

Excursion 3: Four Years After the Flood: The Ahr Valley's Path to Resilient Reconstruction

Date: Thursday 30th October 2025

Time: 07:45-17:00

Coordinated by: German Association for Water, Waste and Wastewater Management (DWA)

Format: In person, English

Host: Roland Knitschky (DWA), Matthias Worst (Chairman DWA BIZ 11), Dr.-Ing. Timo C. Dilly (DWA BIZ 11)

Max Capacity: 45 participants

Departure: 07:45 at WCCB

Return to WCCB: 17:00

Speakers and Experts:

District Administrator Cornelia Weigand - Landkreis Ahrweiler

Dr.-Ing. Bruno Büchele - wat Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH

Dr.-Ing. Attaallah Abusafia - wat Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH

Stephan Müllers - Abfallwirtschaftsbetrieb Kreis Ahrweiler AöR

Former Deputy Minister-President of Rhineland - Palatinate Evelin Lemke, Thinking Circular®

Note: Please wear sturdy shoes, as the site visit includes walking. Lunch is at your own expense, but the views and inspiration are free!

Excursion Summary

In 2021, catastrophic flooding transformed the Ahr Valley overnight. Today, it stands as a living laboratory for climate-resilient reconstruction. Join us to see restored bridges, a revitalized river, and examples of sustainable and flood-resilient reconstruction shaping the valley's future.

Meet the experts, politicians, and innovators driving recovery efforts and discover how Thinking Circular fosters smarter cooperation in future crises. Learn how water and waste management cleared the path for rebuilding and why they are essential to disaster recovery.

Between site visits, enjoy a break in the medieval town of Ahrweiler. Stroll its historic streets, breathe in the wine country air, and experience the resilience of this remarkable region. In the afternoon, we will visit the UNESCO-awarded Environmental School, located on the grounds of the waste management center, where we will end the day in a relaxed atmosphere with coffee and cake and perhaps a glass of wine.

A day of technical insight, inspiring collaboration, and the enduring beauty of a valley rising stronger.



Photo: Timo Dilly

Excursion Detailed Schedule

07.45: Meeting time for participants

Meeting Point: World Conference Centre Bonn, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 2, 53113 Bonn

08.00: Departure from the World Conference Centre

- Drive along the Rhine (B9)
 - Visit to the bridge over the Ahr at its mouth
 - Stop at the wastewater treatment plant
 - Drive to the district administration office
- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ga5qfZ9Y3csdcVVVA>

9.30: Ahrweiler District Office

Welcome by District Administrator Cornelia Weigand, Landkreis Ahrweiler

Speakers: Dr.-Ing. Bruno Büchele & Dr.-Ing. Attaallah Abusafia wat
Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, tätig i.A. der Kreisverwaltung

- Reconstruction and management of a water management megaproject
- Inter-municipal, interdisciplinary cooperation
- Reconstruction and project management task for the Ahrweiler district administration

Start field trip: Inspection of the district administration's construction measures for water restoration

Tour guides: Dr.-Ing. Attaallah Abusafia, Dr.-Ing. Bruno Büchele

12.00: Medieval Old Town of Ahrweiler

Lunch break (at participants' own costs)

13.30: Departure from Ahrweiler

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/iZkPbXY6riaG3QEm8>

14.00: UNESCO-awarded Environmental School

- Located within the waste management center grounds
- Umweltschule Plus
- Abfallwirtschaftszentrum Niederzissen "Auf dem Scheid"

Lecture and workshop

Waste management in the event of a flood disaster and circular economy solutions (1 hour)

Speakers:

Stephan Müllers, Abfallwirtschaftsbetrieb Kreis Ahrweiler AöR

Evelin Lemke, Former Deputy Minister-President of Rhineland-Palatinate, Thinking Circular®

- Open discussion
- The host will provide a buffet with coffee, cake, and wine.

16.00: Return trip to Bonn

17.00: Arrival at the World Conference Centre Bonn