

**SDG 14: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Earth's sensitive marine ecosystems are under threat from pollution, overfishing and acidification. To protect them we must reduce waste and nutrient pollution. Marine and coastal ecosystems must be managed sustainably. Efforts must be made to stop acidification and put an end to over-fishing. Small-scale fishermen must be given easier access to marine resources and markets.

**SAFEGUARDING THE NORTH SEA AS A HABITAT**

**➔ WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES ALL ABOUT?**

Plastic waste is threatening the world's oceans. The island of Juist is implementing various measures to fight beach litter, and is working to ensure that less plastic waste is generated locally. Furthermore, Juist has joined forces with the six other East Frisian islands – Borkum, Norderney, Baltrum, Langeoog, Spiekeroog and Wangerooge – as well as the town of Norden to form the 'Guardians of the Wadden Sea'. Together they intend to protect the North Sea and the coastal region.

**➔ WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?**

Together with Friends of the Earth Germany, the island of Juist has installed pallet cages on the beaches in order to collect and dispose of plastic waste. The other East Frisian islands have adopted the pallet cages.

**➔ HOW WAS THIS IMPLEMENTED?**

The island municipality of Juist is pursuing a systematic policy for sustainability, and has signed the specimen resolution 'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level', drafted by the Association of German Cities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

**➔ WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**

The island municipality of Juist is implementing various projects in an effort to ensure that less plastic waste is generated on the island. It has approved corresponding procurement guidelines. Furthermore, it is also supporting the hotel and catering trade in reducing the use of plastic.



**Juist** ➔ Lower Saxony



Population:  
**1,596**



Mayor:  
**Tjark Goerges**





## PLASTIC IS THREATENING THE OCEANS – THE NORTH SEA IS ALSO AFFECTED

Marine habitats are under threat. Toxins and plastic waste from the mainland are reaching the oceans. Currently approximately 6.4 million tons of plastic waste reaches the oceans worldwide every year. 20,000 tons of this reaches the North Sea. Every year around 10,000 birds and marine mammals die as a result of marine pollution. And every year several tons of waste are washed up on the East Frisian Islands. The sustainable management of marine resources must therefore aim to prevent or reduce all forms of marine pollution, including marine waste and over-fertilisation.

### PALLET CAGES FOR PLASTIC WASTE

The inhabitants of the East Frisian Islands have decided to fight plastic waste. The island of Juist is leading the way. For years it has been holding days of action, during which volunteers have cleared the beaches of washed-up waste. Many holidaymakers also keep the beaches clean during the holiday season.

In 2010, together with Friends of the Earth Germany the municipality launched the project 'Plastic-free Juist'. This project aimed to support the voluntary waste collectors and organise disposal. 'We have developed pallet cages in which we collect the waste', says Nadja Ziebarth, Director of the Friends of the Earth Marine Protection Office in Bremen. Visitors to the beach can deposit any waste they have collected there. 'The municipality then collects the waste and takes it to the harbour', explains Thomas Vodde, sustainability officer for Juist. Final disposal on the mainland is funded by the district of Aurich.

And it's not just a matter of a few old fishing nets. 'It's no joke when you see all the things that get washed up on the beach', says Thomas Vodde. As he explains, this includes absolutely everything – from small plastic items to TV sets and even fridges. In 2013, a total of 4.6 tons of waste had been accumulated by the time the pallet cages were emptied. This is another reason why the idea of pallet cages is now also being adopted on the other East Frisian islands. Juist's environmental protection and climate action programme includes further measures designed to make the island more plastic-free. A procurement regulation ensures that the municipality avoids plastic when procuring goods.



The island of Juist is fighting plastic waste in order to protect the sea and the coastal region. (Photo: Hans-Werner Schultz / pixelio.de)

Through its programme 'Fast Track to Climate Action' the Federal Environment Ministry will in the future be promoting the procurement of returnable cups and organic cotton bags. These will be made available to the local catering industry free of charge in order to prevent disposable cups and plastic bags. Hotels on the island will no longer use shower gels that contain microplastics. So people in Juist have been working to preserve the oceans in the spirit of SDG 14 for a long time. Accordingly, the municipal council has signed the specimen resolution 'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level', drafted by the Association of German Cities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

### 'GUARDIANS OF THE WADDEN SEA'

All seven of the East Frisian Islands Borkum, Juist, Norderney, Baltrum, Langeoog, Spiekeroog and Wangerooge, and the town of Norden, wish to protect and preserve the coast. They have joined forces to form the 'Guardians of the Wadden Sea' in order to tackle their problems together. Those responsible on the island are discussing the matter and developing new ideas to protect the North Sea. Their aim is to protect the sea and the coast, in order to preserve ecosystems and at the same time promote sustainable tourism.

### INTERNET ADDRESSES

[www.juist.de](http://www.juist.de)

[www.wattenmeer-achter.de](http://www.wattenmeer-achter.de)