

Press release:

## **Lights out – for a whole night!**

***Setting an example against light pollution with the Earth Night on 15 September***

Die mittlerweile vierte Earth Night steht vor der Tür. In diesem Jahr findet sie am 15. September statt. Ab Einbruch der Dunkelheit – spätestens jedoch ab 22 Uhr – heißt es dann wieder: Licht aus für eine ganze Nacht.

The fourth Earth Night is just around the corner. This year it will take place on 15 September. From nightfall – but no later than 10 p.m. – it's time again: lights out for a whole night.

With this campaign, the initiators want to draw attention to the ever-increasing light pollution and the resulting damage to environment, nature and people. According to a recent study, light pollution and thus the brightening of our nights by outdoor light is increasing worldwide by almost ten percent every year. In Europe, more than five percent. A dramatic development. After all, almost all living beings on this planet essentially depend on sufficiently dark nights. Too much light at the wrong time makes them sick, decimates insects and birds billions of times, does not allow enough restful sleep, and causes entire ecosystems to falter.

Spokesman Manuel Philipp: "Last year, in addition to dozens of villages and smaller towns, several large cities were also involved. For example, Hamburg, Nuremberg and Munich as well as Innsbruck, Graz and Salzburg. Thousands of object and building illuminations have been switched off in Germany and Austria, and in around 25 municipalities even the entire street lighting. We hope that there will be many more this year for Earth Night and that the campaign will make it to neighbouring countries. With Strasbourg, France is now also represented for the first time.

Experience from recent years shows that Earth Night is a trigger for those responsible to fundamentally deal with the night-time lighting in the municipality, to question and improve it. "This is a positive signal and exactly what we hope for with the campaign," says Manuel Philipp. Through Earth Night, the topic of light pollution and the use of artificial light was moving out of its shadowy existence.

The Earth Night is also very suitable for an event. "Let your place experience what nights looked like until 150 years ago. How much is possible even without light. How beautiful the dark night can be." The campaign can be used to bring people together. With candles, torches, fire baskets, music and food, experience the night as it would actually be.

The campaign is now supported by more than 100 organisations, institutions, associations and also some celebrities

All information about Earth Night: [www.earth-night.info](http://www.earth-night.info)

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