

Clean Air Action Group

Annual Report 2006

(Public Benefit Report)

SUMMARY

The Clean Air Action Group is a National Environmental Protection Association uniting 127 member organisations. The Association continued to perform its environmental protection activities independent of all party politics in 2006 in the interest of the country's healthy and democratic development and the preservation of the country's natural conditions by availing of the following means.

Awareness programmes, interest representation: Environmental and nature conservation awareness and information programmes were run in local, city and professional events for the general public and also for decision-makers. We extended our support to the public, NGOs, environmental initiatives, and civil participation in decision-making. We maintained steady relations with the media in the interest of effective dissipation of environmental information.

Assumption of government roles, the vindication of environmental interests in decision-making: We formulated opinions concerning professional political programmes, bills, and concepts. We initiated local and national measures and regulations in the interest of protecting the environment. We formulated opinions and recommendations concerning various programmes and legislative provisions, particularly the state budget and the tax laws, and the New Hungary Development Plan in order to promote the enforcement of basic environmental principles in the drafting process.

Publications, preparation of background materials: Studies were prepared to support our environmental opinions and recommendations with the involvement of our Panel of Experts, and the use of the experiences and findings of international and Hungarian organisations, and scientific workshops.

The most important outcomes of our 2006 activities in brief:

Our Environmental Counselling Office was approached by the individuals and NGOs on 1840 occasions and we were able to provide useful answers each time. The Clean Air Action Group appeared in the media approximately 700 times throughout the year.

In cooperation with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Hungarian Economics Association and the Green Budget Germany Association, we held a conference titled "Green Reform for Curtailing the State Budget Deficit" in the seat of the MTA. The conference was attended by approximately 150 people with the opening presentation held by the Speaker of the House, Katalin Szili.

We participated in the opinion formulation procedures of the development plans of the Budapest districts and settlements in the Budapest catchment area. We submitted numerous comments in environmental impact study procedures. Where necessary, legal assistance was sought. During this work, we promoted town-planning activities that were designed to improve the

quality of life and healthy living, with particular attention to the protection of the existing green areas.

We built strong work relations with the Hungarian Association of Large Families and other NGOs and joined forces in stepping up against the unreasonable austerity measures of the government.

Concerning transportation, our most important activity was the “Rails Last Longer” campaign aiming to shift freight transport to railways from heavy trucks. We also have played a part in the government’s long-awaited decision to introduce kilometre-fees for trucks and to increase subsidies to combined transport.

In cooperation with other NGOs in the region, we raised our voice in order to prevent the serious transport and environmental problems that are likely to be generated with the completion of the northern bridge of M0.

Together with the Hungarian Transport Club, we numerously objected to the liquidation of the railway branch lines.

We made numerous comments in relation to the New Hungary Development Plan for the 2007-2013 period and related materials.

In cooperation with a number of international and Hungarian NGOs, we successfully objected to the new EU regulation on chemicals and made REACH more environmentally friendly.

Subsequent to our initiative, the Budapest Air Protection Action Programme was eventually prepared with all our recommendations accepted and finally adopted by the General Assembly of the Budapest Municipality.

We came to an agreement with Hankook in which the Korean company undertook to comply with much stricter environmental criteria than those imposed by the Hungarian and EU regulations in its Dunaújváros tyre plant.

Together with other NGOs we numerously raised our voices for the protection of the values of Budapest’s Jewish Quarter, and filed a complaint with the police on illegally sold buildings by the Local Government. We also stepped up to protect the Nagymező Street trees.

A total of 29 studies and awareness-raising publications were issued under our auspices. Our quarterly, the *Lélegzet* (Breath) was published four times this year. Our electronic newsletter, *Lélegzetnyi* (Breathful) and the *Vegyí Anyag Hírlevél* (Chemical Newsletter), prepared in cooperation with the Hungarian Nature Conservation Association, were published monthly. We have a half-hour a week environmental radio programme in the Civil Radio. We participate in the preparation of the English-language quarterly Green Budget News, which reaches many thousands of addressees across the globe.

DETAILS OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Maintenance of relations with our member organisations

Persons in charge: András Lukács and Petra Lendvai

Our tasks include cooperation with our member organisations, the constant provision of information and mutual assistance. In addition to their rights laid down in our Statutes, our Member Organisations also

- receive the *Lélegzet* magazine free of charge,

- regularly receive the latest news in electronic format and our Lélegzetnyi Newsletter, which was launched in 2006 (this latter is also sent out in print if requested),
- receive any of our other publications free of charge upon request,
- are invited to the events held by the Clean Air Action Group,
- may expand knowledge on the protection and improvement of health and the environment with help of the staff of the Clean Air Action Group,
- owing to our extensive membership and system of relations, they can also build relations with people of similar ideas and concerns engaged in the resolution of similar issues and together they can make a more effective stand in the protection of environmental values.

In 2006, the close cooperation with and assistance extended to our member organisations affected the M0 expressway and road No. 10 enjoyed high priority.

International relations

It is our aim to look at international practices and adopt consistent environmental protection regulations (particularly from the practice of the European Union) that can ensure mutual benefits, and at the same time preserve our natural and cultural heritage by cushioning the distorting effects of the market. We promote the conformance of EU Fund supports and the New Hungarian Development Plan with the criteria of sustainable development.

Persons in charge: András Lukács and Zoltán Szabó

The Clean Air Action Group is a member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB, the largest European environmental NGO, www.eeb.org), the European Federation for transport and Environment (T&E, www.t-e.nu), the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe, www.climnet.org), the World Carfree Network (www.worldcarfree.net), the International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Platform (IPEN, www.ipen.org), the Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN-Europe, www.pan-europe.info), and the European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS, www.ecostandard.org). We also maintain close relations with a number of other international organisations including in particular the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network (www.bankwatch.org) and the Institute for Transportation and Development (ITDP, www.itdp.org).

András Lukács is the Vice-President of ITDP-Europe, and Erzsébet Beliczay is an executive member of ECOS.

We also maintain good relations with a number of national NGOs including the Green Budget Germany, the Danish Ecological Council, the Polish Sustainable Development Institute, the Austrian Traffic Club, the German Traffic Club, and the Portuguese Euronatura.

At a European Union level we have relations with government and other official organisations, such as the European Commission (particularly with the Chief Directorates of Environmental Affairs, Transport and Energy, and the Regional Chief Directorate), the European Parliament, the European Environment Agency and others.

Several of our activists in Brussels directly help our work.

A more detailed description of our international activities is found under the specific subject headings.

Environmental Counselling Office (KÖT Office)

The primary aim of the Office is to provide advisory service and thereby remedy the environmental problems of the general public, and promote the work and relieve some of the workload burdening environmental protection organs and authorities. We often provide information to the official bodies and the press, and regularly cooperate with NGOs.

Coordinator: Péter Lenkei

The Office is open to respond to queries by the public and the press between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. The vast majority of such queries are responded to within 72 hours (not including public holidays).

In 2006, the Environmental Counselling Office of the Clean Air Action Group was approached with 1840 queries with approximately 50% of the queries coming from Budapest, 15% from Pest County and 35% from other parts of the country. The Office also receives enquiries from across the border. About half of the enquiries are made over the telephone and the other half are made by email. The number of postal correspondence and personal enquiries is insignificant.

Unfortunately, it has become general practice that environmental conflicts are caused by the negligence, insufficient personnel, and bad decisions allowing environmental pollution by the very authorities that were called to life to protect the environment. These decisions are either attributable to a lack of basic professional expertise or the corruption-susceptible exercise of specific economic groups. As a result, there were numerous instances where we had to act as clients before the courts and seek the public prosecutor to resolve a number of environmental cases.

The Clean Air Action Group is a member of the Network of Environmental Counselling Offices (KÖTHÁLÓ). Our consultants attended trainings every second month of the year.

The detailed annual report of our KÖT Office is available (in Hungarian) at www.levego.hu/letoltes/kapcsolodo_anyagok/kot_beszamolo2006.pdf.

Media relations

We make strong efforts to win the necessary media support, which is one of the most effective means of raising awareness. We are always ready to give press interviews, provide information or opinion to the press. We regularly send off press releases to the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) and numerous other press organs.

Persons in charge: András Lukács and Judit Varga (up until December 2006)

Pursuant to our press releases and in relation to other environment-related occurrences, our office was sought by representatives of the printed and electronic press almost on a daily basis: according to our records (<http://www.levego.hu/sajtofigyelo/sajtofigyelo.xls>), in 2006 we received media attention 360 times throughout the year. The volume of our unrecorded appearances in the national and – mostly – the regional and local media is estimated to be around the same. This means that in 2006 we appeared in the media twice a day on average. Our positions and opinions that were sent off to the MTI (Hungarian News Agency) and the newspapers on our media list are also available on our website.

We have a regular programme aired by Radio Civil (every Wednesday between 4.30 and 5.00 p.m.; the discussions are moderated by Ágnes Hajtman).

“Lélegzet” (Breath) – a quarterly magazine

Editor in chief: Judit Varga (in 2006)

www.lelegzet.hu

The Lélegzet environmental magazine has been published since 1991 under the auspices of the Clean Air Action Group. It is recognised and highly esteemed by the environmental profession, with numerous other press organs of a different profile regularly citing or reprinting articles from it.

The once-monthly journal was published quarterly in 2006 with a new look and contents.

The profile of the journal has also undergone fundamental changes: in addition to specialised articles, it now also presents interviews with recognised people and presents young artists. The journal was published in 2000 copies in 2006. The subscriber and the special complimentary copies reached the addresses by postal mail. Readers of the journal mainly include journalists, environmental and regional and urban development experts, ministry officials, politicians, and members of civil movements. Articles may also be read on the internet and copies of the magazine may also be found in special events where the Clean Air Action Group is represented (conferences, festivals, fairs).

Public relations, relations with NGOs, momentous days

We did a lot to improve cooperation between and to strengthen the interest representation of NGOs. We organised environmental presentations and workshops, set up information stands on theme days, presented environmental concepts to various civil and government organisations and meetings. We helped the work of our member organisations and other green organisations with information, office services, and the organisation of joint events.

Person in charge: Ágnes Hajtman

We participated in the special board of national organisations of the National Civil Fund (NCA).

We maintained close relations with Transylvanian NGOs.

We were one of the organisers of a number of important events (e.g. the European Mobility Week, 16-22 September).

We actively participated in the following events (stand, presentation):

- 16th National Conference of Environmental and Nature Conservationist NGOs, Veszprém,
- Earth Day (22 April) and Floriade (21-25 April, Buda Section of the Szent István University),
- “Green Vortex” environmental and nature conservationist programme series organised by the GATE Green Club at the Szent István University,
- “Researchers’ Night” programme in the Millenáris Park (exhibition and TV appearance),
- the closing conference of the VAHAVA-programme (Change-Effect-Reply) on Climate Change (we had two billboards in the poster and billboard exhibition).

Educational and awareness raising activities in the following summer youth festivals:

- Wanted ZED Festival, Mezőtúr
- VOLT Festival, Sopron
- Sziget Festival, Budapest

We had regular open sessions for our member organisations and experts to discuss current environmental problems and exchange of ideas in our Károly körút office.

The eco-social reform of the state budget

In line with the initiatives and recommendations of the European Union and the OECD, we advocate the establishment of a regulated eco-social market economy where the costs of activities using natural resources wastefully and posing danger to the environment are fully charged to those performing such activities. We urge that the financial resources saved this way should be spent on reducing the tax burden imposed on wages, on promoting innovation and creativity, on developing human resources and on improving the environment.

Project managers: András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó

Similarly to every year since 1992, we again prepared our recommendations to the next state budget and tax bills. We formulated our opinions several times on various subjects relating to this issues and sent them to MPs and the ministries.

There are many NGOs throughout the world that are working on the implementation of the green budget reform. The two most important international networks of these in Europe are the “Environmental Fiscal Reform” Working Group, operating under the auspices of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), and the international network established by the Green Budget Germany (FÖS). Also, uniting approximately 40 member organisations, the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) plays a major role in this field. We maintained constant and up-to-date relations with all these networks, and the organisations and people working therein. This primarily entailed electronic correspondence, or conventional postal mails to a smaller extent, and even telephone conversations. We are also listed on the electronic mailing lists of said organisations, we received their regular news bulletins, circulars, and in turn, they also received the most important news and information from us.

One of the most important components of the green budget reform is to be the introduction of a kilometre-fee for heavy trucks; our most significant campaign this year aimed to achieve this very goal (see: <http://www.levego.hu/kamionstop>).

In January 2006, our representatives participated in the European Environmental Bureau’s conference and campaign workshop in Brussels on environmental fiscal reform.

In February we organised a conference on “Green Reform for Curtailing the State Budget Deficit” together with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Hungarian Economic Association and the Green Budget Germany in the seat of MTA. The conference was attended by approximately 150 people with the opening presentation held by the Speaker of the House, Katalin Szili.

We prepared the Hungarian subtitles to a film on the environmental tax reform made by the Swiss NOE21, and screened the film in numerous events.

In March and then in September, our representatives participated in Copenhagen at the “Transport Subsidies” seminars organised by the European Environment Agency, and attended by some of the most recognised European experts on the subject. The resulting study was prepared with the contribution of the Clean Air Action Group.

On 23-24 March, our representatives participated in the T&E conference and annual general assembly where one of the key subjects was how the eco-social budget reform could be implemented in the field of transportation.

In May, we personally presented János Veres, Minister of Finance, with our proposals concerning the state budget reform.

The staff members of the Clean Air Action Group held a presentation, earning great interest from the audience, on environmentally harmful subsidies in the June 2006 meeting of the Environmental Working Group of the Hungarian Network of the UN’s Global Agreement.

The presentation of the Clean Air Action Group on the illegal accounting of the private use of cars as company use in Hungary aroused great interest among the participants of the international workshop held at the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission on 21 June.

We partook in the June conference of the OECD on “Reforming Subsidies and Sustainable Development” held in Helsinki. The OECD experts emphasised that environmentally harmful subsidies are numerous and significant in volume in all countries and they generate multiple losses by spending large amounts of taxpayers’ money on encouraging the destruction of the environment.

In June we wrote a letter to Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsány criticising the “New Balance Programme” and describing a specific alternative proposal.

In July we wrote a letter to President László Sólyom, asking him not to sign the new tax laws, but put it before the Constitutional Court. (As it is known, the CC had abolished a number of the

tax laws later.) At the same time, we criticised the Fidesz and KDNP proposal urging the government to reduce the tax on fuels.

“Nobody denies the fact that the reduction of the general government deficit cannot wait any longer. The method, however, applied by the government to achieve the desired aim is totally mistaken”, declared András Lukács, president of the Clean Air Action Group on the August, 29th session of the Parliament’s Budget Committee. In the debate on the Convergence Programme, András Lukács explained that the eco-social budget reform, which the Clean Air Action Group worked out on the basis of the recommendations of the European Union and the OECD, and the practical experiences of a number of leading EU Member States, would effectively and reasonably reduce the swollen deficit. It is incomprehensible that when the Finance Ministry had adopted in its letter to CAAG a positive stance in relation to the offered alternative, and in private discussions even government politicians concede to the benefits of the proposal, the government is still doing the opposite.

In September we demonstrated hand in hand with the Hungarian Association of Large Families and other organisations against the unreasonable austerity measures of the government. Following this, eight noted NGOs and public bodies – among them the Clean Air Action Group – had turned to László Sólyom, President of the Republic, in a letter complaining that the government was not consult with non-governmental organisations, does not respond to their opinions, and does not prepare the analyses the laws require.

We expressed our opinion on the Convergence Programme and had it sent to the European Commission.

Throughout the year we raised objections against the staff cuts intended to be implemented in authorities and controlling bodies (including the regional environment and nature conservation organs). We wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and made a number of press releases. In November the key decision-makers were also given copies of our study in which we analysed the risks inherent in the cuts affecting controlling organs.

We objected to the state subsidy extended to Hankook’s planned Dunaújváros plant emphasising that it was a prime example of an environmentally harmful subsidy which also hurts the national economy.

Transport

Our activity was aimed to reduce the negative environmental impacts of transport, to share the related financial burdens more equally among the users, and to increase state support to public and railway transportation, as well as bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and to have measures introduced that would attenuate heavy traffic in order to improve urban life qualities.

Project managers: András Lukács and Mária Schnier

Our most important activity concerning transport was our “Rails Last Longer” campaign aiming to shift cargo transport to railways from heavy trucks. (For further details of the campaign, please visit: www.levego.hu/kamionstop.) The campaign was launched in January with strong media involvement. We had television, newspaper advertisements, huge billboards and ads placed in metro carriages to advocate the project. We wrote a letter to all city mayors of the country. We had constant consultations with the Ministry of Economy and Transport, wrote numerous letters and conducted a great number of personal consultations. The local public had also turned to us on a number of occasions with their concerns; we provided advice, legal assistance, helped to ensure that issues received publicity, and in certain cases we helped organise demonstrations. We attended many people’s forums including one in Páli (road No. 86) and one in Wekerle-telep (Nagykőrösi Road in Budapest).

Together with the Environmental Working Group of the ruling Socialist Party (MSZP) and the Green Section of the opposition party FIDESZ, we held a conference in December in the Office House of the MPs about heavy truck traffic. The attending mayors and NGOs gave account of damaged public roads and homes, unbearable noise and air pollution, increased risk of accidents and they simultaneously demanded that the present state be terminated as soon as possible. The organisers and the participants both found it unacceptable that each year there are 2.5 million trucks sweeping across the roads of the country while the costs of all the damage thus caused is still covered by the Hungarian taxpayers. The conference was an opportunity for the Clean Air Action Group to repeat its proposal to introduce the kilometre-fee for trucks as this would significantly alleviate the problems and the local governments would get significant surplus funds, which could be used to help resolve traffic problems.

In February, the Petition Committee of the European Parliament discussed our submission made in relation to the ISPA support strengthen road surfaces (we strongly believe that this should be covered by the operators of heavy trucks, and the EU-funds ought to be spent on other projects). The Petition Committee did not accept the response given by the European Commission and required further reasoning.

We lodged a complaint with the European Commission in relation to the financing of the expressway construction programme. (As is known, the EU had finally put a stop to the tricks the government was playing in this respect.)

At the request of the Ministry of Economy and Transport, we formulated an expert opinion on the ministry's expressway network development programme and analysed the related environmental impact. We concluded the programme is mistaken from economic, transport and environmental aspects as well.

In cooperation with the NGOs of the region, we stepped up against the serious transport and environmental problems that are likely to be generated with the completion of the northern bridge of the motorway M0, as the investment would place another heavy wave of traffic on North Buda and the Pilis settlements unless the necessary proper measures were implemented. We also raised objections against the extension of the M0 motorway in North Buda. In this relation, we also stepped up to find a solution to the transport and environmental problems associated with road No. 10. We attended and talked in a number of people's forums. As a result of our informative educational work, the position of the population now seems to be changing. This was demonstrated by the fact that the Youth for Vörösvár Association, together with the mayor of the town and the mayors of other settlements in the region were supposed to hold a demonstration against the Clean Air Action Group in Pilisvörösvár by blocking half the road. However, the planned movement was rather a failure with as few as 20 people – including the organisers – attending and with no cars to block the road. We formulated opinions in order to resolve the traffic problems in the region, in which we recommended that the funds be spent on the improvement of the Esztergom railway line and the connecting public transportation network.

We supported the Árpádföld and Csömör NGOs in their struggle to have the eastern stretch of M0 run on a more reasonable track (along what is known as the Gödöllő trans-connection).

We constantly contributed to the preparatory work of the New Hungary Development Plan on transport and regularly formulated expert opinions concerning the relevant materials, and participated in the activities of the various work committees. In all cases, we urged for the transport-related chapters to comply with the principles of sustainable development. We warned the European Commission that the EU support extended for the expansion of the public road infrastructure was contrary to the European Union law.

The printed and electronic press released several transport-related reports that were originally prepared by the Clean Air Action Group each week.

Together with our concerned member organisations we jointly stepped up to have the western terminal of Metro 4 constructed in a more reasonable and more environment-friendly manner.

We participated in developing the initiatives designed to reform the parking regulations in Budapest.

We formulated expert opinions on the Budapest bicycle road construction plan and participated in interest representation processes concerning activities in relation to bicycle infrastructure.

On numerous occasions did we step up against the closure of railway branch lines. We pointed out that many European countries have restored their previously closed branch lines at significant costs because they recognised that the revival of these lines have significant social, economic and environmental benefits. This is what we stressed during the extraordinary consultation of the Association of Railway Settlements (VTSZ) held in Kunszentmiklós on 14 July. (According to the government's announcement made on 5 July, soon 28 and later a further 52 lines will be closed in the near future, which practically entails the entire branchline network. The 7700 kilometre long railway network is intended to be curtailed to a 4000 kilometre core network that would only include the main international lines cutting through the country and the local railways with a centre in Budapest. The Clean Air Action Group and other NGOs have numerously pointed it out that the maintenance of the branch lines has numerous social, economic and environmental benefits.) On 21 of November we held a joint conference with the Hungarian Traffic Club and with the participation of the concerned mayors and MPs with focus on the branch lines destined to closure. We held site visits of the affected lines and organised joint forums with the local governments and NGOs. In December the conference in Recsk, held to save the Mátra line, was organised with our participation and with our presentation.

In September we participated in the Berlin conference held by the pro-railway NGO Allianz pro Schiene on the international cooperation required to save the rail.

We pointed it out to the European Commission that Hungary was repeatedly breaching the railway-related provisions of the Union and asked that the Commission request the Hungarian government to comply with the relevant laws. We wrote a number of letters and consulted with the Brussels officials in charge on a number of occasions.

We were one of the organisers of the very successful Critical Mass bicycle demonstration.

Protection of the built and natural areas of the Budapest agglomeration

We participated in consultations and formulated opinions, organised public and professional forums with a view to managing environmental conflicts that concerned the local people.

Project manager: Mária Schnier

The most important comments and opinions we submitted to authorities were as follows:

To the Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management Supervision:

- Comments on the preliminary environmental study of the Kőbánya-Kispest shopping centre in District XIX in Budapest
- Comments on the preliminary environmental study of blocks 11 and 12 of Danubio Park in District XIII, Budapest
- Comments on the preliminary study of the Gellérthegy Cable-Car in District I, Budapest
- Comments on the Shopping and Leisure Centre and residential home to be established in the parking lot of Skála department store in District XI, Budapest

- Comments on the preliminary environmental study published unchanged as part of the new environmental licensing procedure relating to the development of the section of road No. 10 stretching between 11.2 km and 15.2 km
- Comments on the preliminary study relating to the section of road No. 10 approaching the capital (the stretch between 8+154 and 11+200 km)
- Comments on the preliminary environmental study of the section of road No. 10 stretching between 15+200 and 34+700 km

To the local governments of the districts of the capital:

- Comments on the arrangement plan of the area bordered by the Hűvösvölgyi Rd. – Lipótmezei Rd. – forest area in District II
- Comments on the City Planning and Building Act of District II
- Comments on the District Arrangement Plan of District XI pertaining to the Szent Gellért Sq. and surrounding area
- Comments on the District Arrangement Plan of District XI pertaining to the area enclosed by Fehérvári Rd – Prielle K. St. – Soproni Rd – Hauszmann A. St
- Comments on the District Arrangement Plan of District XI pertaining to the area enclosed by Gazdagréti Rd – Rétköz St
- Comments on the District Arrangement Plan of District XI pertaining to the area enclosed by Budaörsi Rd – Unnamed public area – Törökbálinti Rd – Rupphegyi Rd
- Comments on the community development concept of the local government of District XIII
- Comments on the District Arrangement Plan of District XIII pertaining to the area enclosed by Váci Rd – Csavargyár St – Cserhalom St – Rákospatak
- District Arrangement Plan of District XIII pertaining to the area enclosed by Esztergomi Rd – Árbóc St – Visegrádi St – Süllő St
- District Arrangement Plan of District XIII pertaining to the area enclosed by Meder St – Duna-folyam – North Railway Bridge – Váci Rd
- District Arrangement Plan of District XIII pertaining to the area enclosed by River Danube – Meder St – Cserhalom St – Rákospatak
- District Arrangement Plan of District XIX pertaining to the Kőbánya-Kispest junction and surrounding area

Comments on the impact study on the reclassification of the frame zones lodged with the Chief Architect of Budapest:

- District VIII; Corvin-Szigony project
- District XIV; area enclosed by Mexikói Rd – Erzsébet királyné Rd – Columbus St – M3 expressway
- District XIV; Pascal well and surrounding area
- The Barackos Rd junction of M0 in District XXII stretching from the administrative borders of Diósd and the River Danube
- District XV Újpalota, the area enclosed by Szentmihályi Rd – Rákospalotai Rd – Lot no. 01115 public area – Hűtő St – Késmárk St – and the area marked E-VE

Comments on applications submitted to country local governments:

- To the mayor of Úröm; comments on the conciliation procedure concerning the arrangement plan pertaining to lot Numbers 036/3., 036/6., and 043/8/18.
- To the mayor of Budakalász; comments on the Budakalász HÉSZ and Arrangement Plan modification
- To the mayor of Piliscsaba; client opinion on Community Arrangement Plan
- To the mayor of Piliscsaba; opinion on the supervision of the Local Building Regulations, the Zonal Plan and the Arrangement Plan
- To the mayor of Budakeszi; comments on the build-up of the Zichy Péter St plot
- To the Chief Architect of Biatorbágy; opinion on the community development plans and the Local Building Regulations of Biatorbágy
- To the mayor of Törökbálint; on the Arrangement Plan and Building Regulations of the Lake Park
- To the mayor of Budakeszi; on the Arrangement Plan of Makkosmária and the comments on the related amendment of the Community Arrangement Plan

Other submissions:

- **Appeal and legal claim** submitted to the President of the Office for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (KÖH) contesting the provisional building permit issued for the establishment of the underground garage under Múzeumkert and the related cellar entrance in Budapest. Our appeal was rejected by the President of KÖH without conducting any actual investigation into the issue in December 2006. For this reason, we lodged a complaint in January with the Metropolitan Court of Budapest.
- We lodged an **appeal** with the National Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation and Water Management Supervision against the environmental licence for the expansion of condominium commonly known as Miskolci Rd 157-159 in District XIV of Budapest and 211-213 Dorozsmai St. In its second award, the Supervision had granted the environmental licence. This the local NGO contested before the Metropolitan Court of Budapest.
- Together with the Védegylet and the National Society of Conservationists, we lodged a **submission** with the Budapest Local Government in relation to the District Arrangement Plan of the local government of District III in relation to the Óbudai-sziget in objection to the planned large-volume investment project. The investor had numerously consulted with the NGOs; standpoints drew closer on certain subjects, yet no concessions were made in relation to the volumes planned to be built up.
- We sent a **letter** to the Ministry of Economics and Transport relating to the environmental impacts of the sand and stone quarries. The minister in his reply agreed with our arguments and recommendations but claimed that the background industry processing secondary raw materials was underdeveloped. Ever since then, we have been closely monitoring the website of the environmental protection authority and partake in the environmental impact study of new quarries.
- In 2006 we continued to monitor the development of the legal environment relating to city planning and green areas. Based on preliminary appointment, we participated in formulating opinions on the amendment of two legal statues as clients:
 - The complete revision of Decree 47/1998. (X. 15.) of the Budapest General Assembly on the Budapest Urban Planning and Building Regulation Frame and Decree 46/1998. (X. 15.) on Budapest Arrangement Frame Plan is still under way. In this regard we submitted our opinion to the Office of the Chief Architect of the Budapest Mayor's Office and participated in all its conciliation meetings held so far.

- Coming into force on 1 May 2006, indent b) of section (2) of Article 8 of the amended Building Act (Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Formation and Protection of the Built Environment) makes a reference to a “separate statute” about the calculation of the value of biological activity. In October 2006, we submitted our opinions in relation to the draft decree to two ministries: the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management.
- We keep a close watch on the ideas of proportional, liveable, and well-functioning city structure whenever we object to the powerful area intensification enforced by some developers. We made comments about the preliminary environmental study of the 700-home condominiums to be erected on the property under 157-159 Miskolci út District XIV, commonly known as the “Zugló Green City” for use by the Middle Danube Valley Environment and Nature Protection and Water Management. (Our first objections were raised against the decisions of the authorities sweeping away all environmental considerations in 2005, and we are still continuing our activities in this issue.)
- In the field of protecting existing green areas, we feel it crucial to protect the green areas of long-established housing estates too. This is also best implemented in the conciliation procedure of urban planning in cooperation with the local governments and the architect designers.
- In 2006 we raised our voice for the protection of the architectural values of the Budapest Jewish Quarter together with the Protest! Association, the Foundation for the World Heritage of Budapest and other organisations. As part of this effort we stepped up against the demolition of the Hild-House under 40 Király Street in District VI.
- We struggle hand in hand with the Védegylet and the local association of the particularly active Nagymező Street residents in order to protect the protected Nagymező Street row of trees.
- We raised our voice in the interest of protecting the existing Budapest sport grounds. (<http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/zoldterulet/sportpalyak05V.pdf>).

Regional development

We made efforts to curb urban sprawl, preserve the healthy proportion of rural and urban population, and find the right answers to global climate change. Our activities were primarily aimed at establishing an appropriate fiscal and legal environment, influencing decision-makers and raising public awareness.

Project manager: Erzsébet Beliczay

We continued providing decision-makers with information in the interest of modifying the act on local government acts and the rules on regional planning.

We urged the introduction of urban climatology research in the regulatory process in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

We also urged for an infrastructure development that is more consistent with the local characteristics and the load-bearing capacity of society, and improves our competitiveness, and for a better maintenance of the existing technological assets.

We held a presentation about the external costs of urban sprawl at the session of the Hungarian Environmental Network of the UN’s Global Compact.

We also had a lecture on the “Opportunities of Developing a Liveable City” at the “Green Urban Development” conference.

We participated in the autumn conference of VIA FUTURI, a NGO, in Pécs.

We compiled a set of recommendations for the Hungarian representatives of the European Parliament on the subject.

We participated in the elaboration of the principles of Hungarian “Urban Environment Thematic Strategy” coordinated by the Ministry of Transport and Water Management and spoke at the conference held at the Budapest New City Hall on the subject in relation to the anomalies of the two-level city management.

We extended our support to the Kazinczy-Street squatters whose aim was to preserve the valuable buildings and, preferably, use them for community purposes.

Climate protection

Our activities were directed at reducing emission, increasing energy saving and energy efficiency, strengthening the energy-effective attitudes of people and the sectors. We drew the attention of the population and the representatives of the various special fields to the possible solutions and the methods of mitigating the harmful impacts.

Project managers: Erzsébet Beliczay and Zoltán Szabó

We participated in the sessions of the Energy Management Interest Representation Council (EÉT) and the events of the VAHAVA Programme.

We stood up for the climate and environmental protection considerations in professional events and in articles. We partook in the climate protection campaign of the European Climate Action (CAN-Europe) which ensured among others that the information from Brussels almost immediately reach us.

We represented environmental issues as a civil delegate at the Kyoto Mechanisms Inter-ministerial Committee primarily in relation to the trading of emission rights, the joint implementation, the National Allocation Plan, and the pending National Climate Change Strategy.

We urged for the preparation and use of climate maps – similarly to noise plans – in larger cities, which can be used as guidelines when issuing building rights.

New Hungary Development Plan

Project managers: Erzsébet Beliczay, András Lukács and Zoltán Szabó

We commented on the 2007-2013 programmes a number of times with regards to the social and environmental aspects of sustainability. We partook in the formulating of the joint opinion expressed by the green organisations on the New Hungary Development Plan. “The government and the General Assembly adopted the aim of improving the quality of life for the National Development Policy Concept; however this goal was diminished to mere financial considerations in the New Hungary Development Plan (NHDP). The plan leaves the environmental conditions completely in disregard and therefore it is unsustainable. The plan is based on false calculations. The indicators are often haphazard, unthoughtful, and are left unexpressed in terms of figures.” These are only a few of the conclusions the Green Development Policy Action Group – including representatives of the Clean Air Action Group – expressed in its opinion on the NHDP.

The government’s plan to reform the system of taxation in view of environmental considerations has been left out from the draft of the government’s new Lisbon Action Programme, concluded the Clean Air Action Group in its opinion prepared by request of Gordon Bajnai, Commissioner for development policies. The previous version prepared in September 2005 had indeed contained the desire to make the general budget “greener”. The removal of this intent from the plan gives rise to concern because the green budget reform offered an alternative which would improve employment and the country’s competitiveness against the present austerity measures.

In the social-professional debate on the NHDP, we urged for the considerations on sustainability to also be taken into account by the makers of the plan; they included the preservation of natural values, better employment figures, and the prevention of environmental damage.

Being one of the founders of the National Asbestos Relief Programme Working Group, we numerously emphasised the importance of supporting the removal of sprayed asbestos insulation from residential homes and office buildings. Other specific recommendations we made: greater support for renewal of buildings for energy efficiency and the minor projects of renewable energy, the development of public transport and railways, and the enforcement of the principles of horizontality (accessibility, price proportionality – examination of the affordability of infrastructure developments, the unavailability of environmental considerations).

Chemical safety, policies concerning chemicals

The Clean Air Action Group has been participating in the international campaign on chemicals since 2003. The aim of the campaign is to bring about European-level laws that can guarantee that no chemicals are included in everyday products that can pose a health hazard and which limit the use of toxic and environmentally unsafe chemicals. The main aim at first was to better the EU's regulation on the use of chemicals, REACH; however, today we are active members and participants of a number of international programmes.

Project managers: Gergely Simon and János Pál

In the campaign for the sustainable use of chemicals we closely cooperated with the National Society of Conservationists and the Hungary.

We launched a joint website with the National Society of Conservationists (www.vegnyireakcio.hu).

Working in cooperation with a number of international NGOs, we developed the Hungarian language version of www.chemicalreaction.org, dealing with the REACH regulation where the participants can write e-mails relating to the regulations on chemicals to the representatives in the European Parliament.

Each month we published the electronic Chemicals Newsletter which was made available on the internet as well.

We contributed to the work of the inter-ministerial work committees dealing with the subject.

We held two 5-10-minute presentations on chemicals in the households before approximately 50-100 children (mostly from the upper four grades of elementary) in the framework of environmental awareness programmes organised by EMLA in country schools.

Air quality protection

Our objective is to advance the tightening the regulations on air quality and compliance with the relevant legal rules.

Project managers: Gergely Simon and Péter Lenkei

In January, we warned the public that due to the unfavourable meteorological conditions in the previous few days, air pollution was critical in some major cities. Comments made by the official organs confirmed our position urging the reduction of air pollution. Subsequent to our initiative, the Budapest Air Protection Action Programme was now under way, which eventually integrated all the recommendations made by the Clean Air Action Group. The programme was adopted by the General Assembly of Budapest in May and resolved that a detailed action plan must be completed before 30 September 2006. Unfortunately, this was eventually unfulfilled, therefore we raised our voice a number of times in the Budapest Municipality, the Ministry of Transport and

Water Management and other forums, wrote articles on the subject, and lobbied for a better regulation.

We played an active role in the EEB's action group dealing with clean air.

We concluded an agreement with Hankook, in which the Korean company agreed not to use any additives in their products manufactured in the Dunaújváros tyre plant that were due to be banned in the EU from 2010 because of their carcinogenic effect. This is a significantly stricter criterion than that which the Hungarian authorities prescribed in their official environmental licence for the company. For this reason, the Clean Air Action Group will not bring an action against the issued permit, yet we still consider the government subsidy extended to Hankook a mistake.

Insecticides and biocides

Project managers: Gergely Simon and János Pál

We held two training courses for farmers on environment-friendly insecticides.

We had civil training on the problem of insecticides at an event organised by the National Society of Conservationists.

We prepared an educational material about the risks of insecticides and about environment-friendly plant protection ([http://www.levego.hu/#showArchive1\(KapcsAnyag,44\)](http://www.levego.hu/#showArchive1(KapcsAnyag,44))).

Delegated by environmental NGOs, we played an active role in the Pesticide Approval Conciliatory Council (NEET)'s sessions, where we tried to enforce environmental and health protective considerations as much as possible.

We cooperated with the German member organisation of PAN and other Central European organisations in the interest of containing the hazardousness of insecticides.

We held presentations at the German PAN seminar in Slovakia and the meeting of the PAN PURE Working Group.

We surveyed the use of insecticides by farmers in two Trans-Tisza communities (http://www.levego.hu/letoltes/kapcsolodo_anyagok/novenyvedo0611.pdf).

We prepared an information leaflet in relation to household pest control (http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/vegianyag/rovarirto_rec.pdf).

In cooperation with international NGOs we held a press conference against WHO's pro-DDT stance, which was also objected to within the world organisation.

Agrarian-environmental protection

Project managers: János Pál and Zoltán Szabó

Supported by the EU's 6th R+D Framework Programme and being the Hungarian partner of MethodEx European research, we analysed case studies for expressing environmental externalities in terms of numbers in the field of agriculture. In 2006 the data of the following agricultural cases studies were processed:

- Environmental and sanitarian costs of intensive and extensive cattle (meat and milk) production and pork farms
- Environmental and sanitarian costs of intensive and extensive plant production.

Standardisation

Project manager: Erzsébet Beliczay

Since December 2005 the Clean Air Action Group has been a member of the European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS). Based in Brussels, the aim of the international umbrella organisation is to promote regulations that take environmental

considerations into account. For the time being, this is slow even in the EU because of the opposing interest groups and widespread misinformation. The task is vast enough to call for the setting up of a full working group in Hungary as well. In the beginning, we expect that with our ECOS membership we will have access to better and faster information. Our limited resources will continue to be invested in matters concerning constructions (energy saving, toxic and hazardous waste, etc.).

Economic and Social Council, National Environmental Council

The National Meeting of Environment and Nature Conservation NGOs (OT) elected **Zoltán Szabó** in 2005 to act as a delegate in the National Environmental Council. Zoltán Szabó played an active role in formulating opinions and statements concerning government materials put before the Council, mainly in the area of the budget, energy and climate policies, national development plans, the institutional system and regional development.

In June 2006, the OT delegated **András Lukács** as the representative of green organisations in the Economic and Social Council (GSZT). This significantly helped improve the chances of enforcing environmental considerations. András Lukács formulated a written opinion on the draft resolution of the GSZT in relation to the New Hungary Development Plan (ÚMFT) and the Reviewed National Lisbon Action Programme. The comments were mostly integrated into the final draft resolution. András Lukács formulated an opinion on the preliminary concept of the pending Social Contract (it is still in the embryonic stage). He also commented on the declaration of the GSZT made to the parties, which was accordingly modified.

The GSZT appointed András Lukács to prepare an evaluation of the Environment and Energy Operative Programme. The evaluation was accepted – with minor changes – by the plenary session of the GSZT. Beside the GSZT-member assigned the task of evaluating the Transportation Operative Programme (representing the employers' side), András Lukács prepared a separate evaluation, which the GSZT also discussed and forwarded it to the National Development Agency.

The civil side of the GSZT appointed András Lukács to partake in the Corporate Social Responsibility Working group whose task was to formulate a proposal on the subject. The draft proposal has been completed.

Environmental conflicts brought to law

Of all the environmental conflicts brought to law, here we enlist only trials, and prosecutor's and constitutional court submissions. Any additional legal action we took is described under the given subject.

Court trials

- We have one pending submission against the judgement of the Supreme Court with the Strasbourg European Human Rights Court because the SC rejected our claim instituted in an administrative procedure in the interest of protecting the most important drinking water base of the Budapest catchment area and the natural values and communities of the Szentendrei-sziget, the Buda- and the Pilis-mountain range (in relation to the construction of the northern bridge of the motorway M0).
- The civil action that was started in 2005 by five environmental organisations – the Clean Air Action Group, the Solymár Environmentalist Association, the SOS for Békásmegyer Association, the There is Better M-nUII Association of Environmentalists of Üröm and Pilisborosjenő, and the Védegylet – continued, requesting the court to prohibit the expressway

developers from jeopardising the environment with the construction of the northern M0 bridge.

- In February, the Regional Appeal Court of Budapest required the Mayor of Budapest, Gábor Demszky in a final judgement to publish a counterstatement and pay HUF 500 thousand to the Clean Air Action Group for making false allegations about the construction of metro 4 that caused an injury to the Clean Air Action Group.
- The shopping mall Auchan filed a lawsuit against the President of the Clean Air Action Group for an article published in the Népszabadság titled “The Miracles of Auchan” (see: <http://www.nol.hu/cikk/362065/>).
- We lodged a complaint with the Complaints Committee of the National Radio and Television Board (ORTT) because TV2’s Tények grossly falsified the opinions of the Clean Air Action Group in relation to road No. 10 and the M0. Following TV2’s appeal, the ORTT also proved the Clean Air Action Group right. TV2 then turned to court; in the litigation we act as interveners.

Submissions to the Prosecutor

- Together with the Association of Home Renters and Tenants, the Protest! Association, and the KIRÁLY MP Pénzügyi Szolgáltató Kft. we lodged a complaint with the Budapest Prosecutor’s Office in August 2006 regarding the illegitimately sold properties by the Local Government of District VII, Budapest.
- Together with the Védegyelet and a local resident we lodged an application for legal supervision with the Budapest Legal Supervision Prosecution against the construction of the District VI underground parking facility in Nagymező Street. Pursuant to our submission, the Prosecution issued a notice of protest against the logging permit and later the building permit. For this reason, the District VI local government must instigate a new procedure.

Submissions to the Constitutional Court

- In February we requested the abolition of the latest amendment of the expressway act: http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/alkotmanyb/ab_gyorsforgmod06.pdf
- In August we requested the abolition of the tax laws that are part of the government’s austerity package: http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/alkotmanyb/ab-egyensuly_0608.pdf

Studies and other publications

Studies

The first 11 studies are part studies prepared under the editorship of Erzsébet Beliczay to supplement a volume entitled, **Energy Efficiency, Energy Saving**. (An abridged version of the book is also available.)

1. Kiss, Károly: Some General Characteristics of Energy Management in Hungary in light of processes in the EU
2. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: The National Economic Opportunities of Energy Efficiency in Transport, http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/energiahat_kozl.pdf
3. Fleischer, Tamás: LOGREEN – Energy Aware Development of Hungary’s Logistic System
4. Medgyasszay, Péter: The Expected Impact of Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings and on Energy Saving
5. Beliczay, Erzsébet: More for Less! – EU for Saving Energy
6. Novák, Ágnes: Renovation of System-Built Tower Blocks for Energy Saving

7. Medgyasszay, Péter: The Role of Renewable Energy in Energy Supply
8. Kovács, Attila: Biogas Production – Opportunities and Hindrances
9. MAVÍZ Report: Sewage Water Management, Public Utilities Infrastructure
10. Unger, János: Urban Climate Studies
11. Pál, János: The Real Costs of Urban Expansion
<http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/varositerjeszkes.pdf>
12. Kiss, Károly (ed.): Subsidies to be Banned – Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Economy, <http://www.levego.hu/letoltes/kiadvanyok/tiltandotamogatas.pdf> (The study was already included in the Public Benefit Report of the previous year, however, it was only electronically available from our website. In February 2006, L’Harmattan Publishing company printed it.)
13. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: Rails Last Longer (first edition in January, then second, revised edition in December), <http://www.levego.hu/kamionstop/kamionkiadvany1.pdf>
14. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: The Eco-Social Reform of the State Budget – Recommendations for the Year 2006, http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/kolts-2006_c.pdf
15. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: Recommendations for the Amendment of the Tax Laws and State Subsidies
16. Evaluation of the Taxation Relating to Travel Expenses and Reimbursement of Travel Expenses, http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/kozlekedesi_ktgteritesek06.pdf
17. Beliczay, Erzsébet – Pál, János: PPP Public-Private Partnership: Trick or Opportunity? (English-language study commissioned by the CEE Bankwatch Network)
18. Beliczay, Erzsébet – Lukács, András: Recommendations for Budapest – What Do We Expect of Local Governments between 2006 and 2010?, <http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/ajanlasbp.pdf>
19. Hajtman, Ágnes – Markovics, Vera – Pál, János – Simon, Gergely – Újhelyi, Kata – Vizi, Orsolya: Our Everyday Poisons, <http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/hetkoznapimergek.pdf>
20. Pál, János – Simon, Gergely: Environmentally Friendly Use of Insecticides, http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/novenyvedoszer_hasznalat.pdf
21. Pál, János: What Do We Think of Chemicals?, <http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/vegyszermeres.pdf>
22. Pál, János – Simon, Gergely: EU Contribution to Sustainable Plant Protection, http://www.levego.hu/letoltes/kapcsolodo_anyagok/fenntarthato_novved.pdf
23. Dragos, Tibor – Simon, Gergely (ed.): Near Boiling-Point, <http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/forraspont.pdf>
24. Dragos, Tibor – Pál, János – Simon, Gergely: REACH – For Safer Chemicals, <http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/reachdonthozoi.pdf>
25. Lenkei, Péter: Don’t Burn It!, http://www.levego.hu/konyvtar/olvaso/Ne_egsed_el.pdf
26. A Price Worth Paying (Hungarian translation of the study by European Federation for Transport and Environment, completed with information specific to Hungary), <http://www.levego.hu/kamionstop/dijamiterdemes.pdf>
27. Without Cars in the City (teaching aid for kindergarten kids and attendants, as well as for 6-18-year-old students and teachers, which was sent to 1400 schools), <http://www.levego.hu/letoltes/automentescd/>
28. We wrote several chapters in the educational aid titled “Neither With Nor Without Them – the World of Chemicals” edited by Tibor Dragos.

29. We helped the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) in preparing an English-language publication presenting the environmental impacts of REACH (REACH: Environmental issues for the second reading, <http://www.eeb.org/activities/chemicals/Publication-REACH-EEB-016-06.pdf>).

Electronic newsletters

- Lélegzetnyi (ed.: Judit Varga), issued monthly
- Chemicals Newsletter (ed.: János Pál and Gergely Simon), issued monthly
- Green Budget News, a European quarterly issued under the auspices of the Green Budget Germany about the environmental fiscal reform budget, co-edited by the Clean Air Action Group.

The Organisational Structure of the Clean Air Action Group in December 2006

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 127 members					
Advisory Committee: 110 persons	PRESIDENTIAL BOARD President Vice Presidents (3) Member of the board (1)				Supervisory Committee 3 persons
Director					
<i>Supporting members</i>	Programme coordinators: 7 people (5 full-time,	Communic ation chief	Lélegzet Editorial Staff: 2 persons	Environ- mental Counselling Office: 3 persons	Financial Section: 2 persons
<i>Subscribers of Lélegzetnyi</i>	1 on a contract, 1 entrepreneur)				
<i>Volunteers</i>	Civil relations: 1 person				Office manage- ment: 1 person

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

Financial Report of the Clean Air Action Group for the year 2006

BALANCE

2005.

2006.

ASSETS

in HUF Th

Description	Prev. Year	Current year
A. Fixed assets	2 900	1 845
I. Intangible assets	30	
II. Tangible assets	2 870	1 845
III. Long-term financial assets		
B. Current assets	63 108	28 130
I. Inventories	0	
II. Receivables	6 470	11 696
III. Securities	0	
IV. Financial assets	56 638	16 434
C. Prepaid expenses and accrued income	5 186	7 314
Total assets	71 194	37 289

LIABILITIES

in HUF Th

Description	Prev. year	Current year
D. Equity capital	20 062	25 134
I. Starting/Issued capital	0	
II. Change in capital/Profit and loss	1 024	20 062
III. Committed reserves	0	
IV. Revaluation reserve	0	
V. Profit from public benefit activities in year under review	19 038	5 072
VI. Profit from business activity in year under review	0	
E. Provisions		
F. Liabilities	3 529	3 468
I. Subordinated debts	0	
II. Long-term liabilities	0	
III. Current liabilities	3 529	3 468
G. Accrued expenses and deferred income	47 603	8 687
Total liabilities	71 194	37 289

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

in HUF Th

Description	Prev. Year	Current year
A. Income from all public benefit activities	91 951	110 702
1. Support received for public benefit operation from	4 505	4 522
a) founder	0	0
b) state budget	0	228
c) local governments	0	0
d) other sources	4 505	4 294
2. Support from grant applications	69 187	88 448
3. Income from public benefit activities	10 330	12 269
4. Income from membership fees	345	3 082
5. Other income	7 584	2 381
B. Income from entrepreneurial activities	0	0
C. Total income (A+B)	91 951	110 702
D. Expenditures of public benefit activities	72 913	105 630
Material costs	35 894	65 441
Payroll expenditures	28 312	32 872
Depreciation	3 101	2 265
Other expenditures	5 601	5 021
Expenses on financial transactions	5	31
Extraordinary expenses	0	0
E. Entrepreneurial activity-related expenditures	0	0
Material costs	0	0
Payroll expenditures	0	0
Depreciation	0	0
Other expenditures	0	0
Expenses on financial transactions	0	0
Extraordinary expenses	0	0
F. Total expenditure (D+E)	72 913	105 630
G. Entrepreneurial income before tax (B-E)	0	0
H. Taxation	0	0
I. Profit and loss account from entrepreneurial activity	0	0
J. Profit and loss from public benefit activity in current year	19 038	5 072

in HUF Th

For information purposes only	Prev. Year	Current year
A. Payroll expenses	28 312	32 872
1. Wage costs	18 655	23 172
of which: - contract fees	1 800	3 715
- royalties		
2. Other payroll expenses	3 176	2 366
3. Payroll tax	6 481	7 334
B. Support extended by the organisation		4 726
Partner cooperating in the Phare programme		4 726

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

Statement on the volume and use of the 2006 support from the state budget

in HUF th

Name of support	Amount of support - carried over from 2005	Amount of support in given year	Carry over to 2007	Allocation	Allocated amount in given year	Amount actually used in 2005	Carry over to 2007
Government budget							
Environment Protection Fund Target		209	391	Vindication of environmental considerations in standards, K 36-06-00474 K	209		391
Environment Protection Fund Target		3 895	105	Improving the condition of urban environment, K 36-06-00317 K	3 895		105
Environment Protection Fund Target		1 500		Running the Environmental Consulting Office, K 36-06-00476 K	1 500		
Environment Protection Fund Target	432	738		Running the Environmental Consulting Office, K 36-06-00381 C	808	362	
Environment Protection Fund Target		745	255	3L in the decade of raising awareness of Sustainability, K 36-06-00477 K	745		255
Environment Protection Fund Target		695	105	Effective social participation in official procedures relating to town development and environmental protection - humane chemical use and related regulation under clear conditions! K 36-06-00475 K	695		105
Environment Protection Fund Target	167	1 833		Traffic and air pollution, K 36-05-00158 D	2 000		
Environment Protection Fund Target	190			Earth Day, 2005 K 36-04-00604 M	107	83	
Environment Protection Fund Target	750			Campaign against illegal burning of plastics, K 36-05-00218 D	579	171	
Environment Protection Fund Target	1 350			Chemical world, K 36-05-00121 C	1 180	170	
National Civil Basic Programme	1 200	1 200		Shake hands and settle for less? NCA 00695/22/05	1 837	563	
National Civil Basic Programme	4 948	2 052		Operating support, NCA 00486/01/05	23	6 977	
National Civil Basic Programme	1 000	1 000		Green budget - cooperation with Transylvanian organisations, NCA 01103/23/05	1 351	649	
National Civil Basic Programme	906	594		Campaign for the compliance with 1999/30/EC Directive in Budapest, NCA 01157/23/05	445	1 055	

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

National Civil Basic Programme	1 446	1 004		Union for a livable Budapest and Catchment area, NCA 00244/21/05	1 827	623	
National Civil Basic Programme	250			Application for support for committee participation, NCA 00212/21/05	89	161	
National Civil Basic Programme		796		Running race against the internet, NCA 02197/22/05	796		
National Civil Basic Programme		336	364	Participation in international organisations, NCA 00580/23/06	336		364
National Civil Basic Programme		736	264	Climate protection - adaptation of international experiences NCA 00559/23/06	736		264
National Civil Basic Programme		929	71	Publication of the renewed "Lélegzet" journal and the maintenance of www.lelegzet.hu website, NCA 01116/22/06	929		71
National Civil Basic Programme		6 790		Operating support, NCA 01233/01/06	6 790		
National Cultural Fund		5 900		Issuing Vol. 4 of 2006 of the "Lélegzet" journal, 2501/0751	5 900		
National Cultural Fund		2 100		2006 publication of the "Lélegzet" monthly journal on the internet, 2501/0752	2 100		
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs, and Equality of Opportunity		800		Consumer protection, FV-2005-I/12	1 600		
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs, and Equality of Opportunity		472		Phare Reach	472		
Government, total	12 639	34 324	1 555		36 949	10 814	1 555
Budapest Municipality	117	83		Regulating city traffic in the EU	83	117	
Local governments, total	117	83			83	117	
Total:	12 756	34 407	1 555		37 032	10 931	1 555

Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006

Details of support and income received in 2006

Income	Allocation	HUF Th
State budget	Details in other table	34 324
Local governments	Details in other table	83
PHARE Networking	Car free cities	261
PHARE Access 2003 Micro	Reach - the new chemical policies of the EU	4 722
OAK Foundation	Freight: From road to rail	41 495
Pesticide Action Network Germany	Raising public awareness of insecticide residues	1 111
Bankwatch network	PPP study	1 005
REC DUNA-2005/II-29.	Reducing pollution in the Danube Basin	1 200
Soros Foundation	Long-term sustainability of the organisation	3 186
Support from legal persons		4 196
Support from private persons		98
1% of personal income tax donations	According to Act CXXVI of 1996	112
Membership fees		3 082
Studies, publications		8 150
Conference admission fees		839
Expert assistance, consulting		1 585
Indirect service		1 379
Reimbursement from Job Centre		228
Reimbursement of travel expenses		1 147
Bank interests		335
Other incomes		2 164
Total incomes		110 702

The relationship between the received support and the profit and loss statement:

HUF

Support and incomes received in 2006	
Utilisation of support from previous year in year under review	
Support extended in year under review but only to be utilised in the next	
Proportionate (to be transferred next year) support for the year under review	
Total	0

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

Details of expenditures in 2006

Costs and expenditures	HUF Th
Energy	706
Detergents	23
Office supplies	809
Cost of materials wearing away within a year	497
Transport and loading/unloading	64
Rent	4 747
Maintenance	205
Advertisement	149
Education	982
Travel and delegation costs	1 741
Newspaper, technical books	784
Postage	1 225
Telephone	1 146
Internet	951
Photocopying	2
Administrative services	1 410
Printing	6 933
Graphic design and work	1 393
Editing	1 447
Website development	635
Events and functions	977
Newspaper articles	186
Expert assistance	3 945
Photos, illustrations	63
Consulting	110
TV studio work, TV advertisement	27 906
Computer-related services	120
Other services	4 887
Official fees and charges	418
Insurance	23
Bank costs	528
Membership fees	368
Professional interest representation	51
Employment-healthcare fees	10
Wages	23 172
Other staff costs	2 366
Payroll tax	7 334
Depreciation	2 265
Late payment fee	0
Paid invoices	238
Retransferred support	4 726
Taxes accounted with state budget	56
Other expenditures	1
Other interest on loans, credits	31
Total costs and expenditures	105 630

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

Statement on the utilisation of assets in 2006

in HUF th

Description	Prev. Year	Year under review
I. Starting/Issued capital	0	0
II. Change in capital/Profit or loss	1 024	20 062
III. Committed reserves	0	0
IV. Revaluation reserve	0	0
V. Profit from public benefit activities in year under review	19 038	5 072
VI. Profit from entrepreneurial activity in year under review	0	0
D. Equity capital	20 062	25 134

in HUF th

Description	Prev. Year	Year under review
Intangible assets	30	
Tangible assets	2 870	1 845
Fixed assets	2 900	1 845

**Clean Air Action Group
Annual Report 2006**

Statement on payments to leading officials in 2006

in HUF Th

Description	Wages, contract fees	Other allowances	Total
President	3191	108	3299
Vice-Presidents	6665	108	6773
Member of the Presidential Board	1040	108	1148
Total	10896	324	11220

Statement on the 2006 targeted payments

Retransferred support: in HUF Th
4 726

Work Plan of Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) for the Year 2007

I. General

1. We will work continuously for the implementation of the goals accepted unanimously by the 15th National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs held in March 2005 in Zalaegerszeg. These goals were formulated in the position statement „Expectations of Non-Governmental Organizations from the Government of the Republic of Hungary between 2006 and 2010 to Ensure Sustainable Development” (see: <http://www.levego.hu/kormany/elvarasok2010.pdf>).
2. We will enhance our educational activities towards the general public, the media and the decision-makers. Within this field it is a priority task to ensure that our monthly electronic newsletter "Lélegzetnyi" ("Breathful") and our quarterly magazine "Lélegzet" („Breath”) assist readers in finding orientation in current environmental issues. Main target groups of the magazine are the media, students of higher education institutions, politicians, middle-level managers of the business sphere, experts specialized in environmental issues and non-governmental organizations.
3. We will continue to hold regular monthly meetings for our member organizations and members of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
4. On Tuesdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. we will offer the opportunity for representatives of our member organizations and the Board of Experts to meet and exchange experience in our Office. If arranged in advance, such meetings may also be held at other times.
5. We will regularly publish Clean Air Action Group’s Circular for member organizations and members of the Board of Experts.
6. We will significantly increase the number of our members.
7. In the themes related to our scope of activities, we will take part in legislation procedures.
8. We will keep regular contacts with relevant EU institutions.
9. We will maintain continuous relations with officials of the competent ministries and other authorities.
10. We will pay special attention to questions of public health and environmental sanitation, as well as to the environmental quality of Hungarian towns and villages.
11. We will address environmental problems related to sports.
12. We will maintain and operate our Environmental Advisory Office.
13. In order to encourage the exchange of opinions and information, we will organize professional and other events.
14. Directly and through our member organizations, we will keep monitoring the environment protection programmes of local governments, as well as the planning and implementation thereof.
15. At least once a year we will convene the plenary meeting of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
16. We will provide professional assistance for the implementation of environmental educational and school programmes.
17. In our Circular, we will give an account of each of our official visits abroad.
18. We will lay great emphasis on organizational development questions.
19. We will continue to post on our homepage our materials of public interest.

II. State budget and taxation system

1. We will continue our professional and educational work in order to make the Hungarian state budget and taxation system more environment-friendly.
2. We will elaborate our alternative state budget proposals for the year 2008.
3. We will continue our work aiming at the preparation of a register, as accurate as possible, listing state subsidies granted to activities causing serious environment pollution and damage to human health. We will participate in the related professional and educational work.
4. We will prepare a new educational brochure on green budget reform.
5. We will continuously monitor the use of funds under the scope of authority of the Ministry of Environment and Water, and we will make recommendations if necessary.
6. We will closely cooperate with Hungarian and foreign organizations and individuals who work for the implementation of the green budget reform.
7. We will continue to participate actively in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for an environmental fiscal reform.

8. Within the framework of Exiopol, a priority research programme of the EU, we will take part in the assessment of environmental externalities. (This pioneering research programme attempts to elaborate a methodology at micro, sectoral and macro levels for the determination of the value of environmental damage, because at present the economic decision-making system is not yet capable of handling such environmental externalities.)
9. We will take part in the editing and distribution of the Green Budget News electronic newsletter published by Green Budget Germany (FÖS).

III. Transport

1. We will organize a campaign aiming to improve and make more environmentally-friendly the transport of Budapest.
2. We will urge a lasting solution to the funding problems of public transport, and we will elaborate proposals to that end.
3. We will urge that the Budapest Transport Association should be established as soon as possible in a true and fully-fledged manner.
4. We will take steps to ensure that the construction of the planned 4th metro line in Budapest is implemented in compliance with the requirements of environmental protection regulations and the conditions stipulated in the project's environmental permit.
5. We will keep on campaigning to promote the soonest possible introduction of Budapest Municipality's new decree on car parking.
6. We will continue our drive to improve railway transport.
7. We will continue our campaign titled "Rails will endure more!" with a view to diverting an increasing part of freight transportation from roads to railways, and we will advocate the wider use of combined freight transportation.
8. When invited, we will participate in forums organized by the Hungarian State Railways Co., and we will speak up for the environmentally-friendly modes of transport.
9. We will continue our educational activities to make the external costs of transport known, and we will urge that these should gradually be built into the prices, with special regard to heavy trucks.
10. We will monitor the activities of the Hungarian Parliament, the Government, local governments and regional development councils in the field of transport; we will express our views and will work out recommendations in questions involving environment protection.
11. We will assist in strengthening public participation in decisions related to transport. Within that, we will participate in interest reconciliation discussions held with the Ministry of Economy and Transport, and we will urge that the work of the Budapest Transport Forum should be restarted.
12. We will pay greater attention to the protection of green areas, with special regard to flora damage caused by motorized road vehicles and to land occupation by transport.
13. We will continue our activities to facilitate urban traffic calming, and within that especially to promote the introduction of 30 km/h speed limit zones, as well as to improve in general the conditions for pedestrian traffic. We will perform educational work aiming to cut back on the use of cars.
14. We will enhance our cooperation with cycling organizations to ensure better conditions for bicycle traffic.
15. Cooperating internationally, we will make efforts to attain that the development of railways is given preference instead of constructing new motorways in Hungary, and that the funds earmarked for huge road construction projects are rather spent on the efficient operation, maintenance and renovation of the existing transport networks.
16. Also by attracting public attention and through awareness raising, we will strive to restrict the fragmenting and landscape destroying effects of road construction projects, with special regard to road No. 10 and motorway M0. We will monitor plans related to motorway constructions by taking into consideration the environment and health protection viewpoints of the affected population and area. We will initiate and support legal proceedings, if necessary.
17. We will monitor the regional development policies of the Government and local governments, with special attention to the development of transport. We will evaluate the results on a continuous basis, and will forward our comments and suggestions to those concerned.
18. We will advocate the elaboration of transport and environment protection Technical Directives for the planning of shopping malls, petrol stations, underground garages and other establishments attracting a lot of traffic.
19. In both Budapest and other cities, we will actively participate in the organization and arrangement of events of the European Mobility Week and the European Carfree Day.

20. We will urge immediate revision of the concept on the development of regional airports and full abolition of all state support for such purposes.
21. We will promote the substantial reduction of the salting of road surfaces and the application of other methods to prevent slippery road conditions in the winter.
22. We will extend and intensify our international relations, especially with the European Federation for Transport and Environment and its member organizations, as well as with other environmental groups dealing with transport issues.

IV. Regional development; housing and construction

1. We will advocate reforming Hungarian regional planning and building procedures with a view to ensuring a better enforcement of public interests and sustainable development.
2. We will promote the elaboration of a system of economic incentives and regulations contributing to sustainable regional development. We will endorse and propagate the activities of local governments which have put into practice the principles of sustainability. We will assist them in their efforts to raise the funds necessary for that work.
3. We will continue to comment on development plans and other development projects of local governments. We will keep registering our intention to take part in the procedures of commenting on the impact assessments of major investment projects.
4. We will pursue our programme related to the renewal of deteriorated parts of towns and villages, and the revitalization of cities. We will facilitate cooperation between local governments, businesses and local residents. We will support setting up the central funds necessary for the revitalization.
5. We will promote the protection of trees and green areas in and around settlements. We will encourage the creation of new green areas. We will urge the soonest possible approval of the new statute on the protection of trees; in cooperation with the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA), we have already elaborated the draft version of the new statute.
6. We will make efforts to enforce environmental considerations in housing policies. We will support the promotion of energy-saving building renovations, as well as the elaboration of a medium-term (6 to 10 years) programme in order to make district heating competitive.
7. We will continue our awareness-raising activities concerning the improvement of urban micro-climates. We will initiate that urban climate assessments be made compulsory in order to ensure better environmental conditions for urbanized areas.
8. We will assist local NGOs and groups of residents in their efforts for a better environment and for aesthetic public places.
9. We will make efforts to enhance the standard of landscape protection and visual culture.
10. We will contribute to improving the sustaining capability of rural areas and to strengthening the second pillar of the agrarian sector.
11. We will take steps to protect drinking water bases, particularly in the area of the Budapest Agglomeration.
12. Vis-à-vis competent ministries, we will use expert arguments to substantiate the importance of protecting Hungary's arable lands and mineral resources. With a view to putting an end to the wasteful management of such resources, we urge that the rate of mining taxes should be increased substantially and the secondary utilization of construction materials obtained from demolition should be supported.

V. Climate protection and energy policy

1. We will monitor key climate policy developments in the European Union, with special regard to greenhouse gas emission rights trading and energy liberalization.
2. We will continue our professional and educational activities, with a focus on energy saving and the enhancement of energy efficiency. Our main objective is to ensure that energy efficiency improvement be jointly motivated by energy prices and various forms of subsidies.
3. We will endorse the implementation of competitive and environmentally sound heating systems.
4. We will advocate stronger public participation in decisions concerning energy policy. Within that, we will keep playing an active role in the Energy Interest Representation Council.
5. We will encourage the wider use of cogeneration (CHP), the establishment of decentralized energy supply systems and the utilization of renewable energy sources in a manner which contributes to expanding employment and which fits in well with the natural endowments of Hungary.

VI. Air quality protection

1. We will take steps in order to cut down industrial air pollution sources, including power plants and waste incineration works.
2. In our year-round nation-wide campaign we will highlight the problem of transport-related air pollution.
3. We will monitor the European Union's legislation process related to air quality (CAFE), and we will make Hungarian NGOs and decision-makers acquainted with it.
4. We will further develop the www.tiszta.levego.hu homepage.
5. We will advocate solving the problems related to allergenic substances, with special focus on prevention.

VII. Chemical safety – chemicals policy

1. In cooperation with Hungarian (e.g. the National Society of Hungarian Conservationists) and international (e.g. EEB, IPEN) non-government organizations, we will actively participate in the international campaign related to the European Union's new regulations on chemicals. Key campaign themes are the restriction of mercury and some particularly hazardous pesticides.
2. We will participate in the joint campaign of PAN Europe and EEB for a better pesticide regulation. European environmental organizations aim to attain that the new EU pesticide regulations serve the protection of human health and the environment.
3. We will cooperate with PAN Germany concerning the problem of pesticide residues in foods.
4. We will work to raise public awareness of the need to employ environmentally sound technologies instead of using building materials that pose hazard to both the environment and human health.
5. We will continue with the analysis of the environmental and health impacts of the Hungarian pesticide use and authorization practice.
6. We will participate in the work of the Hungarian Pesticide Authorization Conciliatory Council.
7. We will release a publication about the new EU legislation on chemicals.
8. We will organize trainings about the sustainable use of pesticides, with special attention to environmental and healthcare considerations.
9. Each month we will publish our chemicals newsletter to supply information to Hungarian citizens.
10. In cooperation with the National Society of Hungarian Conservationists, we will maintain the homepage dealing with the hazards of chemicals (www.vegyireakcio.hu).
11. With the aim of raising public awareness, we will prepare picture postcards and information brochures on the health impacts of pesticide residues. As a related activity, we will organize street campaigns.

VIII. National Development Plan

1. We will actively participate in the preparatory work of the New Hungary Development Plan, and we will comment on the documents pertaining to the Plan.
2. We will continue with our awareness-raising activities so that Hungary can meet as efficiently as possible the Lisbon Objectives (competitiveness and job creation) and the Göteborg Objectives (sustainable development): we recommend that in the period between 2007 and 2013 the largest possible portion of the projects should serve education, research and development, as well as the revalorization of Hungary's existing values (biodiversity, arable lands, cultural heritage, social cohesion and mobility).

IX. Civil cooperation

1. We will improve our cooperation with other Hungarian environment and nature protection organizations, and with other NGOs.
2. We will enhance our cooperation with foreign environment and nature protection NGOs, especially with movements working in the European Union.
3. We will provide support and assistance to our member organizations in their fund-raising efforts and their participation in grant competitions.
4. We will take part in the work of the National Civil Fund.
5. We will play an active role in the 17th National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs. We will take part in the programmes and the organization of several Noted Day events, with particular focus on the European Mobility Week.
6. We will operate educational stands and deliver lectures at summer youth festivals.

Planned revenues for the year 2007

in HUF Th

Revenue	Projection for 2007
Public benefit activities	30 000
Membership fees	1 600
Job Centre	720
Ministries, National Civil Fund, National Cultural Fund	19 400
Other grants (HEFOP, Exiopol, MethodEx, OAK, PAN, etc.)	22 715
Other budgetary organs (Tax Office)	175
Local governments	1 000
Donations, other support (Waterworks, private persons)	3 240
1% of personal income tax donations	2 000
Interest	420
Other	550
Total	81 820

Expenditures for 2006 and the estimated expenditures for 2007

HUF Th

Costs and expenditures	2006 fact	2007 estimate
Energy	706	264
Detergents	23	24
Office supplies	809	988
Materials wearing away within a year	497	30
Transport and loading/unloading	64	198
Rent	4 747	4 312
Maintenance	205	119
Advertisement	149	1 000
Education	982	75
Travel and delegation	1 741	4 423
Newspaper, technical books	784	600
Postage	1 225	1 140
Telephone	1 146	1 378
Internet	951	728
Photocopying	2	0
Administrative services	1 410	0
Printing	6 933	6 500
Graphic design and work	1 393	300
Editing	1 447	1 450
Website development	635	1 800
Events and functions	977	700
Newspaper articles	186	200
Expert assistance	3 945	636
Photos, illustrations	63	150
Consulting	110	45
TV studio work, TV advertisement	27 906	0
Computer-related services	120	288
Other services	4 887	2 800
Official fees and charges	418	94
Insurance	23	20
Bank costs	528	627
Membership fees	368	400
Professional interest representation	51	0
Employment-healthcare fees	10	100
Wages	23 172	28 906
Other staff costs	2 366	4 468
Payroll tax	7 334	8 690
Depreciation	2 265	1 240
Late payment fee	0	0
Paid invoices	238	0
Retransferred support	4 726	0
Taxes accounted with state budget	56	0
Other expenditures	1	0
Other interest on loans, credits	31	0
Total costs and expenditures	105 630	74 693