



Climate Action Plan 2050: Municipal Climate Action

The Climate Action Plan 2050 is Germany's long-term strategy for climate change mitigation, defining its climate change policy up until the middle of the twenty-first century. The goal is a largely greenhouse gas-neutral economy and society by 2050. This is a just contribution to adhere to the 2°C limit, as set out by the Paris Climate Agreement.

All levels of government in Germany – federal, state, district and municipal – need to work together to successfully implement climate protection measures. Local governments already have a variety of possibilities for action. These arise from the respective circumstances and municipal duties, including the areas of local energy, transport and economic policies, land use, water provisions, waste water and waste/recycling; these of course vary depending on the municipality's size, location as well as its economic and social structures, etc.

actors to get involved in climate protection and its implementation. Supporting offers for this can include providing advice, neighbourhood projects, competitions and grants for climate protection measures.

The National Climate Initiative

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment has been using the National Climate Initiative to promote and launch climate protection projects throughout Germany since 2008. By the end of 2018, more than 900€ million had been spent on approximately 29,000 projects. Almost 20 million metric tonnes CO₂-equivalent have been mitigated through funding National Climate Initiative projects.



Municipalities shape local climate and environmental policy and show that climate protection is a cross-cutting task.

The role of local governments

Many local governments are making a valuable contribution to climate protection and are developing their own approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Climate protection measures are not an expensive added task to an end in itself, but rather also offer a number of opportunities; for example, they can foster local value creation, lower energy prices, and thus reduce strain on city budgets. They can also improve quality of life in cities and communities in the process.

Motivating local governments towards climate action

In municipalities, climate protection becomes very concrete. A variety of local projects and initiatives can help to motivate citizens, educational institutions, companies and other local

Source: National Climate Initiative, 2019



19.5 Million

metric tonnes CO₂-equivalent in emissions reductions

2.9 Billion Euro



in total investments



28,750

projects





670
climate protection managers

have been actively putting measures into place in local government since 2008



Approximately
320,000
climate protection consultations

have taken place, protecting the climate and saving money at the same time.



More than
6,750
“energy scouts”

have been certified throughout Germany since 2013. They provide energy-related support and advice to training organisations and manage their own energy and resource efficiency projects.



2,180
climate protection concepts

have been developed, helping cities and local governments position themselves strategically.



More than
7,000
“energy-saving helpers”

have been offering low-income households tips and tricks on how to save energy at home.

Source: National Climate Initiative, 2019

International cooperation between local governments

A number of local governments have organised themselves in international networks in order to drive forward climate protection and sustainable development and to exchange knowledge and best practices. Some examples include:

- **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability:** global association of over 1,500 local governments www.iclei.org
- **C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group:** network of the largest cities in the world www.c40.org
- **Klima-Bündnis:** a European affiliation of more than 1,700 local governments together with climate protection organisations and other institutions, including 500 local governments in Germany www.climatealliance.org

- **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy:** an association founded by the European Commission comprising of almost 8,000 members. <https://www.eumayors.eu/>
- **Energy Cities:** European local government network focusing on sustainable energy provision and climate protection www.energy-cities.eu

For many years, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment has been taking part in an international exchange on the implementation of climate protection measures at the regional and local levels. For example, in May 2019 the German Federal Ministry, the State of Baden-Württemberg and the city of Heidelberg jointly held the “International Conference on Climate Action” in Heidelberg. Its central focus was cooperation between different levels of government in an ambitious approach to climate action.

Information and Opportunities

- National Climate Initiative (NKI): www.klimaschutz.de/en
- Consultation service from the “Service- und Kompetenzzentrum: Kommunaler Klimaschutz” (in German): www.klimaschutz.de/service/das-beratungsangebot-des-skkk
- Practical Guide: Climate Protection in Municipalities (in German) leitfaden.kommunaler-klimaschutz.de/