



HEALTHY CITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

THE 2006 EARTH DAY CAMPAIGN, APRIL 22 2006

The Earth Day is the largest international campaign that draws attention to the deteriorating state of the environment while familiarising the wide public with ways of turning this unfavourable development. As far back as 1970 when the first Earth Day took place in USA, campaigns supporting the utilisation of renewable resources, waste recycling or climate protection take place all over the world. Hundreds of various events annually take place in a number of cities and municipalities of the Czech Republic. A record number of 33 Healthy Cities and Municipalities (which is 7 more than last year) participated in this year's Earth Day celebration. Their inhabitants could visit educational events dedicated to global issues, such as poverty in the so called Third World, traditional eco-fairs or they could exercise their body and mind in various knowledge contests or sporting tourneys. A number of these did not hesitate and also started the great spring cleaning of the surrounding nature or tree planting.

The following HCCZ member cities and municipalities this year applied for campaign support:

Bolatice, Boskovice, Brno, Hodonín, Chrudim, Jilemnice, Karviná, Kopřivnice, Kroměříž, Křižánky, Kuřim, Letovice, Litoměřice, Litomyšl, Mladá Boleslav, Moravská Třebová, Orlová, Pelhřimov, Praha - Libuš and Písnice, Prostějov, Slaný, Strašín, Telč, Třebíč, Třeboň, Uherský Brod, Uherské Hradiště, Ústí nad Labem, Valašské Meziříčí, Velké Meziříčí, Veselí nad Moravou, Vsetín, Zlín.

In this special edition of HCCZ Bulletin we bring you bits and pieces of events within the Earth Day that was taking place in a number of cities from beginning of April and lasted until the end of May 2006. The complete overview of activities related to this campaign can be found at: <http://www.nszm.cz/dze>.



This sign "We are celebrating the Earth Day" welcomed the visitors at the Earth Day event in the Healthy City of Jilemnice.



Even this little participant already knows that when his plastic tricycle wears out, it definitely would not end up in this blue dustbin.

The Healthy Cities dedicate their campaigns to global issues

The events that point at the global reach of the issue of environmental protection and also other related global topics have been a part of the rich programme of the Earth Day campaign in Healthy Cities. Lecture of prof. Miroslav Dosoudil of Palackého University of Olomouc, to the subject of **Global Climate Changes**, took place in the Healthy City of Zlín in municipal assembly hall. The lecture dealt with causes and effects and scientific approach to research of climatic changes. The campaigns of Healthy Cities do not leave out the global problem presented by the poverty of the so called Third World countries. In the Healthy City of **Litoměřice** the events to the Earth Day had been organised by the workers of Ecological Educational Centre SEVER who also projected the movie called Investors of Poverty to Na Valech basic school students as a part of **Ekofilm 2006**. The movie deals with uneven distribution of means for life over the world, about encumbrance of poor states and about development collaboration. In



More than 5000 young tree plants have been planted in the Healthy City of Boletice as a part of the Earth Day.

the Healthy City of **Vsetín** there was public exhibition of photographs from Afghanistan to be seen in Vatra cinema. The photographs depict life in one of the poorest countries of the world. The author of pictures creating the exhibition called Camp Afghanistan is David Šifra of Vara organisation that actively participates in struggle against poverty. Ninth grade basic school students in the Healthy City of **Kroměříž** have prepared the project called Global Problems of the Present. They also dealt with serious issues of the contemporary world, searched for information in encyclopaedias, literature, in the internet and processed topics such as fight against terrorism, level of education, social inequality, living environment etc.

Environmental protection in Healthy Cities in token of tree planting and river cleaning

Inhabitants of Healthy Cities during the Earth Day also engaged in fully real activities related to practical protection of the environment. In the Healthy City of **Mladá Boleslav** there is a project being realised called **Lindens for Health**, as a part of which the children from Sluníčko kindergarten planted six new trees. **Plant Your Tree** – an event under this title has taken place in the Healthy City of **Boskovice**, in the course of which a symbolical tree of life has been planted in the garden of the Na dolech kindergarten. An Elm tree, which is a city symbol and a part of the city crest, was planted by the citizens of the Healthy City of **Jilemnice** in the local castle park on the occasion of the Earth Day celebrations. The number of visitors here also proved that the Earth Day was a success – 450 visitors this year. The old traditions were supported in the Healthy City of **Moravská**

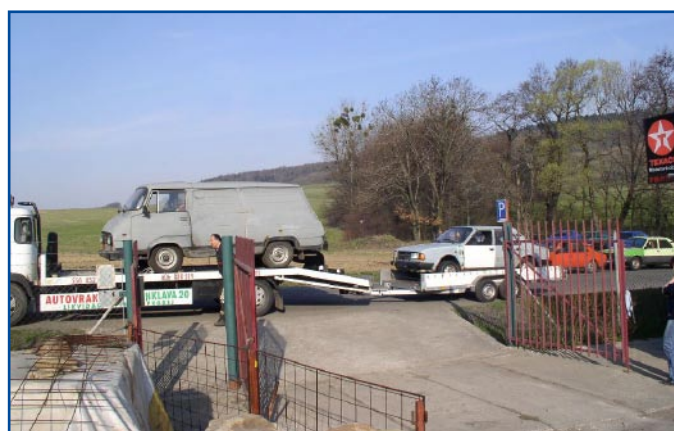


The spring cleaning also belongs among the traditional events at the opportunity of the Earth Day. A number of Healthy Cities and Municipalities organised it according to the motto Clean Up the World!

Třebová, in which the children from natural-science group of II. basic school, in collaboration with Czech Union for Nature Conservation and pupils of Special School, planted Elms along the local stream. The representatives of the Healthy City of **Brno** provided for the greatest holiday of the year already. They organised planting of Christmas firs bought in pots, which supported protection of free-growing plants that become subject of plunder in the pre-Christmas period. Probably the highest number of new trees was planted on the Earth Day occasion in the Healthy City of **Bolatice**, where the local citizens, apart from cleaning the municipality and nature trail in Chuchelenský Forest, gave the nature a present in a form of 5 thousand new tree plants for the local woodlet.

In a number of Healthy Cities the local inhabitants dedicated themselves to cleaning the water courses. Pupils and students of the Healthy City of **Karviná** cleaned the brook so that crayfish, one of the most endangered genotypes may live on inside. In the Healthy City of **Prostějov** the local citizens put their shoulder to the wheel in order to rid the Hloučela river banks of litter and other matters that do not belong there. **Let's Clean the World!** - with this motto, in working clothes and in a good mood have mostly young people met at the Větrná station in the Healthy City of **Ústí nad Labem** and got down to cleaning the Chuděrovský brook. The citizens of the Healthy City of **Uherský Brod** also decided for beautification of the surrounding nature of Korečnice brook on the day of Earth celebrations.

The spring cleaning and ecology-friendly waste disposal in the Healthy Cities



Removal of car wrecks from the streets is also a part of the spring cleaning of nature. In total 33 of these were collected this year owing to the active approach from the part of Koprivnice town hall.

The Earth Day campaign is not only a possibility for doing the cleaning in a city or municipality, but also e.g. for reminding the waste recycling issue. In the Healthy City of **Chrudim** they focused on collection of aluminium and announced the traditional children's contest **Feed the Alu - Eater**. 13 educational facilities entered for the competition. The greatest amount of aluminium was collected by the Sladkovského kindergarten, which managed to collect 186 kgs. The Alu-Eaters were honestly fulfilled by **1428** pupils who collected almost **600 kgs of aluminium** altogether. The Healthy City of **Kopřivnice** offered to its citizens in the course of the Earth Day, besides a number of amusing and educational events for children and youth, also an interesting possibility of car wreck disposal which is otherwise no cheap matter. Those who took the advantage of this exceptional offer could both feel good and save a good deal of money. In comparison with the last year, when 6 cars had been disposed this way, in total **33 car wreck** owners were enticed by this offer this year.

The Šumava nature is yet again somewhat cleaner, because also in the Healthy City of **Strašín** municipality cleaning has taken place, accompanied by a collection of scrap and hazardous waste, assisted by the local voluntary fire brigade. The Healthy City of **Letovice** distributed large-volume containers over the whole city as a part of spring cleaning. The scrap collection was yet again assisted from the part of the volunteer fire brigade of Letovice. The large spring cleaning took place in the Healthy City of **Křížánky**. The local citizens cleaned all public areas in the municipality and presented a copybook example of waste sorting and prepared the waste for disposal, consecutively ensured along with its professional liquidation by the local municipal office. Children of the **Praha-Libuš** and **Písnice Healthy City district** proved that they can sort waste correctly even at their early age, while having fun and competing in the process. Within the Earth Day celebrations that lasted in this city district for the whole week, for instance plastic bottles were trampled for best time, waste was sorted in many stands and children produced a long snake out of waste material, the pupils of ninth grade decided to clean the school surroundings in honour of the holiday of St. George. The whole feast



A new Czech record was set at the Karlovo Square in the Třebíč centre – the participants created a carpet including 2300 PET bottles that was consequently trampled and removed for ecological disposal.

day was concluded by a handover of containers for sorted waste. An entertaining event for children and adult related to the topic of waste sorting was organised in the Healthy City of **Prostějov** by the EKO - KOM Company under the title of **Colourful Days**. Among others, all visitors aged 10 to 60 could participate in the contest “Cinderella-Leave the Right Thing in the Dustbin”.

In the Healthy City of **Třebíč**, a contest in sorting of PET bottle caps has taken place and the first **Czech record** has been made directly at the Karlovo Square - a carpet made of PET bottles, containing some 2300 pieces. The record was also officially registered by the authorized agency. The project called **Plastics - Collection of PET Bottle Caps** that supports recycling of quality plastic, is also under way in the Healthy City of **Karviná**. After a certain number of collected bottlecaps is achieved, these are transported to further processing, whose result are new products - e.g. grass concrete.

Eco-Fairs offered products of ecological agriculture and products of natural materials

Various exhibitions and presentations of ecological agriculture products and traditional handmade products are a traditional part of the Earth Day celebrations. An Eco-Fair took place in the Healthy City of **Veselí nad Moravou**, where the visitors could taste e.g. bio-foodstuffs such as leavened dough bread or bio-wine. They could also



Eco-Fairs are an essential part of the Earth Day. Exhibition of old trades is also traditionally their part, it was not any different in Prostějov.

purchase information materials and publications about the Bílé Karpaty Region and children could try out their knowledge doing a crossword to the subject of eco-agriculture. A mini eco-fair was organised in the Healthy City of **Hodonín**, in which children from schools and interest-clubs sold products of natural material. A fair of healthy lifestyle and eco-companies also took place in the Healthy City of **Uherské Hradiště**, and apart from sale of healthy food and herbs the representatives of Industrial High School Otokovice ascertained the quality of water from samples produced. An eco-fair also took place at the Masarykovo Square in the Healthy City of **Třeboň**. Ecology-friendly agriculture was also represented on the Earth Day in **Prostějov**. Besides a large number of the traditional trades there could be seen the products with **Fair Trade** label (**FT is an alternative approach to conventional international trade, emphasising the social and ecological aspect of production and trading**). The participants of the Earth Day celebrations in the Healthy City of **Slaný** had a chance to find out more about ecological agriculture directly at the farm. In the City Gardens of the Healthy City of **Pelhřimov** there were stands focused on various activities, such as manual candle production or pancake baking, prepared for the visitors as a part of the Earth Day event. Children had a chance to see a real tee-pee of Native Americans with their own eyes. Work with potter's wheel was tried by those who came to celebrate the nature's holiday in the Healthy City of **Valašské Meziříčí**. In the Maternal Centre Rodinka there was also chance to produce little things of paste with your own hands.

Evaluation trips to the city neighbourhood strengthen the relationship of their inhabitants to nature

Trips to the surroundings and visits to places where one may discover plants and observe animals were frequently a part of the programme within the Earth Day celebrations in the Healthy Cities. In **Litoměřice** they organised a **Walk on the Earth**, in the course of which the children fulfilled tasks related to identifying nature nearby the Pokratický pond. There was a programme prepared for the smallest called **Come, Join us Seeing the Animals – The Earth Day for Kindergartens**, attended by more than four hundred children. During the whole April there was **Forest Month** under way in the Healthy City of **Boskovice**, in the course of which students undertook several educational walks in forest as a part of project classes. Field trips to nature were also a part of rich programme in **Brno**. Visitors could undertake a non-traditional walk to the oldest public park in Bohemia and Moravia, this time supplemented with a professional comment. The rescue station for freely living animals in the Healthy



Stay in nature is for children just as important as its exploration. The Earth Day in Litoměřice was attended by more than 400 children.

City of **Telč** organised an Open Day and also participated in the event called **Distinguishing the Birdsong** in castle park. Education was the destination of trips to nature also in the Healthy Cities of **Litomyšl** and **Třeboň**. In the first mentioned city, participants went to Nedošinský Grove for an educational walk, in Třeboň there was a walk organised with telling title **Way Out of Town**, whose path led on the current **Track of Health**.

The variety of topics of the Healthy Cities within the framework of the Earth Day Campaign is proven by the events for youngest citizens

The Earth Day covers a very wide scope of issues, therefore the spectre of events accompanying it, is likewise very rich. In the course of the campaign there has been a plentiful number of exhibitions, film projections, educational events and also competitions with ecological topics for children. In the Healthy City of **Orlová**, natural-science competitions took place at basic schools and at grammar school. Within the Earth Day in the Healthy City of **Kuřim** there has taken place among others e.g. the programme "puppet ecology" for children, or so called "eco-quiz" prepared by the children's parliament. In **Veselí nad Moravou** there was a literary competition put out with title "I'm a Farmer" and all submitted works were put on display in

foyer of the local Morava theatre. In **Mladá Boleslav** they prepared a competition mini-project for basic schools and lower grammar schools, called **Klenice – Clean River**. The objective of this project that contained a theoretical, practical and creative section, was awaking the children's interest in their surrounding living environment. In **Kopřivnice** they organised on the occasion of the Earth Day an inter-school competition – **Debating League**, whose topic was this year "Living Environment of Kopřivnice, its Protection in Practice". The aim of this competition was verification and deepening of knowledge of young people about their living environment and possibilities of its protection. One of targets was also awakening of idea of communication between the city hall and the young generation. Fine art competitions with ecological subject matter took place also in school facilities in **Třebíč**. Announcement of results and presentation of the fine-art competition dedicated to waste sorting under title "**Space Trips**" consequently took place in the local House of Children and Youth. In the Kinských Castle in **Valašské Meziříčí** the House of Children and Youth organised an event called Children's Hearing, where children discussed with city representatives the questions related to protection of the living environment.



The Earth Day was a great experience, mostly for the smallest ones.

Within this year's celebrations of the Earth Day there have taken place hundreds of events and owing to the sunny weather thousands of visitors could join-in along with further hundreds of those who participated in various art and skill competitions or sporting contests. We believe that this successful year will motivate another Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions to join the celebrations of nature and yet again break this year's record, amounting to 33 participants.

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