

Szombathely

A greening city

Data

Szombathely, in ancient times Savaria, has been inhabited for 2000 years, nowadays the seat of Vas County, "the Queen of the West"

Number of inhabitants: 78 324

Transport: intersection of major roads in the region (road 86, 87 and 89), railway lines of GYSEV (Raaberbahn AG) and MÁV

Also a major industrial hub: BPW-Hungary Ltd, APTIV Services Hungary Ltd, Falco Zrt., iQor Global Services Hungary Ltd, Schaeffler Savaria Ltd

A university city, centre of culture and administration, religion and healthcare



2019 – A new beginning

October 2019 has brought a victory for the opposition coalition in Szombathely – paradigm shift in green policy.

The position of Councillor for Sustainable Development and Climate Policy was created: the objective is to bring together, manage and steer green issues.

Climate strategy (2015), Covenant of Mayors membership – at the same time no substantive work was done, there was no city priority.

Between 2019 and 2022 we launched several new projects, dusted off old ones and we are striving to move forward with a project approach in the world of applications.

The undermining of self-government is a current and constant fear.



SUMP and Transport

- Szombathely is heavily affected by traffic and air pollution from motor vehicles.
- We were ambitious from the start to prepare the SUMP but the pandemic has slowed it down and we have just closed public consultation (spring 2022).
- We have contracted with a new bus company (Blaguss) who are providing a higher quality service (strengthening community transport with a political and media campaign).
- We are investigating microbidity schemes (e-scooters).
- The plans for an intermodal hub have reached a dead end.
- We are improving the cycle path network, we have managed to put electric vehicles and modern buses into service.





SECAP - JUSTNature

- It became visible soon that we could only envisage EU-funds for which SECAP is inevitable which was finally approved by the General Assembly in December 2021.
- We have also won **€ 60.000** in an EUCF-application to support the implementation of SECAP.
- We have also participated in the JUSTNature project and won **€ 437.300** as a consortium partner for the development of green areas.
- We see that direct EU-funds represent a field where the Municipality can have access to sources.

Measures and actions for environmental protection

- Zero tolerance against illegal dumping: soft and hard tools together (official networks, camera system, task force, patrols).
- We have cleared illegal waste dumps at 11 acute sites ("Let's clean up the country").
- "Let's take care of Szombathely together!" community litter picking and awareness-raising, and the involvement of the civil community in the development of green spaces as part of "Adopt a park!".
- The restructuring of house clearance and the change of landfill policy are also a success for us.
- Comprehensive tree protection: 1000 trees programme, tree protection obligations, maintenance of green areas



Awareness raising and circular farming

- Green Wave project – website for the summary of the local green policy
- Diversion of wood waste to FALCO, networking of used cooking oil drop-off points and the collection of green waste instead of burning it.
- We have also developed the Voluntary Strategy of the city – we would like to strengthen civil engagement.
- Renewal of our alliances and membership to adapt best practices.
- Bee pastures and meadows with flowers are being established at the moment.
- Eco-conscious thinking has become an aspect in local politics.



Summa summarum – The future

- We can deliver results in different areas – our work is to lay the groundwork for the next terms which will inevitably focus on climate change and energy crisis.
- We would like to move towards the implementation of SECAP and SUMP.
- We are working on obtaining EU-funds similar to BUILD UPON2, JUSTNature and EUCF.
- Broadening and deepening of our international relations for possible joint projects and knowledge exchange.



**Thank you for your kind attention and
we look forward to welcoming you to
Szombathely!**