

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Münster, Germany

Münster Takes Hold! The Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection

STORY IN SHORT: Climate protection has a long tradition in Münster. The city has received numerous national and international awards for its many years of commitment to this issue. But Münster's ambitious target of reducing CO₂ emissions by over 40% by the year 2020 (compared to 1990) cannot be achieved without the help of local stakeholders. This is why Münster's citizens are getting involved, participating in the Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection.

Münster's Climate Protection Action Plan

For the past fifteen years, climate protection has been an officially established agenda in Münster, enjoying continued support through campaigns, actions and projects aimed at attaining its climate protection objective of a 25% CO₂ reduction by 2005 (based on 1990 levels). The climate assessment in 2005 verified that the city had obtained a 21% reduction. In March 2008, Münster's City Council resolved to achieve a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 40% by 2020, along with increasing the share of their renewable energy use to 20%. This is an ambitious goal for a city without a large industrial sector and with an already low CO₂ emission level per resident of 8.1 tons of CO₂ at its starting point in 1990.

Citizens for Climate Protection

Successful climate protection is always teamwork. In order to increase the size and diversity of the local team, Münster initiated the long-term climate protection campaign, "Climate seeks shelter in Münster... at your place, too!". This campaign is aimed at further consolidating the global topic of climate protection at the local level.

Idea Behind the Campaign

Münster relies on the support of its residents in climate protection campaigns. By signing the Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection, Münster's citizens affirm their active commitment to support climate protection in the city through smaller climate protection measures in their daily lives. Daily climate protection measures can, for example, include the use of sustainably produced power, using energy efficient light bulbs, avoiding stand-by modes for TV and PC, turning off light when leaving the room. Taken together, these measures can have an important impact on mitigating climate change.



Citizen signing the Citizen's Pact for Climate protection in front of Münster's Open Air cinema

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"A topic of local discussion in Münster"

"We want as many of Münster's residents as possible to participate in the climate protection campaign. The signing of the Citizen's Pact is aimed at constantly motivating more and more citizens to get involved. Climate protection should become a genuine topic of local discussion in Münster!" Head of Environment Department, Thomas Paal



Campaign logo

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Implementation of Campaign

The theme of Münster's citizens pact for climate protection is "Münster Takes Hold! The Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection". Münster's residents can add their signatures to this environmental agreement, committing themselves to protect the climate through simple measures in their daily lives. They simultaneously endeavor to sign up one more friend to the Citizen's Pact who also commits to actively participate in climate protection. Spreading the idea among citizens, climate protection became a local topic, manifesting itself in positive changes in the citizens' daily lives. The fight against climate change can only be won if all local stakeholders get involved and work together closely.

Program's Successes

By November 2009, almost 2 200 residents had signed the Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection. The Citizen's Pact has become a local topic of conversation, maintaining its presence through weekly press releases and numerous events for Münster's residents. In line with the principle, "When everybody lends a hand, we can make something happen", the residents have accepted the climate protection campaign enthusiastically, since it gives them the opportunity to be personally active and no longer feel powerless in the battle against climate change. If only one household avoids storing their appliances in stand-by mode, then the result is only around 200 kWh/annually. But if 100,000 households in Münster do this, then the impact suddenly grows to over 20 million kWh, the entire consumption of over 5,800 households. Climate protection can only really work if everyone participates!

"A great idea for making climate protection a daily practice"

A resident's comment on signing the environmental agreement, "Münster Takes Hold!": I've wanted to do something for climate protection for a long time, and now with the Citizen's Pact, I finally have the opportunity to actually contribute something to my day-to-day life. This is a great idea for making climate protection a daily practice."

Involvement in international climate initiatives

The European Commission searched for the „European Green Capital“ for 2010 and 2011. The aim was to find a city in Europe to serve as a model for environmental protection. This city should have high environmental standards and ambitious goals for future environmental improvement and sustainable development. Münster was one of the eight European finalists was given third place, after Stockholm and Hamburg. Furthermore, Münster was awarded with the golded European Energy Award (EEA) for a second time after the completion of re-certification in 2009. The certification program recognized Münster, Zurich and Lausanne as the best major cities in Europe, making Münster Germany's front-runner.



Münster is a regional center located in Northern Germany.

City profile & contacts

Münster is home to more than 280,000 residents in an area of 303 square kilometers. It is the sole regional center in the Westphalian Lowlands for services, trade and administration. It also has a reputation as Germany's Bicycle Capital.

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The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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