167 Augsburg

Tel. +49 821 7000-0
Fax. +49 821 7000-100
solutions@bifa.de
www.bifa.de

Fotos: Titel und S. 2 (unten): stock.adobe.com/Maksym; S. 2 (oben): stock.adobe.com/Lukas Bast; S. 3 (unten): KUMAS – Kompetenzzentrum Umwelt e. V.; alle weiteren: bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH