

Edible Cities Network Integrating Edible City Solutions for social, resilient & sustainably productive cities



Social cohesion, environmental justice, human health & wellbeing



Our expertise to foster ECS

Transition Oststeiermark is a not-for-profit positive grassroots NGO that operates in and around Gleisdorf in south-eastern Austria. It was created in 2012 and registered as an association on 30-01-2013.

We think that an environmentally friendly way of life is characterised by improved quality of life, an expanding number of social contacts, and increasing meaningfulness. By engaging citizens in active projects we can stimulate community awareness and create a world that lives in harmony - with nature, and with our fellow human beings - and improve the quality of life for generations to come.

Transition Oststeiermark is part of the global Transition Towns Network, a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world and achieve a resilient society free of fossil fuels in a planned and smooth way. A key idea is to make concrete small steps together in groups to ease the transition.

The NGO consists of people working together in different groups, supporting a repair initiative (Repair Café), planning the erection of PV systems on individual and public houses, and closing resource loops, not least by making settlements edible.

We are also contributing to the Transition Austria hub, that is the Austrian liaison to 27 other national or regional hubs around the globe, to make the transition really happen, learn from others and spread what we may have learned.

Besides being transitioners, members are contributing in their specific field of expertise to politics and the design of policies at various levels, teaching from kindergarten to university, to dissemination and awareness raising and to a series of other initiatives, that contribute to sustainability, e.g. Fridays for Future, endorsing them as Transition for Future and directly contributing, Critical Mass Gleisdorf, UniNeTZ, a cooperation of 16 Austrian universities working at national strategies towards the SDGs, etc.

The Municipality of Gleisdorf has a matching programme between garden owners and people looking for a garden they can take care of. The programme is run by an NGO, Chance B, which is also involved in social work, care and offering meaningful jobs to long term jobless persons. Transition Oststeiermark has started a cooperation with the NGO and the municipality to transform this programme into a full-grown edible city Gleisdorf.



Our Team

The core team consists of David Neil Bird, Germaid Puhr, Martin Regelsberger and François Veynandt.

For various tasks other groups of people join us in our work to create sustainable systems or to write about them and raise awareness.

David Neil Bird is an expert on land use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the evaluation of GHG emission reductions as a result of improved land management and the use of biomass as well as the impact of climate change on natural and human environments.

Germaid Puhr is green party leader of Sinabelkirchen, a town in the region Oststeiermark, which has started its path towards edibility with an orchard meadow.

Martin Regelsberger is expert in sustainable water management and closed loop substance flow strategies linked to water.

François Veynandt is a researcher on renewable energy and environmental management.

Our Role in the Project

Participate in the design of Nature Based 'Edible City' Solutions regarding water and urban substance flows, which need to be turned into cascades and closed loops.

Contribute practical experience in community involvement and co-design.

Involve Transition Towns and the entire global Transition Network in the edible cities network in both directions.

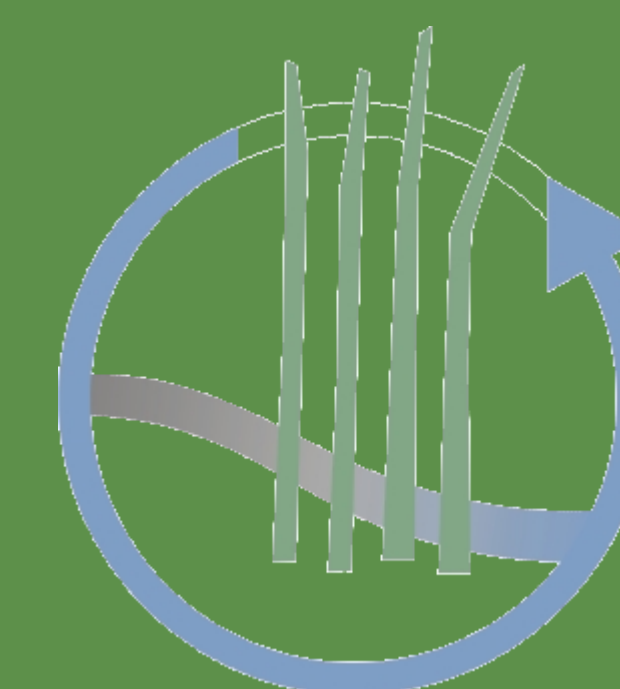
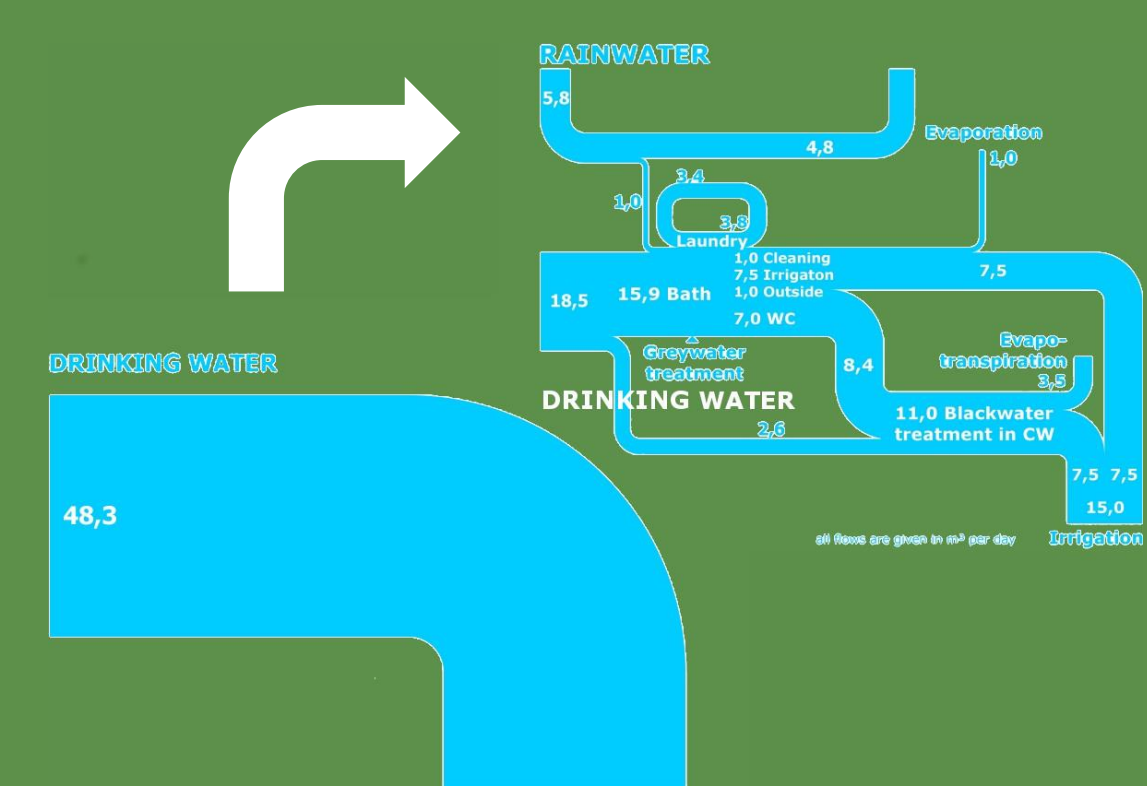
Participate in dissemination efforts.

Our best practice examples

Dissemination and awareness raising



Improvements in water management through diversification



Circular nature based solutions

A global network of over 1000 Transition Towns interested in or practising urban agriculture and raising awareness for it in order to turn their place into edible cities.



Co-design of neighbourhoods

Celebrations in communities

