

# An Appeal for More Fulfilling, Community-Based and Eco-Conscious Lifestyles

**The earth is limited.** The way that most people in Austria<sup>1</sup> live today is, from an ecological viewpoint, untenable for the world at large or for future generations. Not only we, but also our children and children's children, as well as all people across the world have the right to an equitable share of the earth's resources. Like us, they have the right to live in an healthy environment. This is why we aim to change our own behaviour and at the same time appeal to the politically responsible to change basic conditions.



People for  
Solidarity - Ecology - Lifestyle

<sup>1</sup>Austria is the eight-richest country in the world (regarding per capita-income)

# An Appeal for More Fulfilling, Community-Based and Eco-Conscious Lifestyles.

## 1. Value Quality Over Quantity

A sense of well-being starts with the satisfaction of our basic human needs. Therefore, the use of high-quality products promotes greater overall well-being while using less resources such as energy and land. **For this reason we aim to...**

... take care to consume better quality meat<sup>1</sup>, and consume less of it

*because the more areas are devoted to animal-feed agriculture, the less food is available for humans<sup>2</sup>.*

... take care to obtain better quality clothes<sup>3</sup>, and buy less of them

*because cotton requires fertile land and low prices often involve child labor.*

... take care to obtain better quality consumer goods<sup>4</sup>, and consume less of them<sup>5</sup>

*because it enhances enjoyment and reduces rubbish.*

...take care to obtain effective heating insulation<sup>6</sup> and environmentally friendly heating systems<sup>7</sup>, and consume less energy

*because heating contributes considerably to the greenhouse effect.*

**...and to appeal to the politically responsible** to support this shift of attitude through developing better laws<sup>8</sup> and creating increased public awareness.

## 2. Value Utilisation Over Ownership

Some of our needs require access to various consumer goods or facilities. However, they do not necessarily require individual ownership of those goods or facilities. Shared utilisation of goods saves resources and energy. **For this reason we aim to...**

...use<sup>9</sup> or buy<sup>10</sup> consumer goods in cooperation with others as well as increase the lending, borrowing and exchange of goods<sup>11</sup> instead of the desire to individually own all goods

*because this is more eco-friendly and it strengthens social contacts.*

... promote the utilisation of public transport instead of car ownership

*because cars cause one-third of all greenhouse gases. They also cause noise, environmental degradation and accidents.*

**... and appeal to the politically responsible** for an extensive expansion of public transport and support of user communities.<sup>12</sup>

## 3. Promote the Sharing of Work and Wealth

Each person is born into a particular nation, era, and social class by chance rather than personal merit. The reduction of social problems such as poverty in Austria and other countries requires prolonged social involvement. **For this reason we aim to...**

...increase the value of spare time (shared work)<sup>13</sup> and consume less

*because this will enhance the quality of our lives, save resources and energy, and create more jobs<sup>14</sup>.*

... buy and demand (within our ability) products from fair-trading partners

*because the higher costs provide better living conditions in "third world" countries.*

...form public opinion and engage for socially disadvantaged people and people of the poor countries<sup>15</sup> – beside financial support –

*because prejudices and ambivalence are often the result of lack of knowledge.*

**...and appeal to the politically responsible** to establish financial incentives for sharing of work<sup>16</sup>, fair trading with "third world" countries, a general debt relief of the poorest countries and greater solidarity and eco-awareness within the EU.

<sup>1</sup> species friendly husbandry, abandonment of hormones and antibiotics in animal feed, gene technology free or biological animal feed, local origin

<sup>2</sup> 7-10 calories of animal feed is required for the production of 1 calorie of meat. Hence, meat requires more area than plant food

<sup>3</sup> natural fibres, increased durability, local production

<sup>4</sup> better manufacturing, long guarantees on goods, better reparability

<sup>5</sup> on second thought one can even avoid buying certain electrical equipment (for example electric tin openers)

<sup>6</sup> thorough utilisation of biological building materials and sustainable building styles

<sup>7</sup> like for example solar energy and biomass

<sup>8</sup> for example long guarantees for consumer goods and increased financial support for biological food production, better heating insulation etc; pushing of energy saving and repair services through ecological tax reform; definition of uniform quality seals etc

<sup>9</sup> for example car pooling to work

<sup>10</sup> from shared lawn mowers to car sharing and joint wood chips heating plants

<sup>11</sup> for example house and flat-exchange during holidays or participation in exchange-circles

<sup>12</sup> through public relations, taking over of risks of default or employment of coordinators

<sup>13</sup> renouncement of overtime and shadow work, working part-time, special company leave for fathers of babies, sabbatical year

<sup>14</sup> The increase of jobs through decreased individual weekly working hours by far exceeds the loss of jobs through restricted consumption

<sup>15</sup> and those who join us from such countries

<sup>16</sup> for example through establishing a basic salary

We have chosen the word "fulfilling" in this appeal to make it clear that we are not promoting ascetic lifestyles. We are convinced that the wise and compassionate use of resources and people will help promote more enjoyment rather than reckless consumption.

## **I agree with this Appeal for More Fulfilling, Community-Based and Eco-Conscious Lifestyles.**

My behaviour and attitudes are already based on some of these principles. For others, I am aiming to change my behaviour step by step in this direction.

I agree to allow my name to be published as a supporter of this appeal.

Please note: if you tick "networking" next to your details (name, address, phone number and email address) this information will be provided to other people from your region who also ticked "networking". You will then also obtain a list of networking people from time to time. This enables you to contact the people with similar attitudes from your region. Your details will not be used for other purposes.

If you provide your email-address, you will regularly obtain our electronic SOL newsletter. All supporters obtain, free of charge, trial versions of our newsletter SOL and an appeal folder. No membership or payment are connected with your signature.

If you do not tick "networking", your address, phone number and email address will not be provided to other persons.

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