

# BUND



Independent. Competent.  
On a local and on a global level.

Bund für  
Umwelt und  
Naturschutz  
Deutschland

# BUND – a citizen's movement



Where alleys are cut down, where animals are kept in mass stocks, or when the runtime of nuclear plants is prolonged: that is when and where you can count on BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany). BUND demands environmental protection, organic farming, sustainable land use, more renewable energy resources and less fossil fuel's burning as well as transport policies that combine mobility and protection of the environment.

For this, we challenge large trade associations and consolidated companies. And this we do successfully. To give just one example: Energy companies were planning to build more than 20 new coal-fired power plants in Germany. For our climate, this would be a catastrophe. Six of these power plants were successfully inhibited already. For this work, for the protection of our nature and environment, we need the support of our members. Without our regional branches and local groups our work would not be as successful as it is. Against the financial power of a few we put forward the engagement of many.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Hubert Weiger'.

Prof. Dr. Hubert Weiger  
Chairman

BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-confessional federal grassroots NGO with more than 470,000 members and supporters. Donations and membership fees make up almost 80 per cent of BUND's revenue and ensure its political independence.

BUND was founded in 1975. Now, as then, there are many reasons to get involved in nature conservation and environmental protection, which is why BUND members have been working voluntarily since our founding in local and district groups in the service of nature.

Organised in 2,200 local groups and initiatives, committed and competent people are taking actions against the destruction of nature and the environment.

They develop ideas concerning, for example, the expansion of bicycle paths or the renaturation of waters. They advise citizens on environmental topics, and contribute to shaping and conceiving future Agenda 21 strategies on the municipal level. They initiate campaigns to promote the switch to public transport, energy saving measures and waste prevention concepts.

BUND members collaborate closely with the authorities in taking responsibility for the management of nature reserves.

They carry out advanced training sessions on nature conservation and environmental protection. Above all, BUND's focus is on how we want to live in the future. What constitutes a sustainable political approach which is environmentally-friendly and ensures the right to an equitable existence for both our children and the people in the southern hemisphere?

# Preserve nature, protect the environment



BUND is effectively involved in working on the enormous challenges of environmental policy. Our commitment to foster the use of renewable energies, to ban the production of genetically modified food and fodder, and to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals in everyday life is always based on concrete alternative options and solutions. Tackling the ecological questions of the future requires the development of integrative policies. For example:

Transport policy has to be linked to regional planning policy since, e.g., the construction of shopping centres in non-urban territories leads to a higher volume of traffic in these areas.

Landscape policy also has to be nature conservation policy, considering the well-being of people, soils, and animals.

Chemicals policy needs to ensure that our health and the environment take priority over the industry's concern for profits.

Trade associations and big corporations invest millions in lobbying to push through their agendas in Brussels and Berlin thus blocking, for example, the improvement of health protection

and the switch to renewable energies. BUND responds at national and international levels, in close cooperation with its partners within the Friends of the Earth network. In Brussels, we organise demonstrations in front of the EU parliament or we initiate public debates on environmental issues and hold informal talks with delegates at international climate change conferences.



# Think globally – Friends of the Earth



## **BUND international**

Environmental destruction goes beyond national borders. So does our commitment. Since 1989 we have been the German partner organisation in the global Friends of the Earth network.

Together we make a strong and committed stand on the political stage, and aside from campaigning for climate protection we also demand ecological justice. Friends of the Earth act as a counterbalance to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and powerful multinational corporations. Our core task in the coming years is to prioritise ecological and social issues in globalisation and to achieve equitable solutions for people and nature. Our assets are our members, supporters and friends. Every single person can help to make the Friends of the Earth network grow further through their personal commitment.

## **BUND partners**

Economy and ecology do not have to contradict each other. That is why BUND from time to time approaches the business sector to cooperate in jointly finding new possibilities to develop greener products and services. Through a partnership with the Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt) and a German department store, BUND did e.g. inform parents and school children about the advantages of ecological school supplies. We also collaborate with the insurance company RheinLand Versicherungen. We continuously review their policies to include additional ecological services and to adopt appropriate amendments wherever possible. BUND members can, moreover, benefit from special discounts on those insurance policies. BUND partners are companies with a good record of environmental responsibility. Many of them provide their services for BUND members at favourable rates.

# BUNDjugend – the youth section of BUND



... and now, we just have to save the earth! Although we do not have any magic spells to halt the loss of biodiversity, to prevent climate change or to stop the destruction of rain forests, more and more youths and children in BUNDjugend are looking for solutions.

By now, more than 40,000 young BUND people are involved in 600 youth and 200 children's groups. Our success is remarkable, ranging from the nationwide projects "The Bet" and the children's environment day, to the "Adopt a Brook" programme and local toad protection activities.

It is obvious that young people are particularly interested in environmental protection: after all, they stick around on this planet a little bit longer than those who, nowadays, are destroying, rather than conserving, nature.

We do not want to stand by idly and watch.

Instead, we prefer to get actively involved in environmental policy. Our understanding of policy is not to provide empty rhetoric, disappoint expectations and fear change; but we see it as a chance to name problems, exert pressure with creative cam-

paigns and have a great party to celebrate afterwards, since environmental protection also means a lot of fun.

The regional sections of BUNDjugend offer a lot: from ecological trips to Corsica to environmental congresses. The national office coordinates the different campaigns and organises big projects like "The Bet" and the children's environment day. Local BUNDjugend groups focus particularly on projects where young BUND members look after habitats, go out on the streets to protest against nuclear power and put on plays or make music together. In a nutshell, participation in BUNDjugend guarantees a bit of everything!

BUNDjugend also offers great job entry opportunities: young people can join us for a voluntary ecological service year, an alternative civilian service year, internships or voluntary work. Everybody who enjoys environmental protection is welcome.

# BUNDshop



Buy nice things, do good – that is the motto of the BUND shop. We sell various green products by mail order to customers.



We offer you exciting and functional products. The books available at our shop provide you with tips on how to organise your workaday life in a more

ecological way through only little changes: many little steps which add up to a considerable effect.



Books and guides from BUND, games, essentials for the household and garden products – with your purchase you support our advocacy for more climate protection,

nature conservation and healthy food.



Or explore nature right on your doorstep: with our games, CDs, and DVDs you can become a nature scientist yourself. We are looking forward to your visit.

Visit us at [www.bundladen.de](http://www.bundladen.de)

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