



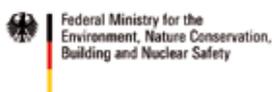
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# Self-Check – Potentials for Biodiversity-Oriented Design of Company Premises

Supported by:



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# Self-Check – Potentials for Biodiversity

This checklist is designed to help companies initiate nature-oriented design actions on their premises. It is intended to help:

- in collecting relevant documents and information (A)
- in conducting an initial assessment regarding potentials for biodiversity-oriented design (B)
- with suggestions for first steps towards biodiversity-oriented design (C)

## A: General surface data and information about the site

(Fill in fields)

### Business

- Creation of the site (year): \_\_\_\_\_
- Employees at the location(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the company own the premises?  Yes  No
- Total site area (m<sup>2</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_
  - of which ... is overbuilt (m<sup>2</sup>/%): \_\_\_\_\_
  - of which... is (partially) sealed transport and storage area (m<sup>2</sup>/%): \_\_\_\_\_
  - of these are ... green areas (m<sup>2</sup>/%): \_\_\_\_\_
  - of these are ... surface waters (m<sup>2</sup>/%): \_\_\_\_\_

### Location and surroundings

- Predominant use of the adjacent areas (industry, agriculture, housing ...): \_\_\_\_\_
- Approximate distance and type of the next area with protection status \_\_\_\_\_ (Status)/ \_\_\_\_\_ (km)

## B: Condition and maintenance of surfaces

### Design of surfaces

- Buildings and facades
  - Facades are green.  Yes  No  Partially, about \_\_\_\_\_ (m<sup>2</sup>/%)
  - Roofs are planted.  Yes  No  Partially, about \_\_\_\_\_ (m<sup>2</sup>/%)
- Insect-friendly lighting
  - The type of lamp is designed to reduce light pollution.  Yes  No
  - Lamps with low attracting effect on insects were chosen.  Yes  No
- Transport and storage areas
  - Pathways have largely permeable coverings.  Yes  No
  - Parking sites are at least partially permeable.  Yes  No

# Nature-Oriented Design of Company Premises

- Green areas, intensively maintained/structured areas (e.g. entrance area)
  - seasonal planting is omitted.  Yes  No
  - Non-native plants will be avoided.  Yes  No
- Meadows, lawns and grassland
  - Grass cuttings are cleared.  Yes  No
  - Lawn is the exception and is only used for areas that are frequently accessed.  Yes  No
  - Lawns are mowed only twice a year.  Yes  No
  - Hedges have a herbaceous fringe.  Yes  No
  - Seeds and seedlings are almost exclusively native.  Yes  No
- Are there any ... on the site?
  - deadwood structures  Yes  No
  - clearance cairns or rock fragment walls  Yes  No
  - nesting boxes for birds, insects, bats, etc.  Yes  No
  - stagnant, flowing waters or wetlands  Yes  No

## Management and maintenance

- An overview has been created specifying how long each area should be available for nature-oriented design (for example, 3-5 years , 5-10 years, permanent, unclear): \_\_\_\_\_
- There is a maintenance plan with
  - no use of herbicides on the entire area  Yes  No
  - no use of herbicides on the nature-oriented area  Yes  No
  - no use of pesticides on the entire area  Yes  No
  - no pesticides on the nature-oriented area  Yes  No
  - no use of peat products in maintenance  Yes  No
  - requirements for extensive maintenance of nature-oriented areas  Yes  No
  - detection of invasive species and their control  Yes  No
  - list of local, site-appropriate plants in the case of the creation of new green spaces and for replacement plantings  Yes  No

## Monitoring

Monitoring of the development of species in the nature-oriented areas

- is planned  Yes  No
- already implemented  Yes  No

Score:

\_\_\_\_\_ x Yes

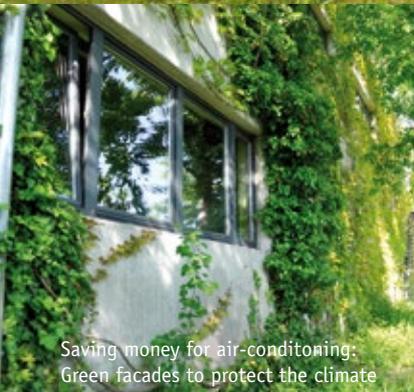
\_\_\_\_\_ x No



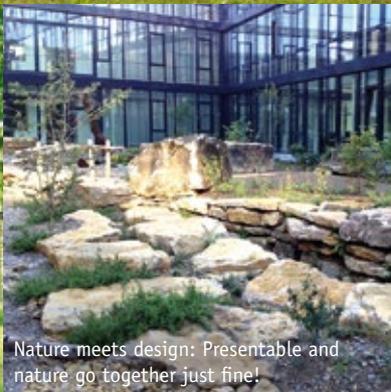


**Everything, what is against nature,  
will not last for long.** Charles Darwin

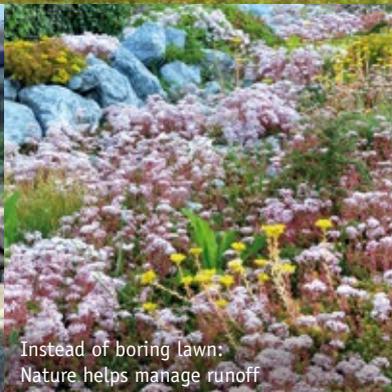
Eye-catcher for humans and animals alike:  
wetlands on company premises



Saving money for air-conditioning:  
Green facades to protect the climate



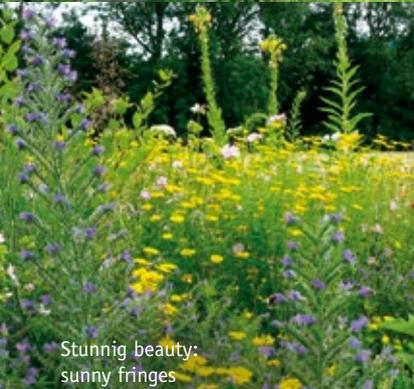
Nature meets design: Presentable and  
nature go together just fine!



Instead of boring lawn:  
Nature helps manage runoff



Nature observation:  
insect-hotels also serve people



Stunning beauty:  
sunny fringes



Sober with sense: plants for green-roofs  
used to deliver a "tidy" impression.

**Start  
Now!**



Cheap and usefull:  
dead-wood debris.



## C: How to design your nature-oriented premises?

The questions in Section B can be interpreted as recommendations: If you have answered “yes” often then, many aspects of the nature-oriented design have already been taken into account.

If you had all or most of the questions answered in the negative, then there is probably great potential for a biodiversity-oriented design on your company premises. The aspects mentioned in Section B also highlight the wide range of possibilities where you can start designing and maintaining your biodiversity-oriented site.

Best practices entail the creation of an ecological concept for the site that also takes into account whether or not a contribution to regional habitat connectivity can be realised on the premises. If you are (not yet) ready for this, there are two appropriate strategies that can be combined:

**1. Transformation/Re-design by management and maintenance:** Together with personnel responsible for the upkeep, a “roadmap” for the transition to nature-oriented maintenance should be drafted. To achieve this, take a closer look at the existing green areas and answer the key question: Is an immediate switch to biodiversity-oriented maintenance on this site possible? These areas are candidates for long-term improvements by adapted maintenance intervals and times, avoiding the use of fertilizer or other synthetic agricultural inputs. There will also be green spaces where this is not possible: ornamental lawn is just unattractive without frequent maintenance. At the same time, ornamental lawn will most likely not offer improved conditions in terms of biodiversity after maintenance schedules have been adapted. Hybrid tea roses are (still) more susceptible to disease and cannot compete with “weeds”.

These areas should be re-designed in the medium or long term either by a complete transformation of an area at once or through replacement plantings in case of plant degeneration. The result should be a list of „transformation elements“ that can be prioritised according to the economic, environmental, and social aspects (keyword: Employee acceptance - see below).

**2. Transformation of pilot areas:** Pilot areas are a valuable tool to gain first positive experiences and reduce reservations. Through positive examples, the enthusiasm for nature-oriented design can grow.

### The selection of pilot areas and measures should ...

- consider the availability of the areas. We recommend an availability of at least three to five years for fast and cost-effective measures.
- involve experts with experience in nature-oriented design for planning and implementation.
- focus at the beginning on measures with quick success and strong visual effect.
- consider the visibility of areas: People cannot appreciate what they cannot see and enjoy.
- ensure professional nature-oriented maintenance of the sites and provide knowledge and training to maintenance personnel.

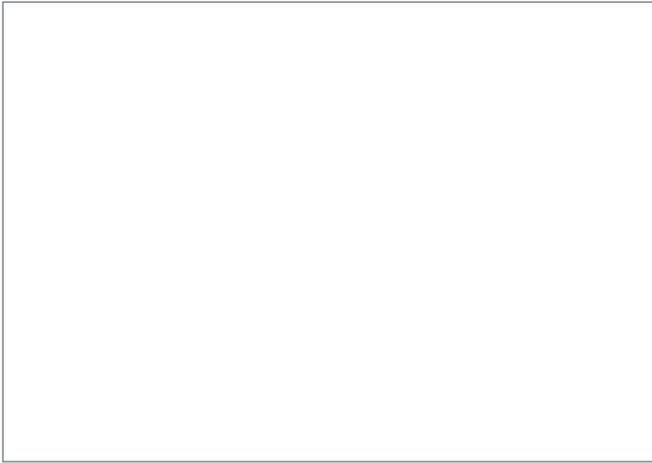
The project “Nature/Biodiversity-oriented Design of Company Premises” offers all interested businesses from around Germany professional advice on the possibilities of nature-oriented design, practical implementation and maintenance as well as benefits for biodiversity and the company. In the course of the project, a guide manual will be developed.

This is based on the practical experience in the implementation of nature-oriented design on company premises. For further information and contact details please visit [www.naturnahefirmengelaende.de](http://www.naturnahefirmengelaende.de).

The project is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety by the federal program for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This leaflet reflects the views and opinions of the beneficiary of the federal program and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the grant authorities.

## Monitoring-Sheet for 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Designation of surface area: \_\_\_\_\_



**Picture to document development of the surface area**

Choose pictures that document the "typical" impression of the surface area during the year.



**Picture to document development of the surface area**

Choose pictures that document the "typical" impression of the surface area during the year.

Measures and maintenance conducted (what, when, who). If possible with quantitative information regarding resources like working-hours and expenditures put into the area:

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Observed plants or animals (number of or name of observed species if known):

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Feedback from employees or guests:

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Miscellaneous:

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