

Schwarzenegger at the Climate Kirtag: „I’m counting on you“

Over 5.000 people joined the festival for more climate action.

Vienna, May 29th 2019 – It was an impressive premiere: For the first time the Climate Kirtag took place at the Heldenplatz. More than 5,000 visitors joined cool music acts, athletes like Aksel Lund Svindal, climate activist Greta Thunberg and host Arnold Schwarzenegger in setting a strong and loud sign for climate protection despite the bad weather conditions.

Greta Thunberg, who had already received standing ovation for her wake-up call at the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT in the Hofburg, once again emphasized the seriousness of the situation and was also celebrated at Vienna’s Heldenplatz with thunderous applause. "Nobody is too small to make a difference, never forget that", she addressed the enthusiastic audience. "Every act, no matter how small, counts," says Thunberg. Supporters of Fridays for Future Vienna, who have joined Greta Thunberg's school strike, supported the young climate activist with a vocal number and all the guests joined in.

Host Arnold Schwarzenegger was delighted to see so many supporters of the cause and so much climate action in his home country Austria. "All we have to do, is work together. Because we cannot rely on politics," said Schwarzenegger. The former governor of California stressed that the greatest changes in history have always come from the people and not from the politicians. "I count on you! And promise you, if you support me: I’ll be back!"

Ski star Aksel Lund Svindal, organizer Monika Langthaler and main sponsor Clemens Hallmann also spoke at Heldenplatz and agreed: "The stronger our signal, the more our message will be heard and the sooner something will happen. We can change something if we really want to."

Outstanding artists such as Pizzera & Jaus, Conchita Wurst and Hubert von Goisern provided an exuberant atmosphere around the flaming speeches, and finally all the artists played Hubert von Goisern's hit "heast as nit" together.

Of course, there were plenty of the traditional Kirtag stands: There, for example, you could check how climate-friendly your own lifestyle is with only a few clicks, test ride the latest e-bikes or ask experts many questions. For the little ones, ÖBB set up the Cindy Cityjet bouncy train and the MA48 of the City of Vienna presented its new electronic-waste truck. In culinary terms, twelve food trucks supplied visitors with international delicacies.

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