



**For many years denkstatt has supported not only companies but also regional and urban authorities in the reduction of environmental impacts. One possible approach to the topic can be implemented via the ecoPROFIT group consulting project, which has already been employed widely throughout Europe (Graz, Vienna, Dornbirn, Lower Austria, Munich, Hamburg) as well as in countries such as Hungary and Romania.**

### Objectives

EcoPROFIT is aimed at saving costs by simultaneously providing preventive environmental measures and make environmental protection attractive for companies also from the economical point of view according to the motto: "Environmental protection as self-benefit ..". The main focus in operational environmental protection is shifted from disposal to avoidance and reduction of waste and emissions. Less material and energy consumption mean relief of the environment and reduction of costs.

### Process

On the first step a potential assessment is carried out with the customer in the company which will help to decide whether or not to proceed. A seminar series is then held with one to two of the employees participating. Parallel to the seminars, these people then commence with the implementation of environmental projects in their company. Individual support is also provided at this stage.

Once a year the participating companies receive a public commendation from the territorial authorities (e.g. Environmental Agency). In addition, ecoPROFIT is an ideal preparation for EMAS-V and/or ISO 9001 or 14001.

### Benefits

To date, savings by environmental improvement measures in companies participating in ecoPROFIT average 50.000 Euro per year and company. Participants from the companies qualify as environmental officers. The workshops are recognised as part of the training for operational waste officer.

Participants also learn to:

- Compile an environmental balance sheet for your company;
- Identify weak points and improvement potentials;
- Define environmental targets and develop and implement specific improvement measures;

### References

- Ökoprofit Vienna 1999-2007 (a total of 76 companies and organisations with 13.118 employees)
- ecoPROFIT Ramnicu Valcea 2000 – Romania (10 companies)
- Cleaner Production Program Timisoara, 2005-2006, Romania (12 companies)