

1. Energy Law and Climate Protection

"Energy Law and Climate Protection" is a solid mainstay of [GGSC]. In addition to the focus on renewable energies and special aspects, such as the nuclear legislation and radiation protection legislation, [GGSC] covers almost all areas of the energy industry.

In legal support of climate protection concepts and energy projects, we are cutting-edge and often participate in making law. From a political and technical point of view, the legal representation of associations, ministries and top authorities in regard to research, draft laws, and processes is an ideal complement to our multi-faceted project experience from the medium-sized business sector.

Interrelations and synergies of the energy sector exist with the areas of planning, construction, infrastructure, business administration, and finance, as well as procurement law. On a regular basis, planning and economic issues become important for the realization of energy projects and transactions. The process for innovative business concepts such as municipal and/or civil energy projects can also frequently raise questions of procurement law and municipal management.

Even in our own offices, we focus on climate protection.

[GGSC] is a member of EnergieVerein, Forum für Energierecht, Energiepolitik und Erneuerbare Energien e. V. – (www.energieverein.org). [GGSC] lawyers sit on the relevant legal advisory boards in various fields of the renewable energies.

2. Waste Management and Waste Law

Die Beratung von öffentlich-rechtlichen Entsorgungsträgern und kommunalen Entsorgungsunternehmen in Fragen der Abfallwirtschaft und des Abfallrechts ist seit mehr als 25 Jahren wesentlicher Schwerpunkt von GGSC. Die Zahl der von uns in den vergangenen Jahren betreuten öffentlich-rechtlichen Entsorgungsträger (Städte und Gemeinden, Landkreise, Zweckverbände und kommunale Anstalten) sowie kommunaler Entsorgungsunternehmen (Eigenbetriebe, Beteiligungs- und Eigengesellschaften) beläuft sich auf mittlerweile über 230 Einrichtungen im gesamten Bundesgebiet. Zahlreiche Mandanten betreuen wir dabei seit vielen Jahren.

Wir sind im Bereich der Abfallwirtschaft außerdem immer wieder gutachterlich für Verbände, Ministerien und Landesbehörden tätig. Zu Gesetzesvorhaben bezieht [GGSC] regelmäßig Stellung. Unsere Expertise wird dabei auch in Anhörungen der Parlamente auf Bundes- und Landesebene nachgefragt.

Seit 1999 veranstalten wir jeweils im Frühsommer unser zweitägiges Infoseminar „Erfahrungsaustausch kommunale Abfallwirtschaft“, auf dem wir mittlerweile jedes Jahr etwa 300 Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer begrüßen dürfen. Über diesen guten Zuspruch freuen wir uns sehr. Für unser Veranstaltungskonzept wurden wir im Jahr 2013 mit dem PMN Management Award ausgezeichnet.

[GGSC] ist Mitglied des Fördervereins des VKS im VKU – Verband kommunaler Unternehmen e.V., im ANS (Arbeitskreis für die Nutzbarmachung von Siedlungsabfällen) und in der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Abfallwirtschaft.

3. Planning, Construction, Infrastructure

Since its establishment, [GGSC] accompanied public planning processes and private construction projects of all sizes and indeed often worked continuously from the initial idea to the move in.

In the early beginnings of such projects we formulate the legal basis for the development, such as by organizing regional planning or development plan processes, by legally securing the partition of land, by making land developable in regard to civil law or by clarifying legal questions relating to land or building infrastructure.

Then we participate in all phases of the construction project such as by accompanying the necessary approval procedures, drafting and negotiating building and planning contracts, providing supplementary or defect management in the planning and construction phases or by clarifying fees and compensation for work issues.

We have decades of expertise in regard to specific administrative requirements for the execution of construction and portfolio management in the area of the urban planning law and historic preservation.

The main task of our legal work in regard to planning and construction projects is to ensure that disputes do not arise if possible. We contribute by making our processes and contracts so clear that conflicts of interest, are negotiated, regulated and solved beforehand, so that the project can then proceed smoothly. As a result of this type of project processing by [GGSC], the number of lawsuits in regard to our projects is low. However, when necessary, we also fight for the interests of our clients before administrative and civil courts.

Advising on construction projects includes the monitoring of public procurement procedures. [GGSC] has participated in, supported, and carried out successfully a variety of procedures according to VOB/A and VOF for public sector clients.

4. Tendering Procedures and Public Procurement Law

[GGSC] has actively participated in the advancement of EU public procurement law and made it focal point of its legal consultancy.

We organize and participate in public procurement procedures, especially by tendering for services in the different areas of municipal services, by complex investment tenders, construction projects, and – not to forget– by tendering for complex procurement and investment projects such as PPP projects or partial privatization. We offer our support even in regard to tendering for freelance services (VOF) and architectural competitions as well as in competitions beyond public procurement law.

In dialogue with our clients, we create concepts and draft contract documents to support our clients in the examination and evaluation of tenders and thus ensure an award of contracts in compliance with public procurement law.

Because of our expertise, [GGSC] is regularly entrusted with clarifying legal doubts concerning public procurement, for instance when it comes to property sales, inter-municipal cooperation or the procurement law freedom in regard in-house procurement. Again, we provide advice to ensure legally admissible contracts and assist during cooperation projects and incorporations.

We represent contracting authorities or tenderers in verification procedures. We have represented contracting authorities in action brought against the European Commission to check the compatibility of contracts with European procurement law. Finally, we deal with litigation concerning public procurement law violations in regard to the award of public procurement contracts beneath the threshold values.

On a regular basis [GGSC] takes part in the discussions on public procurement law through publications, lectures or in-house seminars. Our consulting experience plays part in legislative activities and EU reform projects.

5. Municipal Services and Municipal Law

[GGSC] stands for comprehensive consultation of local authorities on carrying out their tasks, in organizing municipal services, and on all issues concerning municipal law.

In addition to municipal waste management and urban land-use planning, the focus of our municipal consulting lies on all aspects of municipal services such as water supply and sanitation, municipal transport, and energy supply by municipal public utilities; we also assist municipal authorities in all other task fields.

[GGSC] has an outstanding expertise in all areas of law important for municipalities. We advise on all aspects of municipal tax law, municipal service law and municipal law, organizational and corporate law, state aid law and public procurement law..

We offer comprehensive strategic advice on selecting the appropriate organizational form for the exercise of municipal services, on developing local business plans, and we assist during the “re-municipalisation” of tasks.

6. Food and Genetic Engineering

Good quality, transparency, consumer protection, fair competition and environmental compatibility are important goals in food production and agriculture. Tasks, [GGSC] also faces in other fields of work. Industrial production, environmental impact of agriculture, food scandals, inadequate consumer information and genetic engineering resulted in a loss of confidence and helped the organic sector to a sustained boom in the past years.

In the area of food law, we advise organizations of the organic food sector and companies concerning organic food and organic farming. Other areas are general food law and labeling, health protection and consumer protection, agriculture, and environmental protection. [GGSC] branched out to food law after initial consultations in the field of genetic engineering law.

As cultivation of genetically modified plants and placing on the market of animal feed and food produced from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) increases, so do the legal conflicts. We support organizations, businesses and government agencies, working for a "GMO-free" production, transparency for consumers (labeling requirements) and protection from unintended release of GM material.

Together with the support of several organizations [GGSC] has obtained the "honey - judgment" of the ECJ for affected beekeepers. This ruling is crucial to the strict application of genetic engineering law in the area of food and feed production. We represent food producers and authorities in courts with the aim to prevent the uncontrolled spread of GMOs and to ensure adequate protection from unwanted entries. As a result [GGSC] was instrumental in two important decisions of the Federal Administrative Court on genetic engineering in recent years.

An important task is to advise companies in the conversion of production to non-GM foods and the corresponding labeling.

7. Umweltrecht und Umweltschutz

In our fields of work we deal with a multitude of environmental concerns. Our ecological focus reflects in many years of experience and consulting practice in diverse areas of environmental law. Optimal and appropriate conflict resolution means for us to search for economically and socially acceptable solutions. For years now, approval processes and the environmental impact assessment offer us a framework in which we consult on so different matters such as nuclear law, water law, waste case law or construction law. The complex of "water" includes water permit processes, groundwater management, and remediation, flood protection, and river development . In the conflict between environmental protection and economic development there is also environmental remediation and the soil protection law. The pollution control and traffic noise protection in accordance with the European and German pollution control law is part of our routine when organizing approval procedures. Moreover, for a variety of projects we focus on conservation law .

We intensively work on projects for government departments, associations and research institutions in which strategies are developed to address previously unsolved ecological problems. We develop draft legislation to anchor climate instruments in various fields of law, for instance in regard to the reduction of land consumption, the ecological development of the building regulations, and the development of material flow law.

A major focus of our legal consultancy in this context is on organizing environmental management. [GGSC] offers the rich experience of specialized lawyers in regard to the implementation and effectiveness of environmental laws and regulations.

[GGSC] lawyers are often requested to offer expert opinion at hearings of the German Bundestag and the parliaments of the federal states of Germany.

8. Business and Finance

"Business and Finance" stands for the economic and business advisory expertise of [GGSC]. Our economists together with the [GGSC] lawyers and technical advisers support mostly municipal infrastructure projects from the initial idea to realization and operation. At the interface of technology and law, we evaluate the economic viability, we create acceptance and help in its realization

For our projects we create complex economy simulations and diverse scenario analyzes. These form, among others, the basis for negotiations with banks as well as for obtaining funds to finance the projects. As part of our ongoing project consultation, we develop with our partners concepts for risk management and install the necessary control instruments.

Over the past years we have supported numerous energy and water supply projects, especially the construction of district heating infrastructure. Furthermore, we are cutting edge when it comes to geothermal energy. In Germany we helped realizing seven projects, we now support in operation for years. We are also involved in the preparation of numerous other national and international projects.