



**Clean water and appropriate sanitation are essential for a healthy and dignified life.** The United Nations is committed to providing universal access to clean water, improving water quality worldwide and protecting water-based ecosystems such as mountains, forests and lakes. Municipalities bear special responsibility here, because they are responsible for water supply and sanitation.

## MANAGING RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY

### ➔ WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES ALL ABOUT?

Since 2011 the municipality of Baruth/Mark has been twinned with Murun in Mongolia. This partnership focuses on sharing knowledge and technology for water supply and sanitation, and the sustainable management of the tree population. Baruth/Mark has learned many lessons in both areas, which it is now transferring to Murun.

### ➔ WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

During the training campaign 'Our water', over the last few years Baruth and Murun have shared information and technology for the sustainable management of natural resources. Murun now has amongst other things water filters for several schools, and a laboratory for monitoring water quality.

### ➔ HOW WAS THIS IMPLEMENTED?

The two sides shared information at regular meetings in Germany and Mongolia. In Murun one aim is to raise public awareness and encourage the population to support the sustainable management of their natural resources. To help achieve this, schools and environmental associations from the region were involved in a large water conference in Murun.

### ➔ WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In 2017, with support from Baruth/Mark work was commenced on building a training centre for trades in Murun. The construction process itself provides training to those involved. Most of the materials used are available locally, and sustainable construction methods are being used. The building will be made from timber and insulated using sheep's wool.



## Baruth/Mark ➔ Brandenburg



Population:  
**4,100**



Mayor:  
**Peter Ilk**





## WATER, FORESTS, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Protecting water as a natural resource and making it universally accessible – this is one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. In Baruth/Mark, sustainability has become a guiding principle over the last 20 years – to protect forests and water. This municipality in the federal state of Brandenburg, with its huge pine forests, has built a modern industrial zone that supports the sustainable management of timber resources. 'One person's waste is another person's raw material', says Peter Ilk, Mayor of Baruth/Mark. A sawmill, two plants for fibreboards and a laminating plant, a biomass cogeneration plant, a mineral water bottling plant and a beneficial species grower are all profiting from the shared site. Since German reunification the municipality has also reorganised its water supply and sanitation.

Since 2011, the lessons learned by Baruth/Mark in this context have been benefiting a municipality located a good 7,000 km away in Mongolia – Murun, which has a population of 40,000. What the municipalities have in common are their huge forests, their freshwater resources and their relatively low population density. When the mayors of the two municipalities establish this at a meeting in 2011, a lively process of exchange began. Initially the process is focusing on drinking water supply.

### NATURAL RESOURCES BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Murun is located at Lake Huvsgul, an important water reservoir in Mongolia. As Peter Ilk explains, 'The water in the pipes is not fit for drinking'. Supermarkets stock imported water. The situation is entirely different in Baruth, where the 'Brandenburger Urstromquelle' bottling plant fills 1.2 billion bottles a year. Local drinking water could also be bottled in Murun. Peter Ilk has already suggested this to the Mayor of Murun, Tserenbadam Gansukh.

However, delivering clean piped water is a more urgent matter. This is why in 2016 the two sides focused on the project 'Our water', which was supported by Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World. Eleven water filters are now available at four schools in Murun. 'Each one of them delivers 1,000 litres of clean water every day', says Peter Ilk. Staff of the waterworks in Baruth trained their colleagues in Murun in managing the filters. They also helped set up a water laboratory to monitor quality. And they



The mayor of Baruth/Mark, Peter Ilk (third from left) visiting Mongolia (Photo: Gemeinde Baruth/Mark)

cleaned the sewers together with their colleagues in Murun. They also brought a gift along – two gas detectors that will make work very much safer in the future. When the visitors from Mongolia come to Brandenburg they will get to know the water utility companies in Baruth and the industrial zone in detail – knowledge they will be able to use when they return home.

### SUSTAINABILITY – AN EDUCATIONAL MANDATE

In October 2016 Baruth organised a water conference in Murun, which involved water specialists from the Czech Republic and the owners of tourist camps around Lake Huvsgul. Games and a poster competition were provided for Mongolian schoolchildren. These activities were designed to enable them to learn about sustainable water management.

In 2017 work commenced on the construction of a training centre for trades in Murun. The local vocational school is involved. The construction process itself provides training – also for sustainability. This is because chiefly local materials are being used, such as sheep's wool to insulate the timber structure. The Service Agency is supporting the project with financial resources and professional inputs. The project 'Our water' is being provided with approximately 250,000 euros under the Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (NAKOPA) programme, which is delivered by the Service Agency. This is money well spent, because it is being invested in safe drinking water, education and the sustainable management of natural resources.

### INTERNET ADDRESSES

[www.stadt-baruth-mark.de](http://www.stadt-baruth-mark.de)  
[www.baruth-murun.de](http://www.baruth-murun.de)