

Dear readers,

The eighth Yearbook on the state of the environment in Prague comes into your hands in the year full of the eights. The Yearbook is worked out by the Department of Informatics of the City of Prague. It has been for the eighteenth time, when the note on the state of the environment in our metropolis is coming to you. It represents one of the several public activities, which satisfy the Czech citizens' right on information on the state of environment in place they live.

The Department of Informatics has worked out and passed to operation the information on the environment for a long time, the Department patronizes the range of consequent projects in the ecological sphere, too. For example, the ENVIS4 project was launched in 2007, environmental information system was realized in the selected parts of the city. Also the central data information store of GIS information is being build up within the Department of Development of the City of Prague. These data enable to orientate and make qualified decisions to Council officers and citizens. They can make administrative decisions or everyday decisions. The data also support citizens to get interested in public affairs.

Unique continual series of the Yearbooks on the state of the environment has revealed, that the state of the environment in Prague is not wholly satisfying from the view of citizens and from the view of the Prague authorities too. On the other hand Yearbooks have confirmed, that the environment, which had been neglecting for decades, is refining in Prague now. The Yearbooks show that elected organs of the City try to motivate citizens to burden the environment at least in their work and also in their private life as much as possible. I hope this Yearbook will inspire you this way.



Mgr. Rudolf Blažek
Deputy Mayor

Dear readers,

The Constitution of the Czech Republic guarantees us the right on information on the state of the environment. The Capital City of Prague has helped to satisfy this right (among others) by publishing the Yearbook on the state of the environment annually. We prepare the Yearbook not only as a set of data but also as source of knowledge, due each citizen could make informed decisions.

We can find out information on the state of the water, air, landscape environment in the Yearbook. We can also get to know the newest trends in energy, transport, and waste management. We can ascertain how much noise is there in Prague or what results brought the population health monitoring considered to reference between health and the state of the environment. Traffic (both automotive and air) has belonged to the highest pollutants in Prague in last years. Pollution is approved by air-borne dust, nitrogen oxides, and noise. The alarming numbers in Yearbook prompt us to use rather public transport or a bike than a car. In 2007 the City completed the construction of dioxins catalytic converters in the refuse incinerating plant Malešice and bought gas-fuel dust vans, on the basis of information on the state of the environment, to decrease the city pollution connected with waste liquidation. Yearbook's data enable councillors to make decision on future so the impact on human health would be minimal.

I wish you find our Yearbook not solely a source of data yet also a decision for using bike or tramway instead of a car on your way to work tomorrow. It should inspire you for what could be done in 2008 in order to contribute to improve the life quality in Prague.



Mgr. Petr Štěpánek, CSc.
Councillor for the Environment