

# ***ENVIRONMENTAL PACT***

## ***BAVARIA***

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The ***Umwelt Pakt Bayern*** or Environmental Pact is an excellent example of an innovative approach to environmental protection. The Environmental Pact is a voluntary agreement between the Bavarian State government and Bavarian Industry aimed at greater protection of the environment. Except for being on a much larger scale, this pact is very similar to Wisconsin's Environmental Cooperation Pilot program. While existing German and Bavarian instruments of environmental policy were very successful in reducing pollution, the overall goal of Sustainable Development as promoted by Agenda 21 was not being met. Furthermore, with over 4000 laws and regulations, a limit of acceptance is being reached. Thus, the State of Bavaria looked toward a new focus in environmental policy. This new focus included:

- more self-responsibility instead of regulation
- more voluntary action instead of command & control
- more cooperation instead of confrontation
- more pro-active care for the environment instead of repair or end-of-pipe solutions

Hundreds of individual companies, trade organizations, labor unions, department stores, hotels, etc., have signed on and are making commitments for greater (beyond compliance) environmental protection. The agreement was commenced in 1995 with both industries and state making strong commitments.

### **Industry will**

- Continuously improve environmental protection in 500 companies beyond the scope of the statutory requirements (EMAS: more like ISO 14000+)
- Submit 3,500 businesses to environmental assessments
- Conserve more energy and use it rationally
- Avoid and recycle more waste
- Make greater use of renewable resources
- Reduce emissions in freight transportation

### **The State of Bavaria will**

- Give the industry greater support for Brownfields cleanup (\$55.5 Million)
- Expand existing program to aid in hiring consultants for assessments and eco-audits
- Promote preventive protection of the environment by developing guidelines and outreach material
- Give more consideration to the concept of direct responsibility to industry in protecting the environment.

### **By July 1999 many of the commitments were realized including:**

- 1035 participants
- 495 of 500 Eco-Audits performed
- 2,700 of 3,500 environmental assessments completed
- 5 of 10 environmental guidelines written and disseminated
- Many individual commitments implemented (e.g., Wacker Chemical, BMW, Audi, Energy Utilities)

### **Efforts are now underway to expand the program, including:**

- Development toward a contract for sustainable industry
- Strengthened relations to local Agenda 21 programs
- Regionalization of the Environmental Pact
- Bring service industries into Pact (e.g., banks could provide lower interest loans for environmental improvements)
- Mini eco-audits, combined audits for 10 small firms
- Work with industry branches on specific projects
- Include self-employed people, e.g., master plumbers
- Work with Chambers of Commerce to influence participation on a local scale