KNE | Kompetenzzentrum
Naturschutz und Energiewende

What we do

The Competence Center for Nature Conservation and Energy Transition (KNE) supports the environmentally friendly expansion of renewable energies. We objectify the debate on the environmental compatibility of the energy transition and help with avoiding conflicts with nature, species and landscape conservation.

Our experts provide information on nature conservation aspects of the energy transition and advise on the implementation of nature conservation requirements and measures at all levels. We prepare findings from science, jurisdiction, professional practice and politics and adapt them for practical application. With our expertise, we support the federal government and the federal states in standardizing species conservation assessments for planning and approval processes. We provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience and for networking. When implementing projects on site, we can provide specially trained mediators to help avoid and resolve conflicts.

Local authorities, nature conservation organisations, the energy industry, planning authorities, volunteer and governmental nature conservation organisations, and other stakeholders are involved in the energy transition, each with their own interests, goals, and opinions. What is needed is credible information and communication that is respectful and overcomes difficulties. As an independent institution, we work with all stakeholders in the energy transition on an equal footing and in a spirit of trust.

Where we come from

The coalition agreement between the CDU, CSU, and SPD on December 16, 2013, states: "We aim to shape the energy transition in a manner that is compatible with nature while also establishing the necessary procedures and frameworks. To this end, a competence center called 'Nature Conservation and Energy Transition' will be set up to foster more objective discourse and prevent conflicts on the ground." This initiative arose in response to a request from environmental organizations that had previously suggested the establishment of such an institution in 2012. The competence center was officially inaugurated on July 1, 2016, by the then-Federal Minister for the Environment, Dr. Barbara Hendricks.

What we offer

Transference of knowledge

As a source of information, we facilitate the transfer of novel scientific findings on nature conservation to stakeholders involved in the energy transition.

Consultation

As an advice center, we offer guidance on conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and effective process design. We also facilitate the arrangement of professional mediators upon request.

Facilitation of dialogue

As a dialogue center, we provide energy transition stakeholders with a confidential forum for discussing specific issues, with the aim of fostering a unified position.

Media

The KNE supports the public discourse on an environmentally friendly energy transition through working with a wide range of press and media.

How we work

We work in the legal form of a non-profit limited liability company under the auspices of the Michael Otto Foundation for Sustainability (Hamburg) and on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUKN).

Who supports us

The Michael Otto Environmental Foundation has appointed an advisory board for the KNE at the suggestion of the Federal Ministry for the Environment. This committee includes representatives from nature conservation, the energy industry, the federal states and local authorities, as well as from science and research. The members of the advisory board comment on planned projects, research projects, and collaborations, as well as the strategic development of the KNE. They thus contribute to the output of the KNE.