

# Voluntary Local Review 2022

The Implementation of the  
UN Sustainable Development Goals  
in the City of Dortmund



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# Imprint

## “Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia”

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DORTMUND



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# Preface



In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda, a global framework for sustainable development and poverty reduction. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All goals are about caring for common concerns and public goods together, such as climate, biodiversity, water and soil. Working together to make the world trading system fairer, establishing social justice or securing peace are highlighted as tasks for all. Sustainable development (SD) is to be understood not only globally but also locally as an ongoing process that recognizes and considers new developments, innovations and challenges. Especially in light of existing global crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and wars, it is more important than ever to advocate for SD and to develop concrete strategies and implementation measures. The economy must be resilient and sustainable. The crises affect everyone, and only together can we overcome them.

Municipalities have a special significance for the implementation of the SDGs. It is at the municipal level that the levers of change for SD and decisive courses can be set. Dortmund is particularly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda at the local level. By signing the model resolution of the German Association of Cities in 2020, Dortmund has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to sustainability issues. This report has been prepared in the project „Reporting Framework Sustainable Municipality” from 2020 to 2022 as a follow-up project to „Global Sustainable Municipality in NRW.”

We see SD as a cross-sectional task whose implementation in Dortmund takes place in all departments. Numerous master plans and projects point the way to a strategically oriented and ambitious future. As part of an extensive review, existing master plans, action programs and projects from different departments were brought together. With this local report, we now want to show where we stand in the implementation of the SDGs. This new report continues the Agenda Interim Report, which informed the political bodies about the content and status of SD in Dortmund in the years 1999 to 2020. The last Agenda Interim Report will be presented to the political bodies in 2023 and will be continued in the future in the work on the Global Sustainable Community and the Sustainable Community Reporting Framework.

Dortmund is the European Innovation Capital 2021 and, as a City of Neighbors, relies on participatory innovation processes to promote sustainability transformations across society. Innovative future developments in the sense of the 17 SDGs are being developed jointly in the neighborhood to make Dortmund easier for everyone.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all colleagues from the participating departments of the city administration, the Service Agency Communities in One World and the Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as to all others who have contributed to the preparation of this report. I would also like to thank the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for its generous support, which made the preparation of this report possible.

**Thomas Westphal**  
Mayor of the City of Dortmund

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# Introduction

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# 1.1

## The 2030 Agenda and the International Voluntary Local Review Movement

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda and its Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda provides a joint frame of reference for all UN member states, including the North and the South, and represents a universally valid target system for a viable future. Consisting of 17 primary goals (cf. figure 1) and 169 targets, it holistically addresses environmental, social and economic objectives, such as mitigating climate change and the destruction of ecosystems, reducing socioeconomic inequalities, and supporting quality education and decent work (UN, 2015). The UN Global Sustainable Development Report (UN, 2019) demonstrates that urgent action is needed to reach these goals by 2030. Consequently, the United Nations General Assembly has declared the present decade (2020–2030) the Decade of Action.

The 2030 Agenda is designed primarily for application by nation states (although one of its goals, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, is specific to subnational levels). Targets and indicators reflect country-level metrics, and national governments are requested to regularly report on implementation status through Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).<sup>1</sup> These are presented every year at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (UN HLPF), the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. However, there is widespread agreement among practitioners and scholars that the implementation of the SDGs relies significantly on the participation of subnational levels (cf. e. g. UCLG, 2021; Gustafsson & Ivner, 2018).

On the concrete local implementation level—that is, the level closest to the people—decisive steps are taken to achieve the SDG. Since all SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local governments, the 2030 Agenda emphasizes the critical role of municipal authorities (UN, 2015, paragraph 45). In the literature, it is frequently mentioned that at least 65% of the SDG targets (105 out of 169) could not be achieved unless local authorities are assigned a clear mandate and role in the implementation process (e. g., OECD, 2020). Local governments are therefore called upon to “break down” the global goals and targets to the specific local context (SDG localization) and make their individual contribution to achieve the goals.<sup>2</sup> Since the 2030 Agenda does not provide explicit guidance for SDG localization, regional UN organizations, urban bodies and networks, and regions and cities have organically developed individual approaches.

Against this backdrop, more and more municipalities voluntarily initiate an assessment of their progress in implementing the SDGs in the form of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Unlike national reporting via VNRs, VLRs currently have no official status or mandate from the United Nations or in the 2030 Agenda architecture. Accordingly, there is no formal mechanism to publish a VLR. However, since 2018 (when New York City and the Japanese municipalities of Kitakyushu, Toyama, and Shimokawa officially presented their VLRs), cities and regions worldwide have taken the initiative to monitor their local contributions. The VLR movement is now a global phenomenon, and many new VLRs are published yearly (for a comprehensive list of published VLRs see, for example, UN-Habitat & UCLG, 2021). This process has become an essential complement to national reporting mechanisms by contributing first-hand information on practical experiences on the ground and localizing indicators while strengthening coordination, accountability, and transparency. In this regard, VLRs’ potential goes beyond their monitoring and reporting function. VLRs are accelerators of the SDG localization process and levers for bringing about transformation from the bottom up through local innovation and awareness-raising (cf. e. g., Deininger et al., 2019; Pipa & Bouchet, 2020). Moreover, they are essential tools for increasing mutual learning and vertical coherence between levels

FIGURE 1: The 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals / © United Nations



of action. Consequently, the link between VLRs and VNRs becomes more critical—local representatives are increasingly present at the UN High-Level Political Forum, and local government sections in VNRs are frequently co-produced by national and local governments (cf. e. g., German Institute of Urban Affairs & Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2021).

As there are currently no fixed standards for developing a VLR and no generally accepted definition, the published reports differ in structure and content. However, an increasing number of publications provide guidelines and technical assistance in this regard—for example, the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews by UCLG and UN-Habitat, the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre, and the Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews of SDG implementation by UNDESA (cf. UCLG & UN-Habitat, 2020; Siragusa et al., 2020; UNDESA, 2020—and also IGES, 2021; UNESCAP, 2020). The present Voluntary Local Review 2022 takes these guidelines into account and considers the specific context of implementing the SDGs in German municipalities (cf. section Context and Methodology).

**1** As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). Each UN member state is required to submit at least two VNRs before 2030. Countries have presented VNRs to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development since 2016. Germany released its second VNR in 2021.

**2** In this regard, about 200 municipalities in Germany have signed the specimen resolution “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level”, developed to facilitate commitment of local authorities for implementing the SDGs (by the German Association of Cities and Towns and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions/German Section—with support of the Service Agency Communities in One World from Engagement Global).

## 1.2

### Short Profile of the City of Dortmund

Dortmund is located in the heart of Europe with around 600,000 inhabitants on an area of approx. 280 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it the eight largest city in Germany and the third largest city in North Rhine-Westphalia after Cologne and Düsseldorf. Dortmund is characterized by a strong innovative character, as demonstrated by the “European Innovation Capital” award, which the city received in 2021. The city shows how European ideas and aspirations are brought to life through local initiatives and how innovations are co-created in the neighborhood. The city sees the title as a great opportunity to share and exchange ideas internationally.

On top of being the most innovative European city in 2021, Dortmund is also a very international city: Dortmund not only has a very diverse population with almost 180

nationalities, but is also represented in many different platforms at international level, e.g. in international city networks such as Eurocities, International Urban and Regional Cooperation program of the EU Commission (IURC) or the Transatlantic Climate Bridge. In addition, the city of Dortmund maintains thematic project partnerships, such as on waste disposal and prevention with Dabola, Guinea, and representative city partnerships with nine cities around the globe.

Dortmund is part of the Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region with around eleven million inhabitants, and is the largest city in the Ruhr region in terms of area and population. Thus, Dortmund is a city that was very much shaped by structural change. It is a city that has undergone a tremendous transformation process, which was successfully accomplished. On that matter, Dortmund is very similar to the unofficial city mascot “the flying rhinoceros”: some underestimate its strength, its speed and its abilities. It is not only strong and thick-skinned; once it takes off running, nothing can stop it. And Dortmund’s rhino even has wings, so it can fly—a powerful image of innovation and imagination. The flying rhinoceros stands for the city’s attitude and the interplay of contradictions and transformation processes that have shaped the city. From the destruction during



World War II that turned more than 90% of the city center into a pile of ashes and rubble, to becoming the center of the German coal, steel and beer industries, to the loss of thousands of jobs that accompanied the decline of these industries, to the structural transformation into a vibrant, liveable city with a diverse population and a strong, participatory approach to social and technological innovation: Dortmund is as strong and innovative as its mascot, the flying rhino.

Due to the decline of the coal, steel and beer industry, around 80,000 jobs were lost between the 1960s and 90s and large parts of Dortmund’s industrial landscape fell into disrepair. These areas offer an unique opportunity for sustainable urban planning. Many development projects are underway, such as the transformation of the Dortmund harbor into a digital campus, the creation of an inner-city campus for the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences called Smart Rhino and the ongoing renaturation of the Emscher river. In general, the structural change in the economy has led to a new focus on production and information technology as well as logistics. With its strong industrial core, Dortmund is a city of medium-sized businesses and is increasingly characterized by a lively start-up scene and innovative entrepreneurs. Digitalization is a key factor in this transformation process—a factor that has been reinforced by the Corona pandemic. The ongoing transformation process is steered by various municipal master plans on housing, mobility, environment, culture, sports, migration and integration, etc.

Dortmund started “from scratch” when there was no university until the late 1960s and has become the “European Innovation Capital 2021”—with seven universities with over 54,000 students, around 20 other research institutes and one of the largest and most successful technology parks in Europe in the immediate vicinity of the university campus. The city has used its cultural and industrial heritage as a canvas to develop a new identity and transform brownfield sites into thriving neighborhoods, recreational areas, creative quarters, start-up hotspots and technological centers of excellence. The people are part of this continuous process—with



its ups and downs—and it is their hands-on mentality and willingness to work together that characterize the spirit of Dortmund.

Contrary to all preconceptions—Dortmund is one of the greenest major cities in Germany. More than 60 percent of Dortmund’s urban area is green, according to the city’s land surveying and cadastral office. An AI analysis of satellite images of 155 cities comes to the conclusion that Dortmund is even the fourth greenest city in the world (Husqvarna Urban Green Space Index / HUGSI). IGA 2027 (International Garden Exhibition Metropolis Ruhr) will also provide a strong impulse for the connection of green spaces in Dortmund and have a signal effect far beyond Dortmund’s borders. The theme of green and nature in the city will be taken up along the Emscher through the entire Dortmund urban area and the existing gardens and parks will be made more accessible.

# 1.3

## Context, Methodology and Structure of this Report

### Context of this VLR

This report was developed within the project Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia (third project term from 2021 to 2022). The project has been implemented by the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global in cooperation with the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) and the Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia (LAG 21 NRW) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. In the first two project terms (2016 to 2020), the focus was on elaborating integrated sustainability strategies for municipalities, while in the third term (2021

to 2022) the emphasis was on the development of local sustainability reports. Within the project, five cities in North Rhine-Westphalia—Bonn, Düsseldorf, Münster, Dortmund and Arnsberg—developed a VLR (see the overview in the relevant map). These new VLRs supplement the VLRs previously published in Germany by different cities in recent years (Mannheim in 2019, Bonn in 2020, and—with a focus on indicators—Stuttgart in 2020).

The basic structuring of the VLRs follows the German Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality published in 2021 by the German Council for Sustainable Development (cf. RNE, 2021). The German Council for Sustainable Development advises the Federal Government on issues of sustainability policy. Against the backdrop of lacking an official standard for sustainability reporting in German municipalities, the Council initiated a comprehensive multi-stakeholder dialog to develop the German Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality. This guideline seeks to promote a more uniform and transparent way of reporting and builds on the established German Sustainability Code (a reporting standard in corporate sustainability since 2011). In 2022, the Reporting Frame was applied for the first time by more than 20 municipalities in various federal states in Germany.

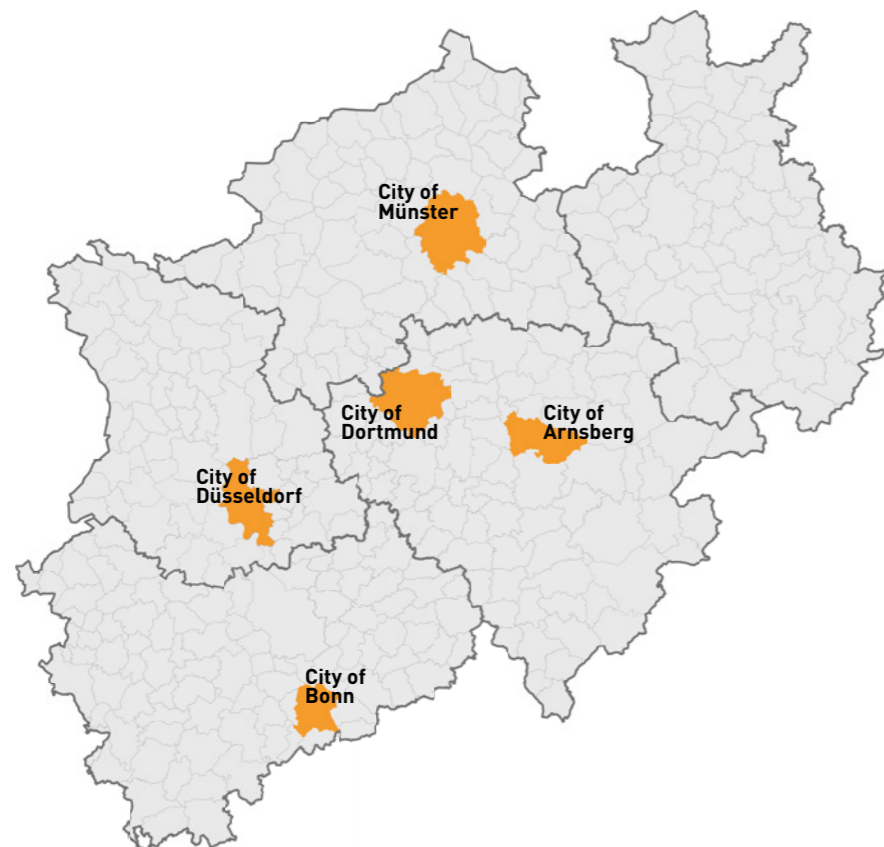


FIGURE 2: Overview of municipalities that developed a VLR in the project "Global Sustainable Municipality in NRW"

### Organizational process in the city of Dortmund

For developing this VLR, a process was initiated in the city of Dortmund that integrated collaboration between all relevant divisions of the municipal administration. This included representatives from the following departments: Office for International Relations, Procurement Center, Environment Agency, Department for Building and Infrastructure, Department of City Planning and Building Regulations, Regional Education Office, Department for Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Sports and Leisure, Equal Opportunities Office, Housing Office and Economic Development Agency. The working body was locally managed by two coordinators from the Office for International Relations, who were primarily responsible for organizing the process within the administration. Overall, this approach helped overcome classical administration structures (silo approach) and establish cross-department working formats. Given the interlinked nature of the SDGs, this horizontal integration is crucial.

### Stocktaking: qualitative and quantitative analysis

Overall, the information in this report represents the status quo up to April 2022. A comprehensive stocktaking was conducted at the beginning of the project to gather the information needed for this report. This process consisted of both qualitative and quantitative elements. In terms of the qualitative analysis, all core activities in the city that contribute to sustainable development

and represent the status quo were gathered. This procedure included integrated or sectoral strategies and concepts, measures, projects, city council resolutions, specific goals, collaborations and networks, and organizational structures. In addition, overall achievements and results within recent years were mapped. The collection of the activities was structured according to particular topics regarding sustainability (cf. the structuring of the VLR, below.)

In terms of the quantitative analysis, indicators were evaluated that illustrate different developments in terms of sustainability. The indicators comprised a predefined indicator set of 56 "SDG indicators for municipalities." These indicators were developed within a project of the same name (cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung et al., 2020). The objective of the project was to identify suitable indicators to map SDG implementation at the municipal level in Germany and provide corresponding data. Thus, the project used the 2030 Agenda's 231 indicators as an orientation and transferred them to the local level. Through an online portal (SDG Portal), centrally assessable data are generally provided for all German towns and cities with more than 5,000 inhabitants. The predefined indicator set was complemented in this VLR by municipality-specific and individually chosen add-on indicators, for which the data was provided by the city of Dortmund. These indicators consider the specific context in the city and thus supplement the predefined set. The add-on indicators also enrich the areas with limited predefined indicators (due to a lack of central data availability—for example, SDG 13 and SDG 17 are not currently covered by "SDG indicators for municipalities.")

For the stocktaking, different tools were used to gather the information needed from the different administrative departments, including questionnaires and Excel spreadsheets, in which all divisions could add their contributions according to the predefined topics. With the help of several meetings throughout the project, decisive steps were discussed in the administrative core team, such as how to prioritize the municipal activities and how to choose adequate municipality-specific indicators. The qualitative and quantitative stocktaking results are presented in this VLR in respective qualitative parts (presentation of activities) and quantitative parts (presentation of indicators).

**Project "Global Sustainability Municipalities"**

The project Global Sustainability Municipalities of the Service Agency Communities in One World supports municipalities in localizing the SDGs through awareness-raising activities, networking and in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We supply information on the options for getting involved in development work, advise on the formulation and implementation of municipal sustainability strategies, and provide forums for designing forward-looking action for results at the local level. We cooperate closely with actors from Germany's federal, regional and local governments, municipal associations and civil society organisations.

## Structuring of the VLR

This VLR is structured according to the German Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality. For structuring the elements of sustainability reporting, this guide introduces two basic categories: overarching steering criteria and thematic fields.

The steering criteria focus on overarching and cross-sectional aspects regarding sustainability and thus cover the overall municipal sustainability management. In this VLR, this part is consolidated into the following sections:

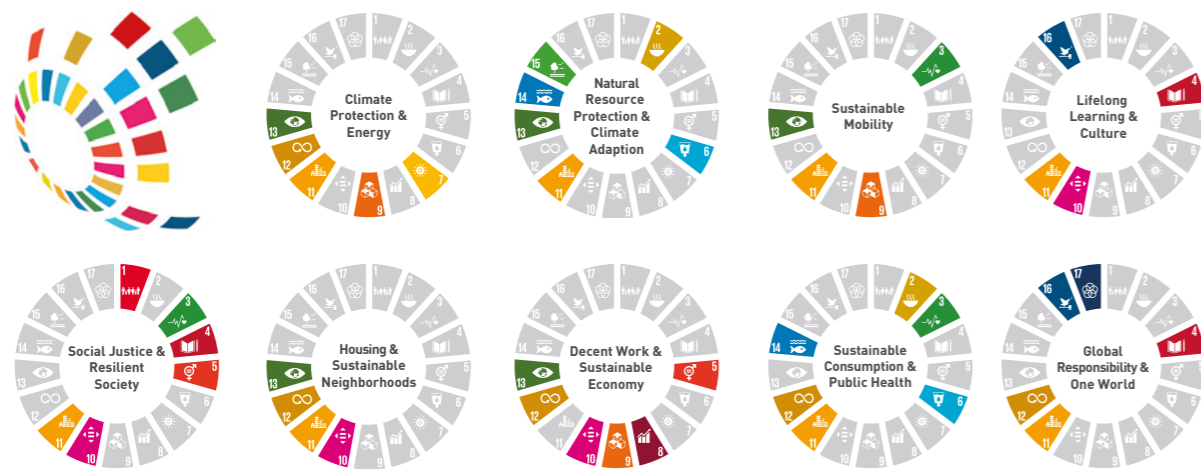
- Strategic and organizational approach for sustainability
- Public participation for sustainability
- Sustainable administration, contracting and procurement
- Sustainable finances
- Innovation for sustainability

These aspects are supplemented by the thematic fields. When implementing the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets on a local level, the challenge is to transfer them to the specific context of the municipalities. Within the Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia project, the 17 SDGs are translated into nine thematic fields for municipal sustainability that are

relevant to the specific context of German municipalities.<sup>3</sup> These thematic fields represent a synthesis of the SDGs and municipal areas of competence in Germany, which are reflected in the responsibilities of the political committees in the municipalities. All 17 SDGs are considered equally in the localization process to ensure that sustainable development is understood holistically and to account for co-benefits and tradeoffs. The thematic fields developed within the Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia project were adopted in the German Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality. The overview in figure 3 presents these fields of sustainable municipal development together with core references to the SDGs.

The steering criteria and thematic fields both include qualitative and quantitative parts. The structuring of the qualitative parts follows the German Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality, which presents certain aspects for reporting. These subitems specifically query specific report contents in the sense of a checklist. The quantitative parts include the predefined indicator set of “SDG indicators for municipalities” and the municipality-specific add-on indicators (cf. above). Figure 4 provides an overview of the described elements, forming the structure of this VLR:

FIGURE 3: Fields of action for municipal sustainability (own elaboration)



## Steering Criteria

- Strategic and Organizational Approach for Sustainability
- Public Participation for Sustainability
- Sustainable Administration, Contracting and Procurement
- Sustainable Finances
- Innovation for Sustainability

## Fields of Action for Municipal Sustainability

- Climate Protection & Energy
- Natural Resource Protection & Climate Change Adaptation
- Sustainable Mobility
- Lifelong Learning & Culture
- Social Justice & Future-Proof Society
- Housing & Sustainable Neighborhoods
- Decent Work & Sustainable Economy
- Sustainable Consumption & Healthy Living
- Global Responsibility & One World

## Qualitative Aspects and Quantitative Indicators

In terms of the quantitative indicators, basically the period of the last decade is addressed when presenting the data in order to depict long-term developments. Additionally, an assessment of the trend is presented with the help of a “traffic light system” (green: positive / yellow: neutral / red: negative / grey: no assessment possible). Important indicators are furthermore visualized by graphics. When presenting the qualitative aspects and quantitative indicators, the core SDG addressed by the respective aspect or indicator is highlighted (note that other SDGs can be addressed, too—only the most pertinent one is highlighted). The qualitative contributions (i.e., the core activities in the city gathered by the qualitative stocktaking) are marked by using italics in the text. At the end of each chapter, an overview is given of all mentioned contributions regarding the qualitative aspects, including an allocation to the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>3</sup> The 2030 Agenda addresses three levels of responsibility for municipal action: “In the municipality for the municipality” (measures that lead to impacts in the municipality itself), “In the municipality for the world” (measures with a global impact), and “In other countries and by other countries” (e.g. via partnership projects.)

FIGURE 4: Structural elements of the VLR (own elaboration based on German Council for Sustainable Development, 2021)



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# Steering: Municipal Sustainability Management

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## 2.1

### Introduction

Since implementing the “Local Agenda 21 Process” and establishing an Agenda Office in 1999, the city of Dortmund has pursued the goal of bringing sustainability to life—thinking globally and acting locally. Since then, the city has supported a sustainable urban development policy through cross-sectoral thinking and action. As early as 2003, Dortmund achieved first place in the national competition “Capital of Fair Trade”, and numerous other awards followed, including the German Sustainability Award in 2014.

With the signing of the model resolution for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level (model resolution “2030—Agenda for Sustainable Development: Shaping Sustainability at the Municipal Level”, German Association of Cities and Towns, Council of European Municipalities and Regions/German Section) in 2020, the City of Dortmund reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to a

wide range of sustainability issues. As a result of the resolution, Dortmund was accepted into the “Club of Agenda 2030 Municipalities.”

The city’s participation in the “Globally Sustainable Municipality NRW” project (from 2016 to 2018 and from 2021 to 2022) was also intended to advance the implementation of the Global Sustainability Goals at the municipal level. The recently launched process for a new city administration strategy will set the overarching strategic course of administrative action for a sustainable Dortmund.



## 2.2

### Strategic and Organizational Approach for Sustainability

#### Strategic Approach for Sustainability

At the end of 2021, Dortmund initiated an extensive process for developing and implementing a new overarching umbrella strategy for the city administration to set the strategic course for a sustainable Dortmund. To this end, an overarching mission statement was first sought. The main purpose of the new mission statement was to answer these questions:

- What will the world look like in 2030, and how can Dortmund be sustainably successful in this world?
- And how does the city of Dortmund define sustainable success in economic, ecological, democratic and social terms?

Shaping the city in the coming years involves creating prospects for prosperity and new jobs while maintaining Dortmund’s special “neighborhood character.” This nature is characterized by solidarity and cohesion between generations and cultures. On this basis, images of the future were created, resulting in nine strategic city administration goals defined by the administrative board. Subsequently, strategic fields of action were identified for each goal. A central guiding project and key performance indicators were defined to monitor implementation for each field of action.

The next steps, which are already underway, involve anchoring the strategic goals and fields of action and the associated values in the action and decision-making processes of the city of Dortmund. To this end, the offices required for each field of action were identified in a matrix, and sponsors for each lead project were joint-

ly defined to increase accountability. A suitable communication strategy and structure will be established to reflect the new overall strategy. The goals and flagship projects will be promoted and implemented with priority over the next few years, and an appropriate budget has been made available for this purpose. Further projects will be defined, prioritized, and operationally developed during the strategy process with the specialist departments. Formats of employee participation will be used to concretize further projects and associated key figures to introduce the city administration strategy in the various departments of the city administration and to ensure joint and uniform implementation.

In addition, a political coordination process is currently taking place to transfer this approach to the city society and thus develop a comprehensive strategy for the entire city and define city-wide goals and fields of action in an extensive participation process.

#### Sustainability goals

With the mission statement “Sustainable Administration,” the new city administration strategy pursues nine city administration goals, to which 21 strategic fields of action are assigned. The nine goals of the city administration strategy are as follows:



- “Dortmund is getting simpler” includes Digital Administration, Smart City, and Digital Infrastructure as fields of action and is intended to make the city administration fit for the future in the digital age.
- “In Dortmund, all children outgrow themselves” focuses on expanding care for children under and over three years, establishing cooperative all-day care, and creating more space for children and young people in the city.
- “Dortmund attracts” focuses on an overall strategy for housing in Dortmund. It also aims to increase Dortmund’s attractiveness as a place to live and work and to drive forward the transition to a more sustainable mobility as well as Dortmund’s international orientation and network.
- “In Dortmund, where you want to go counts” embodies the notion that no one is disadvantaged or favored in the city because of gender, sexual identity, disability, ancestry, origin, language, home country, faith, religion, or political convictions. Through actions, the sense of “we” and the identification of all individuals with Dortmund shall be promoted and increased: WE ARE DORTMUND.
- “Dortmund is emancipated” aims to ensure equal opportunities in the city’s administration, increase the employment rate of women, and create attractive, family-friendly working environments in Dortmund.
- “Dortmund trusts itself” supports good neighborliness in the city by promoting neighborhood projects and neighborly commitment. It also promotes a culture of participation and initiates measures to improve safety and cleanliness in the city.
- “Dortmund creates environmental quality and works with climate protection” is intended to strengthen local work through a municipal labor market strategy and sees climate protection as a driver for innovation and technology in Dortmund. This is linked to the Economic Development Department’s “New Strength” program.
- With the goal “Dortmund has equal, good living conditions”, a project called “Nordwärts” (engl. northwards) focuses on enhancing and harmonizing the quality of life in Dortmund. The instruments tested in the “northwards” project area will be transferred to the entire city.
- “Dortmund’s municipal economy is there for the people” focuses on the further devel-



opment of services of general interest and defines the interfaces between the city as a corporate group and a sustainable city administration for the joint pursuit of goals.

With a view to Dortmund’s specific medium and long-term objectives regarding sustainability, the following central objectives can also be mentioned:

- Municipal climate neutrality by the year 2035.
- Systematic anchoring of education for sustainable development in the Dortmund educational landscape to enable citizens to act in a sustainable manner.
- Further development of Dortmund as a city of science, expansion of scientific excellence and networking, and strengthening of innovative power as a science and business location.
- Further development of the city as a location for medium-sized businesses, technology, and services, while maintaining a strong industrial core.
- Creation of sufficient and affordable housing for all people as a primary housing policy goal.

- Promoting biodiversity as part of the “Declaration on Biological Diversity in Municipalities.”

In addition, the following overarching global, EU, federal government, and state-level strategies and objectives guide action in the area of sustainability:

- Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably Goal 11—Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- The European Green Deal, notably the goal “Conserve and restore ecosystems and biodiversity—fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems for better nutrition.”
- The German Sustainability Strategy—Dortmund is guided in particular by the core premise that the transformation toward sustainable development primarily encompasses energy, circular economy, housing, transport, food, and agriculture.
- NRW sustainability strategy, notably the goal of “increasing the share of organic farming in agricultural land to 20% by 2030.”

#### Organizational Approach for Sustainability

Concerning the organizational approach for sustainability in the city of Dortmund, the following committees are particularly relevant for the implementation of respective goals and measures: Dortmund City Council; Committee for Social Affairs, Labor and Health; School Committee; Committee for Climate Protection, Environment, Urban Design and Housing; Committee for Economic and Employment Promotion, Europe, Science and Research; Committee for Mobility, Infrastructure and Green; Committee for Culture, Sports and Leisure; Operating Committee FABIDO; Advisory Council on Local Mobility; Design Advisory Council; Integration Council; Advisory Council at the Lower Nature Conservation Authority.

In the city administration, responsibility for sustainability issues lies at the management level with the administrative board (mayor and department heads). Operational implementation occurs in numerous departments (e.g., 1/II City Policy Guidelines CII0; 1/II Office for International Relations; Municipal Economics Staff Office; 19/Procurement Center; 40/Schools Department; 57/FABIDO; 60/Environment Agency; 61/Department of City Planning and Building Regulations; 66/Civil Engi-

neering Office; 63/Greenspace Office; 70/City Drainage). The city administration strategy is explicitly conceived as an overall strategy for the entire city administration. Accordingly, responsibilities for the implementation of the lead projects have been defined.

#### Impact Monitor

At the end of 2019, the City Council adopted an overall impact monitor for the first time. The aim of the monitor is to provide political decision-makers with information on which decisions can be based. In addition, the impact monitor is published on the City of Dortmund’s website and is thus available to all interested parties. The responsibility for the preparation of the monitor was transferred to the City Treasury at the beginning of 2020. The monitor will be made available to the political bodies for consultation when the budget is introduced. The impact monitor relates to the financial year that has just ended and presents the achievements that have been made. In addition to the monetary resources used (the data is based on cost and performance accounting), the largest part of the impact monitor is devoted to the presentation of impact-oriented indicators, which can be used to determine the extent to which the resources used and measures taken were effective. The metrics cover the following topics:

- Economy and employment
- Children, youth, and education
- Security and order
- Social affairs
- Environment
- Quality of life in the city
- Municipal capacity to act.

If the main objectives anchored in the impact monitor are not achieved, the political decision-makers are informed accordingly. In addition, possible future paths are identified, and further procedure is described. A specific monitoring system in the area of sustainability is currently being planned. In the following, some key figures from the impact monitor are presented for these topics in the context of sustainable municipal development.

Key figure	Unit	Time Period		
<b>Municipal capacity to act</b>				
Annual deficit/net loss/net income		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	Euro	20,293,336	12,599,062	98,004,535
<b>Environment</b>				
CO <sub>2</sub> balance	Tons per inhabitant	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
		7.8	7.2	7.0
Share of renewable energy	Percent	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
		4.8	3.3	3.3
Electricity and heat consumption of city administration	Electricity (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		23.9	23.6	21.1
	Heat (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )			
		90.0	85.8	87.9
Number of street trees in the entire city area	Number	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		45,410	54,679	54,679
Number of newly planted trees	Number	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		—	635	670
Renaturalized water area	km	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		79.0	80.3	81.5
Percentage of properties developed and managed in a near-natural manner	Percent	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		1.2	1.3	1.3
Modal split development—Share of “environmentally compatible transport”	Percent	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		53	51	51
<b>Children, youth, and education</b>				
Number of childcare places	Number	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		15,369	16,325	16,587
Open-all-day schools quota (coverage rate)	Percent			
		50.2	57.8	59.3
<b>Social</b>				
At-risk-of-poverty rate	Percent	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
		18.7	18.7	19.9
<b>Security and order</b>				
Counseling for victims of right-wing extremist violence	Number	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		106	187	178
Wild garbage dumps in the city area	Tons	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		981	1,172	1,735
<b>Quality of life in the city</b>				
Cultural sponsorship by the Dortmund Cultural Office	Euro per inhabitant	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		3.83	6.24	6.10
<b>Economy and employment</b>				
Investment volume of local companies	Million euros	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
		367	367	561

## 2.3

### Sustainable Administration, Contracting and Procurement

With the resolution on the “Agenda for Sustainable Development in Municipalities,” Dortmund established the Global Sustainability Goals as guidelines for its municipal policy actions. The city administration plays a central role in their implementation. The common goal is to integrate sustainable development as a cross-sectional task across all offices in the administration and thus contribute to implementing the Global Sustainability Goals at the local level. Against the background of agility or interdisciplinary cooperation, the city administration strategy was explicitly conceived as an overall strategy for the entire city administration.

The “City Policy Guidelines/CIIO” division, located in the Department for Mayoral and City Council’s Affairs, deals with various sustainable development topics. It includes the Office of International Relations and the Coordination Office for Diversity, Tolerance, and Democracy.

With the “Sustainable Procurement” council bill in 2019, Dortmund created the basis for anchoring sustainable procurement in the city administration. In doing so, the City Council confirmed the sustainable procurement path already taken and adopted the following principles:

1. The departments shall continue to take aspects of environmental protection and energy efficiency into account when designing procurement requirements and when carrying out awards.
2. As a matter of principle, public contracts may only be awarded to companies that ensure that the goods procured in the specific contract have been obtained or produced in compliance with the minimum standards

set out in the core labor standards of the International Labor Organization. If sensitive products from specific countries or regions of origin are procured, appropriate evidence must be provided by the companies as part of the award procedure. If possible, “fair trade” goods shall be procured. In the event of “market failure,” the requirement may be waived.

3. The Council of the City of Dortmund resolves the further development and amendment of the previous environment-related criteria in the procurement of company vehicles to the effect that, as a matter of principle, locally emission-free drive systems are to be given preference in the context of procurement.

To further promote sustainable procurement in all areas of the administration, the “Sustainable Procurement” council bill has been supplemented by joining the “Charter Fair Metropolis Ruhr 2030—A Fair Constitution for the Ruhr Area.” Hence, the city will further promote sustainable procurement in seven fields of action. The Charter Fair Metropolis Ruhr is a voluntary agreement to strengthen fair trade and fair procurement at the municipal level, which all 57 municipalities of the Metropole Ruhr can sign. The Global Sustainability Goals form the basis for the charter.

By signing, the municipalities commit to fulfilling various minimum targets—defined in the charter—with further targets to be defined locally. In 2010, all the municipalities in the Metropole Ruhr had committed via the “Magna Charta Ruhr against Exploitative Child Labor” to refrain from using products from exploitative child labor. The new charter expands this commitment to include further topics. Municipalities that sign commit to the specific goals with a view to sustainable procurement. First, they increase the number of municipal purchases in which compliance with core labor standards of the International Labor Organization and, where possible, compliance with other labor standards must be demonstrated. Second, they increase the number of municipal purchases that also meet Fair Trade criteria. To achieve this goal, all product groups relevant to Fair Trade procurement in the administration are covered. Third, the municipalities undertake to address Fair Trade and Fair Public Procurement within the framework of their city partnerships and to appoint at least one contact person for Fair Trade or Fair Public Procurement.

## 2.4

# Public Participation for Sustainability

### Dialogue processes on sustainability

The opportunities for citizens' participation, involvement, and participation are of great importance to Dortmund. For this reason, the city offers various opportunities for participation in political, planning, and project-related processes and procedures. Dortmund has already received several national and international awards for its culture of participation. For example, the city received the special education and civic participation prize from the "EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade Award."

On a citywide level, the following approaches are noteworthy in this area: Citizens' events (e.g., PHOENIX—see parking concept), action programs (e.g., the Climate-Air action program), master plans (e.g., the Mobility master plan), action alliances (e.g., Fair Trade), and advisory councils (e.g., Local Mobility). These city-wide approaches are supplemented at the neighborhood level by various formats: the "northwards" project (a broad-based dialog and participation process), district devel-

opment concepts with citizen participation, neighborhood management in northern part of the city (e.g., Hafen neighborhood), and urban renewal (e.g., Mengede town center).

Overall, Dortmund offers citizens a wide range of dialog and participation opportunities. With the municipal ombudsman's office established in 2011, the existing offer was supplemented by a neutral, information, consulting and contact office for citizens' initiatives and interests. This office supports citizens' participation in the decision-making process of politics and administration, strengthening citizen proximity and the acceptance of political decisions. For example, the ombudsman's office has institutionalized the planning, monitoring, and implementation of participation processes of importance to society as a whole (e.g., the "northwards" project and the Smart City Dortmund alliance). This initiative corresponds to a role model nationwide.

The "Participation 2.0" process was launched in 2020 to supplement analog offerings with digital offerings and thus enable direct exchange between politics and administration and among citizens. Within this framework, methods of digital participation are being developed that secure and promote the participation and involvement of civil society without excluding people. In addition, a digital participation portal is being established. The portal will be supplemented by a participation pool, where interested people can register to be informed about current citizen participation.



## 2.5

# Sustainable Finances

### Sustainability goals in budget planning and impact-oriented budgeting

Since the 2014 financial year, Dortmund has prepared an "impact-oriented budget" (WOH) in addition to the municipal budget. In an intergroup revision process conducted in 2018, it was determined to combine the WOH and the annual report on the WOH into one work per year, the so-called impact monitor. In contrast to the municipal budget, the impact monitor is not bound by legal regulations. It represents a municipal policy control instrument, which is essentially geared to the achievement of political objectives. The strategic political objectives do not cover the entire range of local government tasks. Accordingly, the impact monitor does not include all the financial resources presented in the budget but is deliberately limited to the part associated with achieving objectives. Hence, the monitor represents a supplement to the budget and expands the possibilities for financial control by local politics.

The largest section of the impact monitor is devoted to the presentation of impact-oriented indicators, which can be used to determine the effectiveness of the resources used and the measures taken. The indicators cover all key areas of sustainable development (including the economy and employment, children, youth and education, social affairs, and the environment). Examples include climate protection sub-goal aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources, reduce electricity consumption in the city administration, and control the amount of heat consumed in the administration. The sub-goal on the expansion of areas and structures developed close to nature aims to increase the proportion of properties developed and managed close to nature, to increase the number of street trees or newly planted trees across the city and to minimize the number of

There will also be a participation box containing information and tips on the implementation of participation formats and instruments.

### Collaboration with civil society actors

Several of the mentioned activities promote cooperation with civil society actors. The "northwards" participation project is particularly noteworthy, being a board of trustees convened as a strong civil society network and advisory body. In its function and pluralistic composition, the Board of Trustees is a coordination and cooperation platform as well as a recommendation body. Influential multipliers and supporters with significant personal and voluntary commitment are active on the Board.

The city supports and networks the many civil society actors committed to implementing sustainability goals locally. For example, the Dortmund Action Alliance for Fair Trade and the "FairtradeTown" initiative provide continuous support and networking in the field of fair trade and One World. Another example is the Agenda working group on sustainable mobility, which has existed since 2003. The group focuses on the topic of "promoting cycling," and its projects include helping to shape the "Local Mobility Advisory Council" and participating in the "Mobility 2030 Master Plan." There is also cooperation between diverse civil society actors on various master plans (e.g., mobility, emission-free city center, housing, integration, environment, retail, economic areas, and science).

### Key contributions of local stakeholders

In recent years, local initiatives and actors have contributed in many ways to advancing the sustainability discourse in Dortmund. The following contributions are noteworthy examples:

- Fair trade/global responsibility: the founding of Welthaus e.V.;
- Mobility: the establishment of an advisory council on local mobility;
- Food system change: the founding of a food policy council (Ernährungsrat und Region e.V.); the founding of a consumer-producer cooperative for local and organic food; and
- Climate protection: Climate Alliance Dortmund, aiming for faster achievement of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets.

felled trees. Within the framework of the environmental pollution sub-goal, the reduction of annual average NO2 emissions, the improvement of the subjective perception of environmental pollution, the renaturation of water areas, and the avoidance of exceeding noise thresholds are among the areas addressed.

### Sustainability-oriented investment strategies and sustainable financing instruments

In recent years, the City of Dortmund has supported the consideration of sustainability criteria in financial investments through various activities. For example, an investment in sustainability funds totaling 2.0 million euros (2020–2022) is being made through the financial investments of the dependent foundations. In addition, an investment totaling 36.0 million euros (2022–2026) has been made as part of the financial investment of the landfill special fund. Sustainability funds were developed specifically for investment by the German Association of Cities and Towns in cooperation with fund providers, including an appropriate return taking into account the security aspect. The sustainable orientation of the relevant mixed funds also honors ethical, social, and ecological aspects.

### Measures to counter indebtedness

In the annual financial statements of the past years, a balanced or positive annual result was reported in the Dortmund budget. The structural basis for the positive development was created not least by the completed memorandum process initiated by the City Council in 2015, which achieved a structural relief of the Dortmund budget of around 68.5 million euros per annum. Beyond this, Dortmund's budgetary framework conditions improved further by 2020. During that year, to reduce the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Memorandum II was created as a follow-up process to the original memorandum. In this process, previously developed measures amounting to around 30 million euros per annum (2022: 26.6 million euros; 2023: 31.5 million euros; 2024: 34.8 million euros; 2025: 26.8 million euros) were developed and will be included in the budget planning for 2022 onwards.

As part of the 2022 et seq. budget preparation process, the City of Dortmund faced the challenge of transferring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the municipal budget for the first time after the 2020/2021 double budget. The 2021 "Own Strength" consolidation program aims to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the city budget in the medium term to work toward a balanced budget. The program seeks to achieve improvements by optimizing business processes or generating city-wide synergy effects, among other things. In this way, the city of Dortmund will remain solidly positioned and fit for the future to ensure its ability to act is maintained. At the same time, in the interests of intergenerational fairness, preliminary burdens will be reduced as far as possible.

## Indicators



### Financial resources balance 16.6

EURO	2010	2015	2020	Budget surplus or deficit per inhabitant
	-141.00	-72.00	66.00	

The financial balance provides information on the financial capacity of a municipality to autonomously shape the local economic, social, and ecological framework. The indicator has recently shown a positive development in Dortmund. Whereas the financial resources balance in 2015 was still -72.00 euros per inhabitant, corresponding to a deficit, the city recorded a budget surplus of 66.00 euros per inhabitant in 2020. The financial balance per inhabitant is thus only slightly below the German average of 75.00 euros per inhabitant (2020). In the long term, this development contributes to achieving the goal of the German Sustainability Strategy, 8.2.c "Debt ratio max. 60% of GDP—to be maintained until 2030."



### Tax revenues 16.6

EURO	2010	2015	2020	Tax revenue per inhabitant
	950.00	1,069.00	1,333.00	

Tax capacity is a key determinant of a municipality's financial room for maneuver and provides information on its economic strength or structural weakness. However, tax revenues do not take into account other revenues, such as fees, levies, investment allocations from the federal and state governments, and general key allocations under the municipal financial equalization systems. In Dortmund, there has been a positive development in tax revenue per inhabitant over time. Thus, the revenue power has increased from 950.00 euros per inhabitant in 2010 to 1,333.00 euros per inhabitant in 2020. The development of tax revenues in Dortmund is thus only slightly below the development of the German average (2020: 1,391.00 euros). The sustainability strategies at federal and NRW state level do not define specific targets for the development of tax revenues.



### Liquidity loans 16.6

EURO	2010	2015	2020	Liquidity/cash loans in the core budget per inhabitant
	1,895.00	2,663.00	2,537.00	

Short-term liquidity loans, or cash loans in the core budget, indicate financing bottlenecks in municipalities that are bridged by overdrawing accounts ("overdraft facilities"). High and long-term liquidity loans indicate a fundamental imbalance in the budget structure of a municipality, which is problematic in terms of intergenerational equity. In Dortmund, liquidity loans per inhabitant have recently decreased again over time (2020: 2,537.00 euros). However, the development over the entire period is consistently above the German average, which most recently (2020) shows a value of 471.00 euros per inhabitant to bridge deficits. The sustainability strategies at federal and NRW state level do not define any specific targets for liquidity loans.

## Innovation for Sustainability

In 2021, Dortmund won the competition “iCapital Award 2021—European Capital of Innovation.” At the “European Innovation Council Summit” in Brussels, the European Commission thus selected the city as the European Capital of Innovation 2021 (see also the “greenhouse.ruhr” funding program).

Dortmund’s holistic approach to innovation encompasses social and technological innovations and builds on a strong culture of communication at eye level with all stakeholders, in line with the motto “innovations from the neighborhood.” Together, these networks address major contemporary questions, focusing on green and digital transformation. Dortmund’s approach is based on the insight that education is key to the future and that the curiosity of youth becomes the creative spark of tomorrow’s research and development. Good ideas are born in neighborhoods, backyards, living rooms, laboratories, and workshops. Citizens, scientists, students, entrepreneurs, urban planners, and administrators work together in ecosystems that enable innovation through collaboration.

Against this backdrop, the city administration strategy includes as its first objective the goal “Dortmund is becoming simpler,” which covers the fields of action of digital administration, smart city, and digital infrastructure and is intended to position Dortmund for the future in the digital age, within the administration and the city as a whole.

With the master plan “Digital Administration—Working 4.0,” the administration presented a broad conceptual framework for the digitization of the Dortmund city administration to the council in a meeting at the beginning of 2021. A comprehensive portfolio of digitization and organizational projects underscores

the administration’s ambitions to continue the transformation process and its consistent digital orientation. Simultaneously, a roadmap for digitization projects and processes is to be developed beyond the master plan. In the future, the roadmap (“Memorandum on Digitization 2020 to 2025”) will be the central instrument for managing digitization processes in the city. Several strategic objectives resulted in 24 sustainable digitization measures, such as the fundamental revision of the service portal. The majority of the measures are to be implemented successively in project form by 2025. As part of a service agreement on idea management (2017), employees are encouraged to actively help shape the city and the associated change process with their ideas and thoughts.

The Smart City project was launched as a flagship project of the Decade Project “northwards” and as a measure in the Energy Transition Master Plan. Together with science, business, and civil society, projects for intelligent and networked urban development are being initiated and implemented. These projects are intended to make the city an innovation laboratory for new concepts and projects and, in particular, to turn the north of Dortmund into a “smart city showcase” for the city as a whole and for the region. With the support of new technologies, innovative pilot projects are being developed and tested that represent added value for the city’s residents.

An important driver in this regard is the “Alliance Smart City Dortmund—We.Make.Future.” In 2016, this initiative came together as a dialog and project platform to work together toward the goal of the Smart City. With more than 120 partners, the alliance is constantly seeking solution strategies, technologies, competencies, synergies, and pilot projects, forming a network of companies, associations, institutions, scientific facilities, and political and administrative actors. Teams of experts develop innovative ideas, concepts, and projects, which are then tested and implemented with cooperation partners. The goal of Dortmund’s development into a smart city is to increase the quality of life and the environment,

to strengthen the city as an attractive business location, and to provide customer-friendly services through a future-oriented administration. Intelligent networking of systems and people can reduce costs, save resources, and realize more effective control of the city. The spectrum of projects ranges from smart parking solutions to digital neighborhood development. In 2018, Dortmund was named “Most Digital City” by the “Living City” foundation. Among other things, the jury praised Dortmund for its approach to integrating the topic of digitization into an urban development strategy.

In 2020, Dortmund received funding from the German Federal Ministry of the Interior as a Smart Cities model project. Funding is being provided for the joint project “Digital Operating System Dortmund Schwerte—DOS 20.30” with the neighboring city of Schwerte. The project will last seven years, divided into a strategy phase, to be completed at the beginning of 2023 with the creation of a smart city strategy, and an implementation phase, in which the various projects, assigned to 12 smart city fields of action, will be implemented.

In 2021, it was decided that the administrative leadership’s “Leasing Technology Center Dortmund” special fund will build a new energy campus in Dortmund Harbor over the next few years, following the proven model of the Dortmund Technology Centers. This initiative will create a vibrant innovation campus for the research, production, and development of energy sources and technologies of the future. Up to 2,000 people are expected to find jobs in this sector. The site of the energy campus is to be developed and the first buildings erected as early as 2027. The campus is to serve as an incubator and accelerator for solutions in digitization and the energy industry, and the development of hydrogen-based solutions is to be sustainably located in Dortmund. As a beacon for the region, the Energy Campus as a whole is intended to tie in with the tradition of the Metropole Ruhr as the number one energy region and become a beacon for the modern energy industry in the future.

Part of the prize money from the iCapital competition was used to develop a room for innovation—Space for Innovation and Collaboration, a space in the city that invites people to collab-



orate, presents innovations, brings universities and science into the (inner) city, and stimulates curiosity. The space is actively used by the innovation network (universities, institutes, networks, business development, chamber of Commerce and Industry, initiatives, etc.) and is a visible beacon for innovation in the city. For this purpose, a vacant urban space was rented for a pilot phase of one year and set up for flexible use. The content-related program planning of this location is performed in cooperation with partners from Dortmund's "innovation ecosystem." For example, the Economic Development Agency, as the coordinating unit of this project, can draw on experience from the "Digital Workbench." The Projektor, the Digital Workbench, and the SUPER-RAUM are three innovation spaces that contribute to the revitalization of the city center. Overall, the projector pursues four goals:

1. To become a showcase for innovations "made in Dortmund," changing monthly, and where curated innovation projects present themselves.
2. To be a venue for dialog events and workshops from the innovation network.
3. To function as a group and project workspace for students from all Dortmund universities.
4. To stage events for children and young people, e.g. robotics workshops.

## Indicators



### Business startups 9.5

NUMBER	2010	2015	2020	Number of newly established businesses per 1,000 inhabitants (Source: SDG Portal)
	10.8	7.4	6.2	

Startups can help create jobs and promote competition and can also be an expression of an innovative, sustainable economic structure. The indicator provides information on the number of newly established commercial enterprises per 1,000 inhabitants without providing information on the innovative content of the respective startup; hence, it can only represent the actual degree of innovation of a municipality to a limited extent. In Dortmund, the development has declined slightly over time and has been slightly below the German average since 2016 (2020: 6.6 newly established commercial enterprises per 1,000 inhabitants). In its sustainability strategy, the German government has anchored Goal 9.1, "Increase private and public spending on research and development—at least 3.5% of GDP annually by 2025." Visionary founders with a future-oriented focus are supported, for example, by tax breaks or economic stimulus packages and can increase the level of innovation in a municipality.



### Broadband internet access—private households 9.c

PERCENT	2015	2017	2019	Proportion of private households that can access a minimum bandwidth of 50 Mbit/s
	79.2	82.8	94.1	

Comprehensive broadband coverage for private households indirectly impacts sustainability, since access to information and electronic services (e.g., e-medicine, e-government) or working in a "mobile office" can relieve the burden on private households by saving time and money. Digital access to a wide range of educational and information services also contributes to intergenerational equity. The proportion of households in Dortmund that can access a bandwidth of 50 Mbit/s has developed positively over time: In 2019, 94.1% of private households had broadband coverage, which was above the NRW average of 93.2% (due to a lack of data, a Germany-wide comparison is not possible here). Dortmund is thus contributing to the achievement of the German Sustainability Strategy's Target 9.1.b, "Nationwide roll-out of gigabit networks by 2025."



## Overview of contributions— “Steering: Municipal Sustainability Management”

Aspect	Contributions <sup>5</sup>
Strategic and Organizational Approach for Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing of the model resolution “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Shaping Sustainability at the Municipal Level”</li> <li>• City administration strategy “Sustainable administration”</li> </ul>
Sustainable Administration, Contracting and Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City administration strategy as an overall strategy for the whole city administration</li> <li>• Business area “Guidelines of the city policy ClIO”</li> <li>• Council bill “Sustainable Procurement”</li> <li>• Joining the “Charter Fair Metropolis Ruhr 2030—A Fair Constitution for the Ruhr”</li> <li>• Impact monitor (e.g., sub-goal climate protection; sub-goal to expand areas and structures close to nature; sub-goal environmental impact)</li> </ul>
Public Participation for Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation project “northwards”/ “northwards” board of trustees</li> <li>• Ombudsman for citizens’ interests and initiatives</li> <li>• “Participation 2.0” process to establish digital participation offerings</li> <li>• Dortmund Action Alliance for Fair Trade/ “FairtradeTown” initiative</li> <li>• Agenda working group on sustainable mobility</li> <li>• Working groups on various master plans</li> </ul>
Sustainable Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact monitor (e.g., climate protection sub-target; sub-target for the expansion of near-natural areas and structures; environmental impact sub-target).</li> <li>• Memorandum process for structural relief of the Dortmund budget</li> <li>• Memorandum II as a follow-up process</li> <li>• Consolidation program “Own strength”</li> <li>• Investment in sustainability funds: financial investment of the dependent foundations/financial investment of the special landfill fund</li> </ul>
Innovation for Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “iCapital Award 2021—European Capital of Innovation”</li> <li>• “Digital Administration—Working 4.0” master plan</li> <li>• Service agreement on idea management</li> <li>• Smart City Dortmund/ “Alliance Smart City Dortmund—We.Make.Future.”</li> <li>• Establishment of a new energy campus</li> <li>• Projector—Space for innovation and collaboration</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Note: Since the contributions regarding “Steering: Municipal Sustainability Management” cover overarching and cross-sectional aspects regarding sustainability, they are not allocated to the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda. For the thematic fields of action in the following chapters, the respective contributions are mapped to the SDG targets.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

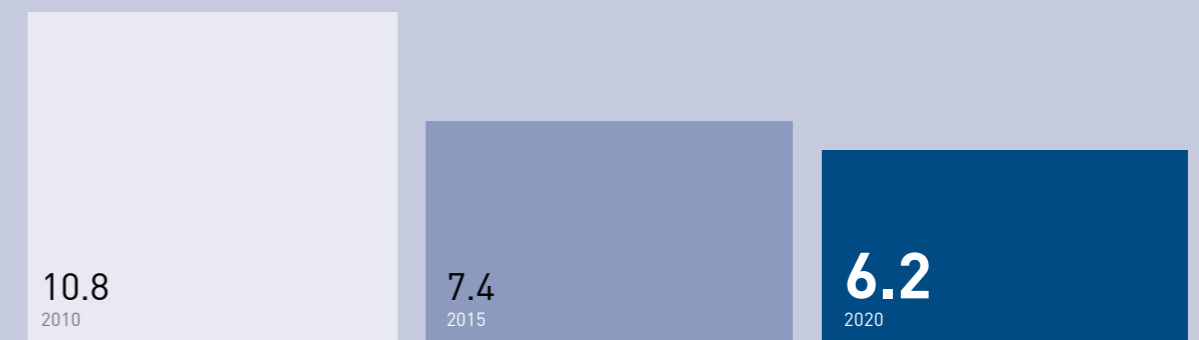
### Taxes revenues

Tax revenue per inhabitant



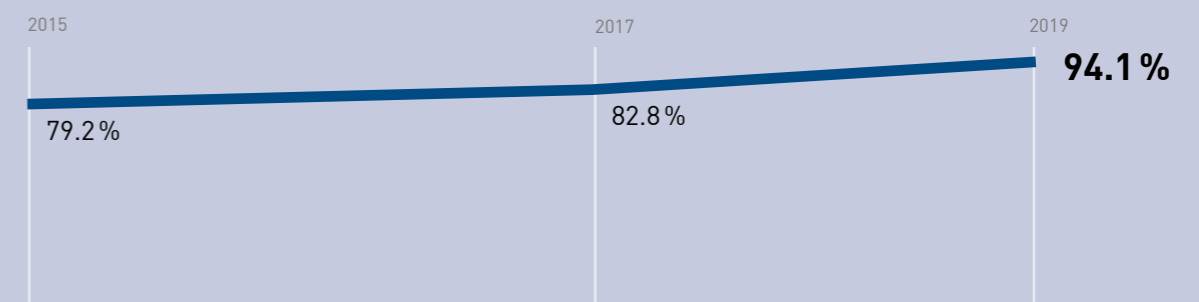
### Business start-ups

Number of newly established businesses per 1,000 inhabitants



### Broadband internet access—Private households

Proportion of private households that can use a minimum bandwidth of 50 Mbit/s



# Thematic fields for Municipal Sustainability

The following chapters present the results concerning the thematic fields of action for municipal sustainability. Each of the nine chapters is presented consistently in the SDG color most relevant to the respective field of action. The chapters are structured similarly. First, an introductory page presents the thematic field and the foremost SDGs that are addressed. This page also highlights the addressed qualitative aspects and chosen practical examples and the quantitative indicators belonging to the thematic field. Second, the qualitative contributions are presented—that is, the

most significant activities in the city that contribute to the thematic field. An overview then summarizes all mentioned contributions including an allocation to the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda. Third, the quantitative indicators are presented that demonstrate developments in the fields of action. Significant indicators that are particularly suitable for illustrating the specific trends in the municipality are visualized by graphics at the end of each chapter.

3.1 — Climate Protection & Energy	36
3.2 — Natural Resource Protection & Climate Adaption	42
3.3 — Sustainable Mobility	52
3.4 — Lifelong Learning & Culture	58
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### General Introduction to the Field of Action

The field of action Climate Protection and Energy is probably the most central challenge at the global level in the area of sustainable development. The consequences of climate change are already perceptible in German municipalities. Extreme events such as heavy rainfall and flooding, heat waves, prolonged drought, and severe storms occur with increasing frequency and intensity. These conditions are associated with negative impacts on human health, municipal infrastructures, water, agriculture, and forestry. At the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, the international community set the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, and if possible to 1.5°C. These targets also apply to municipalities. Accordingly, the transformation to a sustainable energy supply must also be driven forward at the municipal level. The Climate Protection and Energy field of action thus brings together topics such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the expansion of renewable energies, increased energy efficiency, and measures to save energy and raise awareness among the population.

## 3.1



# Climate Protection & Energy

### Qualitative Aspects

- Climate protection in the municipality
- Climate protection in administration,
- municipal undertakings and associated-companies
- Embedding climate protection in spatial-planning and development

### SDG indicators

- Electricity from wind power
- Residential buildings with renewable heating energy

### 13 Climate protection in the municipality

Climate protection has been a high priority in Dortmund for several years. With the Climate-Air 2030 action program adopted at the end of 2021, the city is repositioning itself for climate protection. This policy continues the Climate Protection Action Program 2020 from 2011. The Climate-Air 2030 action program describes the workload for the next decade. The aim is to achieve the goal of climate neutrality by 2035, which the City of Dortmund Council set out in its resolution to implement the action program. Based on the CO<sub>2</sub> balance 2018 (which reported an emission reduction of 32% by 2018 compared to 1990), measures in the following fields of action were developed after extensive participation and a citizens conference: Over-arching measures, renewable energies and energy efficiency, sustainable construction, agriculture and food, mobility, and air. In addition, analyses were prepared and potentials identified to enable Dortmund to meet the goal of a greenhouse gas-neutral city. Overall, the action program is integrative and relates the numerous climate protection activities to each other.

For implementing climate protection activities, the coordination office for climate protection and climate impact adaptation was established in 2012 in the Environment Agency, and two additional climate protection manager positions were created. Since 2019, the "climate relevance of political proposals" ensures that all political proposals have been examined for their climate relevance, and a declaration on the climate-relevant effects of each proposal must be submitted. At the end of 2021, the City Council of Dortmund decided to establish an independent and advisory climate council.

In the last decade, numerous climate protection measures and projects have been implemented. The Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Service Center has acted as a provider-neutral consulting and information service in Dortmund since 2013. It offers free initial advice on potential savings, regenerative energies, and cost considerations related to heating system renew-

als or thermal insulation. Despite lower feed-in tariffs, the number of photovoltaic systems in Dortmund is continuously increasing, supported by a solar register. The expansion of wind energy in Dortmund is limited due to a shortage of land. Against this background, new locations and repowering potentials are being examined. Overall, the expansion of renewable energies is also addressed as a holistic, city-wide strategy within the framework of the Energy Transition Master Plan adopted in 2014. With the initiative "dortmund—Klima ist heimspiel" (climate as a local task), a marketing-relevant umbrella brand was established to promote the recognition value of climate protection and climate change adaptation activities in the city. In addition, various actors (e.g., municipal institutions, utility and waste management companies, the Chamber of Crafts and Consumer Advice) have joined forces in the "Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Consultation Group" to moderate and coordinate Dortmund's many climate and energy activities as a comprehensive "bracket."

### 13 Climate protection in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies

Against the backdrop of the climate protection goals described above, the city administration and subsidiaries are striving to play a model role. For example, the supply of heat based on renewable energies is to be promoted in the city's building stock (energy supply of municipal properties). Municipal properties take into account high refurbishment standards overall (e.g., energy refurbishment of the Westerholz depot as a role model). For example, a school was established with passive house standards (Kirchhörde). Since 2020, all Dortmund properties have been supplied with climate-neutral green electricity from renewable energies. With the Mission-E campaign, the city administration conducted an administration-wide internal energy efficiency campaign to inform employees about saving energy. In addition, pilot projects to test innovative technologies are supported or initiated. One example is a pilot project using heat

# 3.1

from wastewater to save CO<sub>2</sub> (2018). The municipal enterprises and associated companies also implement various climate protection activities—for example, the Dortmund Zoo (Sports and leisure enterprises Dortmund, municipal undertaking) has set itself the goal of climate neutrality by 2030. To this end, Dortmund Energy and Water Supply GmbH (DEW21) has developed a concept to heat the various buildings sustainably.

## 13 Embedding climate protection in spatial planning and development

The embedding of climate protection in Dortmund's spatial planning and development occurs within the framework of numerous processes and activities. Some examples are listed below. Since 2014, the Innovation Business Park project has steered sustainable commercial and industrial area development. The focus of the action program was an energy-efficient and high-quality further development of the city's commercial areas into attractive and functional locations that secure the existing stock and make optimal use of the space. Since 2014, with the help of the climate impact

adaptation concept for the urban district of Dortmund-Hörde, measures and instructions for action to reduce the consequences of climate change have been developed and tested in the urban district. As part of the "InnovationCity Roll Out Westerfilde/Bodelschwingh" project (2017 to 2021), the InnovationCity process for the development of climate-friendly urban neighborhoods, initially developed for the city of Bottrop, was transferred to Westerfilde/Bodelschwingh. The aim is to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by modernizing the district in terms of energy efficiency. From 2010 to 2015, the project Energy Efficiency Quarter Unionviertel tested numerous climate protection measures in the urban redevelopment quarter and transferred them to other neighborhoods. Projects and pilot schemes were implemented with private property owners, residents and small businesses—for example, around 80 buildings were renovated. The PHOENIX See energy concept is an example of the mandatory specification of standards for residential units (mandatory KfW 60 standard and at least 25% of the heat supply from renewable energy for approximately 900 residential units). According to the PHOENIX West energy handbook, future buildings on PHOENIX West must meet specific requirements concerning their energy quality and energy supply. Furthermore, investors are obliged to use external specialist energy consulting via their planners and architects. The "100 Energy Plus Houses" campaign is also a forward-looking model project in the area of new construction. Since the campaign was launched in 2011, over 50 houses with more than 100 apartments have been built as "Energy Plus Houses" (residential units that generate more energy than they consume).



# Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Climate protection in the municipality	• Climate-Air Action Program 2030 (as an update of the Action Program Climate Protection 2020)/Goal of climate neutrality by 2035	13.2
	• Climate protection and climate impact adaptation coordination office	13.2
	• Climate relevance in political proposals	13.2
	• Climate Advisory Council	13.3
	• Service center for energy efficiency and climate protection	7.3
	• Free initial consulting: Energy consulting	7.3
	• Expansion of photovoltaic systems/solar register/wind energy	7.2
	• Energy transition master plan	7.3
	• "Dortmund—climate is home" initiative	13.3
	• "Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Consultation Group"	7.3
Climate protection in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies	• Energy supply of municipal properties	7.2
	• Renovation standards for municipal properties	7.3
	• Supply of all city properties with climate-neutral green electricity	7.2
	• Mission-E campaign	7.2
	• Pilot project for the use of heat from waste water	7.2
Embedding climate protection in spatial planning and development	• Project Innovation Business Park	9.4
	• Climate impact adaptation concept for the urban district of Dortmund-Hörde	13.1
	• "InnovationCity Roll Out Westerfilde/Bodelschwingh" project	11.3
	• Project Energy Efficiency Quarter Unionviertel	7.3
	• Energy concept PHOENIX Lake	7.3
	• PHOENIX West energy handbook	7.3
• "100 Energy Plus Houses" campaign	7.3	

## Indicators



### Electricity from wind power 7.2

	2013	2014	2015	
W/INHABITANT	19.1	18.9	18.8	Installed wind energy capacity per inhabitant

Electricity from wind power accounts for a significant share of the German energy mix and is the most important renewable energy source in terms of energy fed into the grid. The indicator provides information on the installed capacity of all wind power plants in relation to the number of inhabitants of a municipality. For Dortmund, data is only available for the years 2013 to 2015. As expected, the usable wind energy potential in the city is low due to its geographical location and urban structure. The share of installed wind energy capacity per inhabitant fell from 19.1 watts to 18.8 watts per inhabitant between 2013 and 2015. This development is significantly below the NRW average (no comparable data is available at the federal level) of around 230 watts per inhabitant in 2015 (the most recent figures). However, the data do not allow valid statements on the current development of installed wind energy capacity per inhabitant. The expansion of electricity from wind power would contribute overall to achieving the German Sustainability Strategy's goal 7.2.b., "Increase the share of electricity from renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption to at least 65 % by 2030."



### Residential buildings with renewable heating energy 11.b

	2010	2015	2020	
PERCENT	12.1	22.7	37.3	Share of completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy

The use of renewable heating energy in the building sector can contribute significantly to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, using renewable heating energy has positive economic effects on fixed energy costs (e.g., lower investment costs or elimination of CO<sub>2</sub> pricing) in private households. In Dortmund, the share of completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy has increased significantly in recent years and was at 37.3% in the most recent figures from 2020. However, this share is below the German average (2020: 50.5%). The German Sustainability Strategy pursues the goal of increasing the share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption to 30% by 2030, 45% by 2040, and 60% by 2050 (Goal 7.2.a). Dortmund contributes indirectly to achieving the goal of the German Sustainability Strategy through its activities in the residential building sector.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

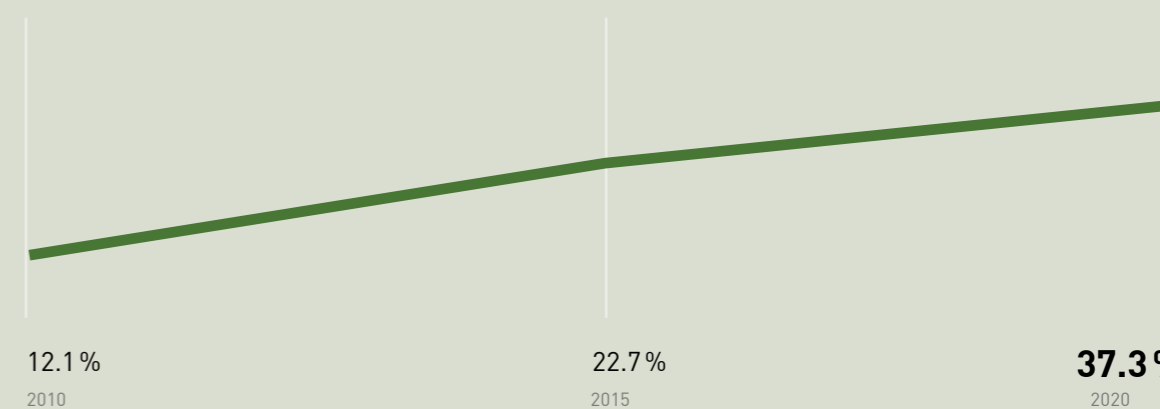
### Electricity from wind power

Installed wind energy capacity per inhabitant



### Residential buildings with renewable heating energy

Share of completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

Biodiversity and natural resources such as soil, water, and air are the essential foundations of human life and economic activity. However, in many places, the use of resources exceeds their regenerative capacity. The increasing loss of biodiversity (i.e., the diversity of species, genetic variation, and habitats), along with climate change, represents the most significant global challenge in terms of sustainability. The impairment of natural soil functions due to human land use leads to reduced rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge. Water and soil pollution—for example, through the dumping of chemicals and waste—threaten the ecological balance. Air pollution from particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide leads to health risks, while greenhouse gases accelerate climate change. Against this background, the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and the development of effective climate change adaptation strategies at the municipal level are of central importance.

## 3.2



## Natural Resource Protection & Climate Adaptation

### Qualitative Aspects

- Biodiversity protection
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Sustainable supply and disposal
- Reduction of resource consumption in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies
- Reduction of environmental pollution in soil, water and air
- Climate adaptation in the municipality
- Climate adaptation in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies

### SDG indicators

- Land use
- New land use
- Land use intensity
- Nature conservation areas
- Landscape quality
- Unfragmented open space areas
- Nitrogen surplus in agriculture
- Wastewater treatment
- Watercourse quality

### 15 Protection of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, forestry and green spaces

Dortmund is green—around 63.3% of the city’s urban area consists of parks, forests, fields, and meadows, according to the land surveying and cadastral office, making it one of the greenest cities in the world. Dortmund has five nature reserves covering 2,706 hectares, 48 landscape protection areas covering 8,584.5 hectares, and 139 protected landscape elements covering 266.9 hectares (as of 2021). Against this background, preserving biodiversity is a major concern for the city. In 2012, Dortmund was a founding member of the “Communities for Biodiversity” initiative.

With a new landscape plan in 2020, Dortmund has ensured that more areas and more nature are protected in the spirit of promoting biodiversity. Landscape plans specify the measures required to protect habitats for wild plants and animals and maintain the natural balance (clean water, fresh air, healthy food). Landscape plans’ area of application extends to the built outdoor area via the building planning law. Dortmund’s new landscape plan consists of the determination map, the development map, two basic maps, the textual representations and determinations (Volume I), and the environmental report (Volume II). The determination map and the textual determinations of the landscape plan are binding. Among other things, nature reserves, landscape protection areas, natural monuments, protected landscape elements, special provisions for forestry use, earmarking of fallow land, and maintenance and development measures are specified. The landscape plan contains various measures for protecting native animals and plants, with increased emphasis on preserving and maintaining existing structures (e.g., small water bodies, orchard meadows, grassland extensification). The goals of the biotope network are the permanent protection of the populations of wild animals and plants, including their habitats, and the preservation, restoration, and development of functional ecological interrelationships. The landscape plan aims to reduce the amount of land

consumed by urbanization. The plan comprises 35 nature conservation areas covering 2,700 ha. Together with the protected landscape elements, this corresponds to over 10% of Dortmund’s area. Previously, there were 26 nature reserves covering 1,688 ha. In comparison, the new landscape plan adds 1,018.4 ha of nature conservation area to the city. The moderate agricultural regulations in nature reserves and protected landscape elements are important for biodiversity. The use of pesticides is prohibited, and there is a restriction on fertilizers and a ban on reseeding in grassland areas. These measures are intended to preserve the habitat of vulnerable plants, insects, and small vertebrates. The proportion of agricultural land in the nature reserves is 12.5%, the majority of which is municipal property. In addition, the landscape plan specifies the maintenance of 37 fallow areas, the creation and maintenance of seven small bodies of water, the maintenance and reactivation of 186 small bodies of water at 58 locations, the maintenance of 52 orchard meadows, extensive maintenance measures in the form of extensive use on 60 areas, and a specification for unsealing. In addition, there are plans for 93 rows of trees, seven groups of trees, 39 strips of woodland and riparian woodland, and 33 protective plantings. Given the massive decline in insect numbers, it is vital to use agricultural land in a nature-friendly way and to maintain non-agriculturally used areas such as fallow land, small bodies of water, and wetlands as stepping-stone biotopes in the landscape. Since nature conservation is a public task and Dortmund has many natural areas, the majority of the stipulations for maintenance apply to areas owned by the city of Dortmund.

The ecological reconstruction of the Emscher system, completed in 2021, is an example of a successful project that contributes to increasing biodiversity. The restoration of near-natural watercourses from the open sewage system of the Emscher is of great importance for the structural change in Dortmund and the entire Ruhr region. Over 1,000 species have already been recorded in the renaturalized areas, including various insects, snails, mussels, cray-

fish, and endangered animals such as kingfishers. In addition, around 36 bee colonies have reestablished themselves along the Emscher.

The water management measures also positively contribute to biodiversity in the urban area of the municipal drainage system for the ecological improvement and maintenance of around 300 km of urban watercourses.

### 15 Sustainable supply and disposal

In 2021, Dortmund adopted a new statute on waste disposal for the city (the waste statute). An overriding objective here is the circular economy or ecological waste management. The purpose of the Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management Act is to promote closed substance cycle waste management in order to conserve natural resources and ensure that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner. The Act stipulates that waste should be avoided, and if this is not possible, it must be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The term “waste disposal” refers to the recovery and disposal of waste. The overriding goal is to keep raw materials in the cycle for as long as possible and to manage them sustainably. In Dortmund, municipal waste disposal tasks are performed by the municipal subsidiary Entsorgung Dortmund GmbH (EDG) and its group of companies. As part of the promotion of the circular economy in the generation and management of waste, the city/EDG perform the following tasks: waste prevention measures, preparation for reuse, recycling, other recovery, and disposal of waste (in accordance with the five-stage waste hierarchy).

### 12 Reduction of environmental pollution in soil, water, and air

Reducing the pollution of air, water, and soil is a central task for the city of Dortmund. Protecting the air is dealt within the framework of the action program Climate-Air 2030 in an independent technical contribution describing the principles for assessing air quality in the city. Based on the identified health effects of vari-

ous pollutants, the expert report concludes that the topic of “air” must continue to be dealt with ambitiously. Against this background, measures are described for the provision and acquisition of information, the setting of a planning and legal framework, and the performance of the role model function, consultation, and promotion. The air in cities in the Ruhr region is heavily polluted, mainly by particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide. As the relevant limit values were exceeded in several places in the region, the Arnsberg district government established an air pollution control plan for Dortmund (Ruhr Region 2011 Partial Plan East) in 2006. The plan was updated in 2011. To reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution in Dortmund, the district government also produced a local supplement to the clean air plan, which came into force in 2020. Road traffic was identified as the main source of immission pollution. Accordingly, short-, medium-, and long-term measures were developed to reduce the immission load from road traffic.

Concerning the resource water, the original water landscape was significantly changed during industrialization. The cessation of mining activity offered the opportunity to rehabilitate the water bodies in the long term and redesign them in a near-natural way. In Dortmund, the Lower Water Authority, as the lower environmental protection authority, is generally responsible for approving development measures on bodies of water. The maintenance of Dortmund’s water bodies is shared between the city, the Emschergenossenschaft, and the Lippeverband. According to the requirements of the European Water Framework Directive, these groups must create or maintain ecologically healthy water bodies. To ecologically improve stretches of water, developers endeavor to plan measures for ecological improvement, have them approved, and then implement them.

Soil protection is overseen by the municipal environmental agency’s lower soil protection authority. Much of the soil in the Dortmund urban area is contaminated after more than 150 years of industrial use. The resulting structural change is closely linked to the issue of land recycling. Areas suspected of contami-

nation, old deposits, old sites from which environmental hazards emanate, and areas with harmful soil changes are kept in a cadastre. All property and use-related information are stored here, along with the findings of expert reports on soil and subsoil investigations.

### 12 Climate adaptation in the municipality and the administration

To actively counter the consequences of climate change and reduce the risks or burdens in the long term, the city of Dortmund is pursuing the goal of climate-adapted and resilient urban development. At the end of 2019, the Coordination Office for Climate Protection and Climate Adaptation commissioned an integrated climate adaptation concept: the Master Plan for Integrated Climate Adaptation Dortmund (MiKaDo). This plan was subsequently adopted by the city council. Based on an impact and risk analysis and a broad internal participation process, a comprehensive data and knowledge base was established for the development of climate adaptation measures. The areas with a heat load were identified, and the risks from extreme precipitation were calculated from an existing heavy rainfall hazard map for the Dortmund urban area. This information was used to analyze the vulnerability of Dortmund’s population and infrastructure to the consequences of climate change. The results of the analysis were then used to develop a climate adaptation action map for the urban area. An action concept with action profiles was developed for the stress areas and action areas identified in this map, including technical-spatial measures (at the city level, in the surrounding area, and at the building level) and an administration-specific catalog of measures. The administration-specific action catalog contains measures that integrate climate-adapted standards into administrative actions and thus advance climate-adapted urban development and precaution. Hence, the city administration is challenged to set the appropriate course in its area of responsibility in order to set a good example. With the help of the measures, climate adaptation should also be successively integrated into urban devel-

opment processes, internal city processes of urban land use and environmental planning, and health, social, and emergency services.

In addition to the flood hazard maps of the state, the urban drainage system has already conducted flood risk assessments for numerous other urban watercourses, which will be further intensified in the future. The medium-term goal is to develop a flood hazard map for the entire city area in cooperation with the water associations, which will form an important basis for preventive measures and private and public planning processes.

In recent years, various projects and measures have been implemented in the area of climate impact adaptation. As part of the KLIMA.PROFIT project, climate adaptation in existing commercial areas was supported from 2019 to 2021, taking into account regional value creation and future viability. The project was conducted by the German Institute of Urban Affairs and EPC gGmbH. Pilot commercial areas were selected in Dortmund (Dorstfeld West commercial and industrial area) and the cities of Bochum and Duisburg. Under the title “Green Wall—Green City”, a concept for green-through planning was developed in 2021 to reduce urban climatic stress in the city center. Dortmund is also participating in the green roof register of the Ruhr Regional Association. From 2018 to 2022, the city was also participating as a cooperation partner in the research project, “iResilience—Social Innovation and Smart City Infrastructures for the Resilient City of the Future” (2018–2022), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. New approaches and collaborations for local climate preparedness are being tested in three pilot neighborhoods in Dortmund and Cologne. In the participation process, the project brings together citizens, local companies, employees, city administrators, politicians, and initiatives in various events and new formats. The actors are to be sensitized to climate changes and the consequences on site and empowered to develop measures together. The results and pro-

## 3.2

cesses of the pilot neighborhoods should subsequently be transferable to other districts of the partner cities and elsewhere.

Heavy rainfall is an important field of climate adaptation, and various departments and municipal utilities jointly developed an “action concept for the further improvement of flooding and flood prevention and the associated crisis management” in 2022, adopted by the Council on 22.9.2022. The action plan outlines necessary measures to make Dortmund more resilient to heavy rain and flooding.

The city of Dortmund is also a partner municipality in the future initiative Klima.Werk, launched in 2014 under the title “Water in the City of Tomorrow” by the Emscher municipalities, the NRW Environment Ministry, and the Emschergenossenschaft. The initiative aims to make the best possible use of human and financial resources for sustainable, water-sensitive urban development through integrated planning and to design multifunctional green-

blue infrastructures. Through state subsidies and contributions from the water management associations, more than €240 million will be available for the RVR area from 2022 to implement measures up to 2030. Here, initiatives such as infiltration or green roofs can be promoted, especially in so-called consideration areas. The aim is to remove 15% of rainwater from the combined sewer system and increase the evaporation rate by 10 percentage points in these areas by 2030. Dortmund has submitted funding applications for feasibility studies for the development of consideration areas in 2022.

### 15 Climate adaptation in the administration

Against the background of climate adaptation goals, the city administration implements various climate adaptation measures. The Master Plan Integrated Climate Adaptation Dortmund includes a catalog of initiatives specific to the administration. The green roof statute in Dortmund has also made green roofs mandatory for new municipal buildings since 2020.



## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Protection of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and green spaces	• Founding member of the “Communities for Biodiversity” initiative	15.5
	• Landscape plan 2020	15.1
	• Example project: ecological conversion/renaturation of the Emscher system	15.1
Sustainable supply and disposal	• Statutes on Waste Disposal in the City of Dortmund (Waste Statutes)	12.5
Reduction of environmental pollution in soil, water, and air	• Climate-Air Action Program 2030	11.6
	• Clean Air Plan for Dortmund (Ruhr Area 2011 Partial Plan East)/Local Supplement 2020	11.6
Climate adaptation in the municipality	• Master Plan Integrated Climate Adaptation Dortmund	13.1
	• Heavy rain hazard map	13.1
	• Project KLIMA.PROFIT	11.b
	• Concept for green roof planning/ participation in the green roof register of the Regionalverband Ruhr	13.1
	• iResilience—Social innovation and intelligent urban infrastructures for the resilient city of the future	11.b
	• Action concept for further improvement of flood and flood prevention and related crisis management	11.5
	• Future initiative Klima.Werk	11.b
Climate adaptation in the administration	• Green roof bylaws—mandatory green roofs for urban new construction properties	13.1





## Land use 11.3



The share of settlement and transport area comprises building and open space, operational area, transport area, recreational area, and cemetery area and can include both sealed and unsealed areas. The indicator thus measures the share of settlement and transport area in the total area and is to be seen in the context of the goal of focusing less on expansion and external development and more on efficiency and internal development in the context of ongoing urbanization. The share of the settlement and transport areas in the city of Dortmund decreased slightly from 2015 to 2020 and was at 59.9% in 2020. This share is significantly higher than the German national average of 14.4% (2020) but is in line with developments in other major cities in NRW with similar populations. To achieve the German Sustainability Strategy's Goal 11.1.a, "Reduce new land use for settlement and transport to an average of less than 30 ha per day by 2030," land use should not increase further.



## New land use 11.3



New land use often leads to an irretrievable loss of natural soils and open spaces, although the indicator alone can say little about inclusive or sustainable urban development. In addition, the validity of the data over time is affected by a change in land survey methodology in 2016. Most recently (2020), Dortmund achieved a year-on-year rate of change in settlement and transport land of 0.06%, meaning that slightly more land was taken up than in the previous year. The rate of new land use on a national average is also low, at 0.05% in 2020. This development can be assigned to German Sustainability Strategy goal 11.1.a, "Reduction of new land use for settlement and transport to an average of less than 30 ha per day by 2030," whereby a negative development as in 2015 would contribute to the achievement of the goal.



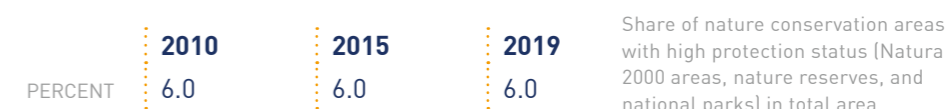
## Land-use intensity 15.1



The limited amount of land available in the municipality is a non-renewable resource that should also be available to future generations. Often, different needs compete with each other, and it is necessary to weigh and reconcile the demands and conflicting goals—efficient land use can positively influence the economic and social benefits without expanding land use. However, the indicator only sets the settlement and traffic area in relation to the number of inhabitants and does not comment on the qualitative design of the area. In Dortmund, there have only been slight fluctuations over time, and the figures are constant at 0.03 hectares of settlement and transport area per inhabitant. This value is low compared to the average settlement and transport area per inhabitant in Germany (0.06 hectares per inhabitant in 2020). Consequently, Dortmund is characterized by a high settlement and traffic density and thus indirectly contributes to the achievement of the German Sustainability Strategy's goal 11.1.b, "Reduction of the inhabitant-related loss of open space."



## Nature conservation areas 15.5



Sufficiently large nature conservation areas are needed in the municipalities, where nature can flourish without human intervention. These areas contribute significantly to the preservation of biological diversity and are considered important retreats and recreational areas for humans. Another vital component is the networking of transnational and coherent protected areas (such as the Europe-wide network of Natura 2000 sites) to increase the individual areas' resilience. In Dortmund, the proportion of nature conservation areas remained constant at 6% from 2010 to 2019. This share is significantly below the German average (16.2% in 2019) but is in line with the shares of other large cities in NRW with similar populations. The German Sustainability Strategy aims to "increase biodiversity and landscape quality—achieving the index value of 100 by 2030" (Goal 15.1.). The NRW sustainability strategy specifically aims to "increase the state-wide biotope network to 15% by 2030" (Goal 15.1.c).



## Landscape quality 15.5



The determination of landscape quality is measured using parameters such as proximity of vegetation to potential natural vegetation (pnV), degree of soil sealing and compaction, degree of change in humus form and microclimate, use of fertilizers and pesticides, and water quality and obstruction of water bodies. The degree of human intervention in the natural balance of Dortmund is steadily assessed over time with level 5.1 of the hemeroby index (1=not influenced by culture, 7=excessively influenced by culture). Compared to the national average (level 4.2), there is excessive harmful interference with the natural balance in the city. This situation can negatively influence the achievement of the German Sustainability Strategy's goal 15.1, "Increase biodiversity and landscape quality."



## Unfragmented open space areas 15.5



Habitat fragmentation is a major contributor to biodiversity loss. Animal and plant species are separated from each other, and the remaining areas are often too small for the continuation of a species. Accordingly, regions with low landscape fragmentation generally have the highest biodiversity. No data are available for the city of Dortmund. In NRW, the average proportion of unfragmented open space areas is 6.1% (2020), while the national average is 16.9%. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not have explicit targets for the fragmentation of open space areas, but they have targets for reducing land use and increasing landscape quality and biodiversity.

## Indicators



### Nitrogen surplus in agriculture 15.5



Nitrogen surplus of the agriculturally used area

Excessive use of fertilizers in agriculture is causing many environmental problems, and in this respect, the global planetary pollution limit has already been exceeded. In addition, nitrogen surpluses lead to the acidification of surface waters, oceans, and various terrestrial ecosystems and pollute groundwater with nitrates. In Dortmund, the nitrogen surplus of the agriculturally used area has recently declined and amounted to 38.7 kg/ha in 2019. The data at the federal level tend to show increasing values over time, and in 2018 the value was 92.1 kg/ha. The average nitrogen surplus in NRW in 2019 was 84.3 kg/ha. This development is contrary to the German Sustainability Strategy's goal 2.1.a, "Reduction of nitrogen surpluses of the overall balance for Germany to 70 kilograms per hectare of agricultural land as an annual average 2028–2032."



### Watercourse treatment 6.6



Proportion of wastewater treated by nitrogen and phosphorus elimination

Wastewater refers to water contaminated through domestic, commercial, or industrial use, among other sources, and it can cause significant harm to humans, animals, and nature if not properly treated. Nitrogen and phosphorus elimination can remove excess amounts of those elements from wastewater, improving its quality. In Dortmund, the percentage of treated wastewater from 2010 to 2020 was 100%. This figure aligns with the NRW average, which has been 100% since 2019 (data at the federal level is only available up to 2018, when the proportion was 92.0%). The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not explicitly address wastewater treatment.



### Watercourse quality 6.6



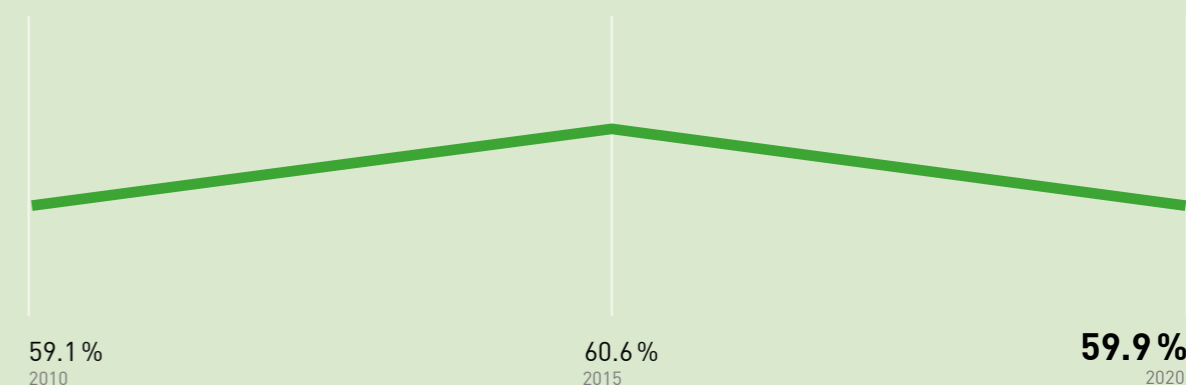
Proportion of stream length with ecological status ratings of "very good" and "good" to total stream length

The ecological status of flowing waters is influenced by human intervention, e.g., by excessive inputs of nutrients from agriculture, structural interventions such as straightening, or the discharge of polluted wastewater. The assessment of flowing waters is based on the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The ecological status is evaluated according to five levels from "very good" to "poor." In Dortmund, no section of flowing water is rated at least "good." The German Sustainability Strategy has anchored in Goal 6.1.a "compliance with or undercutting of the watercourse-typical orientation values at all measuring points by 2030."

## Visualization of selected Indicators

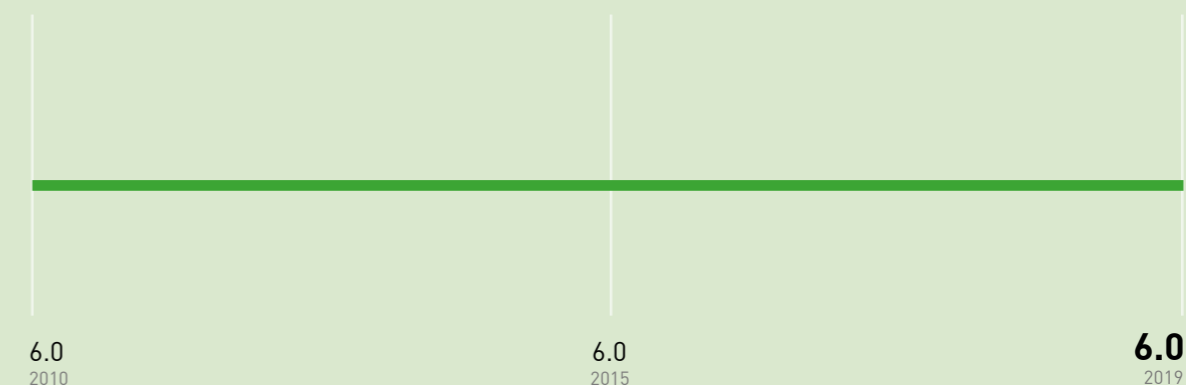
### Land use

Share of settlement and traffic area in the total area



### Nature conservation areas

Share of nature conservation areas with high protection status (Natura 2000 areas, nature reserves and national parks) in the total area



### Nitrogen surplus in agriculture

Nitrogen surplus of the agriculturally used area





### 3.3



## Sustainable Mobility

### General Introduction to the Field of Action

The third field of action of sustainable municipal development, Sustainable Mobility, comprises the sub-areas of passenger and freight transport within a municipality along with the associated infrastructures. Mobility is a prerequisite for social and economic development and for enabling people to participate in social life. The fundamental objective of a sustainable transport policy is to design socially necessary mobility so that mobility needs are compatible with sustainable development. The “modal split”—the distribution of traffic volume among different modes of transport—is still heavily dominated by motorized private transport. Overall, the current transport system, which is not yet sustainable, has a wide range of impacts on climate, the environment, and health. Against this background, the field of action bundles central challenges such as the promotion of ecomobility (public transport, cycling, and walking) and alternative forms of propulsion, measures for air and noise pollution control, and the reduction of land and resource consumption.

### Qualitative Aspects

- Sustainable mobility in the municipality
- Sustainable mobility in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies

### SDG indicators

- Motor vehicle density
- Road traffic casualties

### 11 Sustainable mobility in the municipality

The Mobility 2030 Master Plan provides the framework for the future transport policy actions of the City of Dortmund to promote sustainable mobility. The master plan considers all forms of mobility relevant to the city and other interrelationships and was developed in a comprehensive process consisting of analyses, target definitions, sub-concepts, and broad public participation. In 2018, the first stage of the plan, the target concept, was adopted. The eight target areas are:

1. Mobility for all—equal participation;
2. Securing and improving accessibility in Dortmund;
3. Further developing Dortmund as a city of short distances;
4. Reducing the negative environmental impact of traffic;
5. Promoting pedestrian traffic; bicycle traffic and public transport;
6. Increasing traffic safety and the perception of traffic safety;
7. Improving freight and commercial traffic; and
8. Upgrading and making streets and squares more attractive.

The council draft of the master plan formulates a modal split target value (distribution of traffic volume) of two-thirds environmental alliance (pedestrian and bicycle traffic plus public transport) and one-third motorized individual traffic in Dortmund citizens’ daily trips. Detailed sub-concepts for various areas were developed in a second stage based on the target concept. Stage 2 of the master plan with the sub-concepts develops measures and concretizes the agreed target concept. Some of the sub-concepts contain their own strategies. The individual sub-concepts are presented below. One of the goals of the master plan is to further reduce the air pollution caused by traffic in the city. To this end, the sub-concept “Mobility measures for air pollution control” identifies various fields of action (vehicle technology, traffic control & traffic flow, regulatory measures, financial incentives, e-mobili-

ty and alternative drives, local mobility, local public transport, information & communication, and passive immission reduction).

Dortmund is one of the pioneers in electromobility and intends to expand this position further. Against this background, the sub-concept “EMoDo<sup>3</sup>—Electromobility in Dortmund 2030” includes the focal points charging infrastructure & renewable energies, urban commercial transport & [municipal] fleet, individual transport, and multimodal concepts. As part of the “NOX Block” project, over 400 charging points will be introduced into public spaces in Dortmund by the end of 2022.

Improving Dortmund’s air quality in the short term requires a coordinated implementation and action concept for the mobility sector, and this has been developed by the city administration under the title “Master Plan Sustainable Mobility for the City.” The reduction estimate showed that if all measures were implemented, a total of approximately 68,000 vehicle journeys in Dortmund could be saved every day or substituted by emission-free or low-emission journeys. This figure corresponds to around 7% of the daily vehicle trips generated by the population and commuters (not taking into account through traffic). Some of the measures will be implemented as part of the Emission-Free City Center funding project (funding period 2019 -2022). The basis of the project, which consists of 16 individual measures, is to create offers and incentives to persuade road users to stop using vehicles with combustion engines. This initiative is intended to prevent the implementation of traffic bans and restrictions to reduce air pollution. Within the framework of the project, an impact evaluation is performed based on differentiated indicators.

A dense network of coherent and direct connections encourages walking in everyday life and leisure. Important factors are the avoidance of detours, good walkability at all times of the day and year, freedom from damage, and the elimination of bottlenecks and obstacles (accessibility). The pedestrian traffic and accessi-



As part of the Public Space and Stationary Traffic sub-concept, key figures from suitable comparative cities were researched and compared with those of Dortmund to assess the situation in the city. Based on further analyses, a strategy for parking management was developed. In addition, a strategy for public space was developed. The overarching goal is to reclaim as much space as possible and make it available for purposes that directly benefit people. To this end, space for stationary motor vehicle traffic in public spaces must be reduced and used more efficiently, and stationary traffic must be gradually shifted from the streets to designated parking areas. The strategy is intended to emphasize the reduction of parking spaces and give even greater weight to parking space management measures.

**11 Sustainable mobility in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies**

In line with the goals outlined for Dortmund, the city administration is pursuing the goal of reducing emissions in the area of mobility. The City Council of Dortmund has decided that locally emission-free drive systems are to be given preference in the procurement of company vehicles. Within the framework of further activities, the city administration employees are to be motivated to adopt sustainable mobility (e.g., advance payment for the purchase of an e-bike/pedelec or bicycle leasing, as well as participation in the “Cycle to Work” campaign). The city’s own and associated companies also promote sustainable mobility. For example, the Dortmund transport company DSW21 had 30 electrically powered buses in 2022 as part of the “StromFahrer” project. The bus fleet is one of the most modern in NRW. Emissions of particulates and nitrogen oxides have been reduced by around 90% over the past 20 years. The “StromFahrer” project will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by a further 40% in 2022 by reducing the purchase of conventional vehicles.

bility sub-concept aims to increase the share of pedestrian traffic from the current 19% to at least 21%. This target entails around 10% more walking. There is still considerable potential for walking, particularly on short routes. Thus, walking is to become the most used mode of transport on routes up to 2 km. The Accessibility Strategy represents the central guideline for improving accessibility for the next ten years and should continue to contribute to achieving good and safe mobility for all people.

With the development of the cycling and road safety sub-concept, a long-term plan was developed to strengthen the cycling and road safety functions. Problematic situations in the Dortmund city area were highlighted, and changes to the existing infrastructure have been developed. The City Council of Dortmund decided in 2019 that it wants to become a bicycle city. The goal is to double the share of cycling in all trips from 10% in 2019 to 20% by 2030. Cycling is to be conceived, planned, and implemented as a system consisting of action infrastructure, communication, and service.

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Sustainable mobility in the municipality	• Master Plan Mobility 2030—Target Concept	11.2
	• Sub-concept Mobility Measures for Air Pollution Control	11.6
	• Sub-concept “EMoDo <sup>3</sup> —Electromobility in Dortmund 2030”	11.6
	• “NOX Block” project	
	• “Sustainable Mobility Master Plan for the City” project	11.2
	• Emission-free city center funding project	11.6
	• Partial concept for pedestrian traffic and accessibility	11.2
	• Partial concept for bicycle traffic and traffic safety	11.2
	• Council resolution Bicycle City Dortmund	11.2
	• Public space and stationary traffic subconcept	11.2
Sustainable mobility in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies	• Preference for locally emission-free drives in the procurement of municipal service vehicles.	11.2
	• Participation in the “Cycle to Work” campaign	11.2
	• Advance payment for the purchase of an e-bike/pedelec; bicycle leasing	11.2
	• The Dortmund transport company DSW21’s “StromFahrer” project	11.6

## Indicators



### Motor vehicle density 11.2

NUMBER	2010	2015	2020	
	433.3	456.5	495.4	Number of privately registered passenger vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants

Motor vehicle density has been increasing nationwide for many years, with far-reaching social, economic, and ecological consequences. In addition, the ongoing expansion of mobility infrastructure favors motorized individual transport (MIV), which leads to a negative cycle. The noise and pollutant loads caused by MIV are a health hazard, especially for people in densely populated areas. Resource- and energy-intensive production, maintenance, and disposal lead to high environmental pollution. In Dortmund, the number of cars per 1,000 inhabitants has risen slightly but steadily from 433.3 in 2010 to 495.4 in 2020. The Germany-wide average is even higher: In 2020, 1,000 inhabitants owned 573.7 passenger cars. This development is contrary to the German Sustainability Strategy's goals 3.2.a., "Reduce emissions of air pollutants", 3.2.b., "Reduce the share of the population with increased PM10 fine dust exposure," and 11.2.b., "Reduce final energy consumption in passenger transport."



### Road traffic casualties 3.6

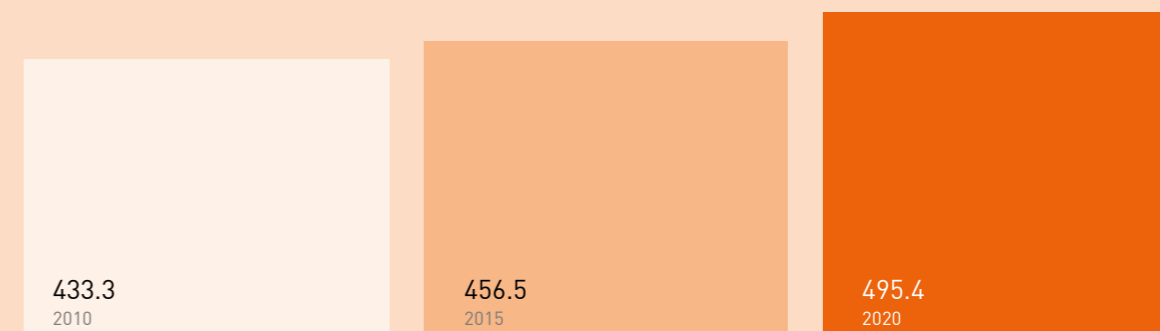
NUMBER	2010	2015	2020	
	3.8	3.9	3.6	Number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants

The "Road traffic casualties" indicator supports the assessment of general road safety, but without distinguishing between the different means of transport. Pedestrians and cyclists are more frequently and severely injured by cars, while the probability of car drivers being seriously injured in this context is very low. This imbalance cannot be represented by the indicator. In Dortmund, the number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants recently fell to 3.6. The nationwide comparison shows a higher number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents, the most recent figure from 2020 being 4.0. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not contain explicit targets in this regard.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

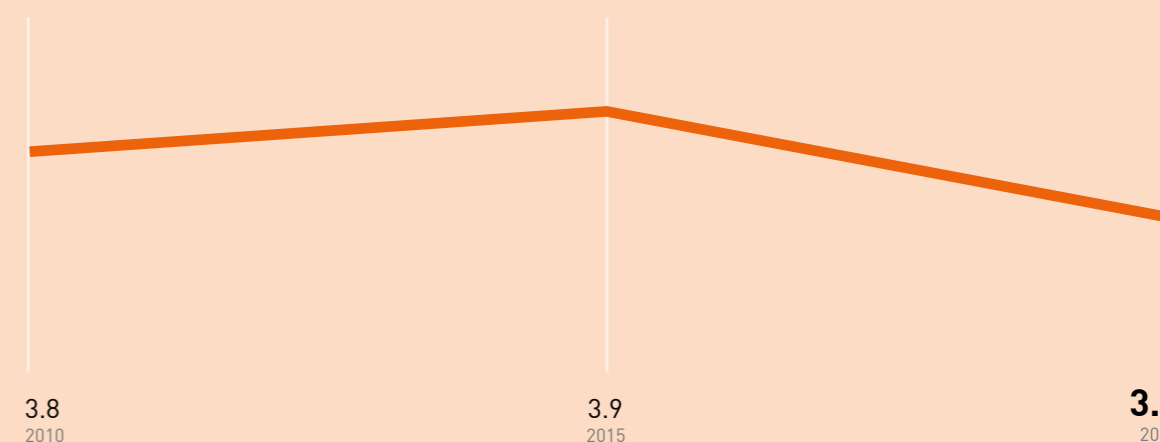
### Motor vehicle density

Number of privately registered passenger vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants



### Road traffic casualties

Number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

The field of action Lifelong Learning and Culture bundles various school, extracurricular, and cultural education topics. Lifelong learning describes the comprehensive development of skills and abilities over the course of a human life. It enables the individual to recognize problems and develop the ability to deal with conflicts appropriately and devise solution strategies. The learning process is not limited to school education but refers to the entire lifetime and includes formal and informal forms of learning (for example, the cultural sector in particular reaches people through informal education pathways.) Since education is one of the fundamental prerequisites for leading a self-determined life, it is essential to ensure equitable educational opportunities in all forms of learning and for all people. Education for sustainable development (ESD) involves an education that enables people to think and act sustainably and promotes participation and solidarity. These aspects form key competencies for actively shaping a sustainable society.

## 3.4



## Lifelong Learning & Culture

### Qualitative Aspects

- Access to high-quality education for all citizens
- Education for Sustainable Development in community-based educational institutions
- Cooperation regarding sustainability with other educational institutions
- Supporting employability in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies
- Supporting cultural affairs
- Promoting an everyday culture of sustainability

### SDG indicators

- Basic service close to home—elementary school
- School dropout rate
- School dropout rate—foreigners
- Childcare (under three years old)
- Integrative daycare centers

### 4 Access to high-quality education for all citizens

In Dortmund, the city, the state and the relevant partners in the education region have cooperated in the Regional Education Network to improve learning and life opportunities for all young people. The further development of a high-performance, socially just education system will support all children and young people in Dortmund in developing their potential and talents, regardless of gender, social situation, or ethnic background.

In the course of integrated youth welfare and education planning and education management, as well as in the context of the Socially Integrative City action plan, Dortmund considers the conditions for success and experiences on the ground to respond to the diverse needs of children, young people, and families. Various educational monitoring instruments are used, including social area and facility profiles and data on, among other things, transition recommendations at the end of primary school, transitions to secondary schools, and school-leaving qualifications achieved. The focus is also on individual social areas. This approach provides a differentiated picture of educational opportunities and successes.

Within the framework of municipal education management, relevant fields of action are addressed along the educational journey, from early education to further education. In this way, the city of Dortmund employs various projects to support equal access to high-quality education for all people. Equal opportunities, inclusion, and the promotion of future and creative competencies are the guiding premises. Several actors are involved in successful educational processes in Dortmund. In the following, therefore, only examples of individual fields of action and projects can be discussed.

In the FABIDO daycare centers, all children receive an inclusive education and care program that enables participation and equal opportunities. Everyday pedagogical life is supported

and enriched by special programs and diverse projects with cooperation partners. Sixty-six FABIDO daycare centers participate in the federal program “Language Kitas: because language is the key to the world.” The additionally trained specialists act as multipliers in daycare centers and thus make a special contribution to sustainably promoting children in their language education and overall development. This situation creates better starting conditions for the children’s further education. The state program “plusKITA” aims primarily to support children with special needs, strengthen their resilience, and counteract existing poverty risks. The 50 FABIDO family centers in North Rhine-Westphalia offer diverse counseling and support services in addition to education, care, and childcare. The goal is to be a reliable point of contact for families in the district.

To address the transition from daycare to elementary school, the city launched the “Language Bridges—Consistent Language Education in Daycare Centers and Elementary Schools” project, a comprehensive quality campaign to further develop consistent language education. The promotion of language skills and safe transitions is intended to serve as the foundation for a successful educational journey and equal opportunity participation for all children in Dortmund. After the pilot project phase ended in 2019, the Council decided to make the measure permanent and develop it further.

Numerous measures for holistic, future-oriented and inclusive education are also provided and supported by the city in elementary schools and lower and upper secondary schools. As part of the project “Vast vasteste—Hand in Hand. Roma as educational mediators for newly immigrated and educationally disadvantaged children and young people from South-Eastern Europe” program (2019), Dortmund specifically supports the equal educational participation of children from Roma families. The project has since been extended to other municipalities in NRW. The “Rethinking Learning” project developed an innovative format to provide children with holistic out-of-school learning

## 3.4

experiences, trust-based pedagogical relationships, and intensive learning support after the COVID-19 lockdowns. Finally, a school-based support service was developed via the Mathematics Bridge Project to ease students' math-related entry into college and prevent them from dropping out due to math deficits.

For the transition to the world of work, the city's "Zeitgewinn" strategy ("15 years of ZEITGEWINN—Acting together—Shaping the future together!") has been running for more than 15 years to support young people and young adults in Dortmund in the transition from school to training, university, or the workplace. All young people in Dortmund are given realistic prospects for the future, and the conditions for securing the next generation of skilled workers are being improved. For example, the "Dortmund at work" campaign provides information about apprenticeships and courses of study in Dortmund and the surrounding area. A training pact also prepares young people specifically for the transition to dual training while they are still at school. The young people sign an agreement at the beginning of ninth grade and promise to fulfill defined requirements by the end of tenth grade to obtain a secure follow-up perspective. The Dortmund University Days, held once a year since 2010, provide an advisory, information, and orientation service for prospective high school graduates, helping them shape well-founded career and study plans. In 2021, the offer took place digitally, and 3,415 visitors participated in the University Days that year.

In vocational education, the city and the RBZ network (Regional Vocational Training Center Dortmund) have developed and implemented a school trial with the establishment of a central office. The objective of the school trial is to develop innovative and broadly consensual educational and counseling services that meet regional needs and offer educational opportunities for young people in a professional and qualitatively assured manner in the Dortmund educational region and to implement them independently or in cooperation with other local actors.

To prevent youth unemployment in Dortmund at an early stage, company recruiters at nine Dortmund school locations mediate directly between students and companies in the neighborhood. The joint project "Training in the Neighborhood" was launched in 2020 as part of the municipal labor market strategy KAS2030 and has since been able to place over 150 students in dual training. At nine secondary and comprehensive schools, company recruiters support companies and students in the "matching process" around internships and training. The network's efforts are intended to make it easier for students aiming for a secondary school leaving certificate to enter dual training, and companies are also supported in the acquisition of junior staff.

Further education and catching up on school qualifications: To ensure that all children, adolescents, and young adults have access to the educational opportunities and school places that are right for them, the city has developed a comprehensive system of educational guidance in the form of the Education Service Center. The services offered by the Center include:

- Individual educational counseling on possible connections
- Weeks of counseling for young people who are required to attend vocational school
- Training for parents on topics related to the education system
- Information events for students on possible options
- Seminars on the education system for multipliers.

The Dortmund Adult Education Center (VHS) offers courses in the second educational pathway to obtain the school-leaving qualifications of Hauptschule after grades 9 and 10 and after Mittlerer Schulabschluss (FOR). The courses are for young adults who are no longer subject to compulsory school attendance and wish to obtain a first or higher-level school-leaving qualification. Since November 2021, the VHS has expanded its range of courses for catching up on school-leaving

qualifications with the Sprinter courses, which are run as part of the municipal labor market strategy and in which participants are prepared for the external examinations. Both formats include upstream preliminary courses to teach the technical basics and prepare participants for entry into exam preparatory courses. Both programs for obtaining a school leaving certificate are designed with a strong focus on the participants, taking into account their particular life situations and educational stories. The programs have a vocational focus to give participants prospects for social participation and integration into the labor market. Close cooperation at the municipal and state levels with the Dortmund Social Welfare Office, the Dortmund Youth Welfare Office, the Dortmund School Administration Office, the Education Service Center, the Dortmund Job Center, the Employment Agency, the State Association of Adult Education Centers in North Rhine-Westphalia (Volks-hochschulen NRW e. V.), and the Arnsberg district government ensures a high level of educational sustainability.

In addition to the projects along the educational journey, other topics are addressed in a cross-sectional manner.

The "Digital Education Dortmund" master plan, adopted by the city council in 2020, systematically considers "education in the digital world" along the entire educational chain and bundles objectives from various educational areas to achieve the holistic further development of structures and offerings in the digital world. For the educational areas of early childhood, school (including vocational), cultural education, child and youth development, and continuing education, various measures in technology, organizational, personnel, and cooperation development, and development of educational offerings are addressed for implementation. The master plan serves as a framework strategy to holistically promote participation in and competencies in the digital world for all residents, especially children and young people. The concept was developed with the broad participation of various actors in urban society and is being continuously developed collaboratively.



The [Digital Education Master Plan](#) considers the interfaces between “Education for Sustainable Development” and “Education in the Digital World” along the entire education chain as a cross-cutting dimension.

Only the theme of universities was excluded from the Digital Education Master Plan, as the [Science Master Plan](#) already exists for this area. The latter aims to further develop Dortmund as a city of science. The subgoals are the expansion of scientific excellence and networking, the strengthening of Dortmund’s innovative power as a science and business location, and the establishment of new ways of collaboration in the “Experimental City.”

The [5th Dortmund Science Conference](#) was held in 2022 under the motto “Connecting Generations.” A diverse conference and supporting program offered approximately 150 visitors from science, urban society, and administration various program points on the topics of “Healthy,” “Smart,” and “Diverse,” growing up, working, and growing older. Speakers from various Dortmund universities and scientific institutions provided insights into their research and discussed it with the visitors.

In the field of inclusive education and integration through education, numerous measures are being implemented by various actors. For example, MIA-DO-KI has recently set priorities with the projects “[School without Racism—School with Courage](#),” “[PC Upcycling Project](#),” and “[Sevengardens—Obtaining Colors from Plants—a Participation Model](#).” To coordinate the various measures even more closely in the future, an independent “Inclusive Education” department was established in the Youth Welfare Office in 2022, and a funding application was submitted to the BMBF’s Education Communities program with a focus on integration/inclusion.

Education occurs not only in formal educational institutions but also through child and youth support, independent institutions, and the numerous partners in the educational landscape.

In the field of education and integration, the Adult Education Center offers various programs, some of which accompany and support formal educational institutions. These include, for example, subject-related and creative offerings in the context of after-school care at cooperating schools and educational offerings during the Easter, summer, and fall vacations for children and young people. In preparation for admission to regular schools, newly arrived school-age children and adolescents are alphabetized in special courses. In addition, the VHS offers a wide variety of courses for the linguistic and professional integration of adult immigrants. In the field of languages, the integration courses, professional language courses, and other DaF/DaZ courses, which prepare students for specific language levels and conclude with a language certificate examination, form one of the most important foundations for the further educational and professional journey of immigrants. In addition to language training, a wide range of vocational training programs, career counseling, coaching and socio-educational assistance are implemented to facilitate or enable immigrants’ access to the training and labor market.

#### **4 Education for sustainable development**

In Dortmund, there are various approaches and actors in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In the future, these should be more strongly bundled and emphasized in an overall ESD strategy.

The topic of ESD is already a [central component of the pedagogical work in the municipal daycare centers of the FABIDO \(municipal day care facilities for children in Dortmund\)](#). The centers offer a variety of interesting learning situations and educational topics that provide children with opportunities to acquire competencies and build knowledge to explore and question the world. For FABIDO, ESD in a daycare center means sensitizing children and strengthening them to think and act in a way that is fit for the future. Since 2016, 86 FABIDO daycare centers have become “Fair day care centres,” and the operation was awarded the “Fair Agency” status in 2021. The

development into “Fair day care centres” has supported the elaboration of ESD in the FABIDO daycare centers. The obligatory educational projects have sharpened children’s and professionals’ views of their consumer behavior and global interrelationships. Children have enthusiastically created raised beds, “nibbling and coloring gardens,” and embarked on the “journey of the T-shirt,” worked on topics of “waste avoidance and waste separation,” learned about children’s rights, and philosophized about justice. Children and professionals of a “Fair KITA” acquire new knowledge daily about local and global topics such as “waste avoidance in their own day care centre,” the “pollution of the oceans,” or the problem of worldwide “child labor.” This knowledge increases their responsibility for their own actions and enables them to help shape a democratic, healthier, and fairer world.

Within the framework of the [socio-spatial prevention network INFamilie](#), the topic of ESD was implemented at different levels in social areas by network partners. The NIF fund supported sponsors, elementary schools, and daycare centers in implementing projects and measures such as dye gardens, planting campaigns, and other actions and activities related to the 17 goals. In the social area of Westerfilde, for example, a housing company, the municipal waste disposal company EDG, and nature conservationists worked together. A picture book on the subject of waste disposal and water management was produced with the reading promotion mascot “Plappermaul.” A picture book on the topic of “peace” designed by children and institutions (daycare center/primary school) is nearing completion. A wall calendar project was designed as a competition—children painted motif pictures with ESD themes, which were then selected by a jury and published as a calendar.

From January to October 2022, an ESD competition was conducted by the INFamilie network. Among numerous submissions, 11 winning projects were selected and awarded prizes. The children’s museum “mondo mio” additionally offered workshops on ESD for professionals and children. Further measures are planned.

For example, in the school sector, numerous innovative projects at Dortmund schools have been funded recently under the [School Development Fund’s](#) focus on ESD (a total of 34 projects in the 2020/21 school year). The aim of the Fund is to support forward-looking projects to systematically develop schools and their programs and thus simultaneously provide an impetus for urban development. Priorities were set in the areas of environmental education, democracy education, and internationalization/globalization. With the establishment of an ESD service center, schools are to be supported in implementing ESD measures and the networking of relevant actors is to be promoted. The project “[Gardening together for the future](#)” has been promoting school gardens and near-natural school grounds since 2021. The project aims to establish school gardens as an ESD educational opportunity and to support schools in networking with partners in the field of school gardens/environmental education/SDS. In addition, numerous schools are involved in the Dortmund network “Schools of the Future.”

The [Municipal Integration Center \(MIA-DO-KI\)](#) bundles and networks various levels in the administration that deal with the topic of migration/integration. Integration is understood as a cross-sectional task that must be considered everywhere. In this context, the strands of action “Integration as a cross-cutting issue” and “Integration through education” are of special importance. The work is also closely linked to the implementation of the Dortmund “Master Plan Migration/Integration.” Since 2019, more than 140 dialogers have been certified by Municipal Integration Center Dortmund, which has introduced several people to ESD topics in workshops. The project’s primary aim is to bring educational content to parents, children, migrants, and other groups in an action-oriented way with “hand, heart, and head.” The network has around 45 members. As a result of this initiative, the above-mentioned educational content has increasingly found its way into the work of daycare centers and schools—for example, in school development. The integration agencies and migrant organizations have established topics on ESD



and are leading concrete projects onsite. Local networks have emerged—for example, in Hörde and Nordstadt—which strengthen the institutions and further develop the topics. Numerous projects have been developed in cooperation with the INFfamily network and the prevention office.

In the area of continuing education, the adult education center (VHS) has also focused on the topic of ESD. The inclusion of the ESD in the compulsory range of tasks for adult education centers in the course of the amendment of the NRW Continuing Education Act underscores the public mandate for adult education centers to develop and expand lifeworld-oriented and innovative programs for education for sustainable development. Derived from this mandate, the VHS Dortmund sees itself as obliged to contribute to achieving the politically agreed sustainability goals and further expand future-oriented educational offers for adults. Due to its program diversity, the VHS is set to raise awareness of the local shaping of sustainable development in contact with the most diverse target groups and to enable participation in municipal processes. This is not just a matter of imparting knowledge—the educational work of the VHS aims to promote local political action and civic engagement in cooperation with numerous civil society organizations and institutions. One example of this is the newly initiated “City of the Future” forum, which is regularly dedicated to various sustainability topics. The focus is on current issues that affect local people, such as life in the neighborhood, traffic change, and the future of work.

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals find practical implementation in many VHS formats, including:

- Integration courses and language learning
- Ecological and political excursions on the topic of climate protection
- Cooking courses on sustainable and regional consumption
- Prevention and fitness courses in the area of health
- Lectures on gender justice
- Open educational counseling, accessible to all and free of charge.

In the educational landscape, numerous actors and educational partners from civil society focus on ESD. Examples include the Schulte-Tigges learning farm, the “mondo mio” children’s museum, and “QuerWaldEin e. V.” with its forest education programs.

To network the various approaches in ESD more systematically and align them with common goals, an overall ESD strategy is to function as an overarching umbrella strategy in the future (Council resolution in 2021). Against this background, Dortmund has been a model municipality since 2021 in the joint project “Education—Sustainability—Municipality: ESD Competence Center for Process Support and Process Evaluation (BiNaKom),” funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In this project, around 50 model municipalities nationwide are supported in the systematic further development and implementation of ESD at the local level until mid-2023. The process supports the administration in developing an overall municipal strategy for ESD across departments and divisions and anchoring the topic systematically and structurally in the regional education landscape. The Regional Education Office in the city’s School Department is responsible for the overall coordination of the process. The overall ESD strategy will provide the basis for the systematic implementation of ESD in the Dortmund educational landscape. The aim of the project is thus a broadly coordinated, structural and systematic anchoring of ESD along the education chain, linked to education management. The overall strategy is to describe a targeted, problem- and solution-oriented approach to anchoring knowledge and design competencies for sustainability solutions and social innovations in the educational landscape. It should provide an interdisciplinary inventory of the current state of ESD and recommendations for action/visions of where the educational landscape should develop in the coming years. An internal administrative network has been established for this purpose, and the following sub-goals have been defined:

- Development of a common understanding of ESD and its relevant approaches and definitions coordinated with all actors in the educational landscape.
- Further development of the ESD network, bringing together the different actors (interdepartmental, interdepartmental, inter-administrative, school supervision, day care, schools, all-day schools, extracurricular partners of the educational landscape, public and independent youth welfare organizations).
- Joint strategy development (goals and measures) for the systematic anchoring of ESD.
- Support of educational institutions in the qualitative development of concrete educational offers along the educational chain (e.g., an overview of actors and funding, extracurricular learning offers, assistance in the implementation of concrete project ideas, and professional exchange through networking, training, observation, and the anchoring and stabilizing of ESD measures in the context of school development, internally and externally).
- Bringing together the resources available among the various actors for the implementation of ESD.

#### 4 Supporting employability in administration, municipal undertakings, and associated companies

Various structures and offers are in place to promote the employability of employees in the city administration. In 2019, the Center for Training and Skills was established, focusing on practical training (increasing the number of training and practical guidance positions) and personnel recruitment and development. A further goal is to attract junior staff and specialist personnel and to retain them in the city of Dortmund in the long term. Improving working conditions and promoting the personal health of city administration employees is also a task of the operational occupational health and safety management. In 2021, various relevant concepts were additionally developed (Human Resources and

Organization Office). The “Workplace of the Future” concept is central to presenting the city of Dortmund as a modern employer. The initiative outlines the multi-layered aspects of the workplace of the future. The aim is to move toward a mobile, more flexible and agile way of working and to consider individualization and flexibilization trends. The concept “Personnel Development Today: Supporting Practice with Future-Oriented Competencies!” includes a future-oriented competency model for the city, including various affiliated personnel processes and tools. The Human Resources and Organization Office aims to become even more service-oriented, on the way to a more agile, modern, and digital administration. The concept “Personnel Development Today: Supporting Practice Agilely!” accordingly addresses the realignment of personnel development strategies to the departments’ individual needs and aligns with digital and agile transformation. The concept “HR Development Today: Supporting Practice Digitally in Education and Training!” also aims to promote lifelong learning and the teaching of digital skills.

#### 4 Supporting cultural affairs

The Master Plan for Sport (2018) provides the basis for a future-oriented sports policy in Dortmund. It is thus intended to describe a targeted, problem- and solution-oriented approach to create local framework conditions for sports offerings and sports and exercise spaces and define them in an overall concept. The master plan refers to the entire city area and all population groups and includes an inventory of the status of the sports infrastructure and recommendations for action/visions that show where sports in Dortmund should develop in the next 15–20 years. Interim reports on the master plan were published in 2019 and 2021. Since 2020, a key task in the master plan process has been the development of a pool concept for Dortmund. The baths master plan is geared toward making the baths landscape innovative, attractive, sustainable and fit for the future in Dortmund.

## 3.4

### 4 Promoting an everyday culture of sustainability

The “Paths to Sustainability” project was launched in 2018 to bring sustainability to everyday life on a practical and broad scale. Over 50 initiatives, projects, church congregations, municipal institutions, associations, and retailers are involved. Numerous paths have been created in the Dortmund city area, presented to the public with great media attention in 2019. At the stations along these paths, provided by the participating initiatives, sustainable transformation can be experienced. In the process, the complexity of the global sustainability goals can be experienced in a practical and concrete way. After three years of funding, the project was handed over to the city of Dortmund.

Based on the realities of young people’s lives and the resulting demands on child and youth development in Dortmund, various overarching priorities for work in child and youth development have emerged. In the process of creating the current child and youth development plan, a city-wide conference of sponsors—an association of independent youth welfare organizations and municipal sponsors—agreed on a focus area each year, making this the content focus of the open work. In 2020, the focus was on “education and leisure.” Within this framework, children and young people were taught skills for social, cultural, and political participation through educational and leisure activities. Political education for children and young people encourages them to develop into self-determined, democratically active citizens. Together with the recognized providers of independent youth welfare services, the municipal child and youth promotion team participates in working groups on the topics of living and housing areas of young people and families, according to their needs, wishes, and interests.

In addition, various projects for young people in the areas of education, leisure, and culture have been implemented in recent years, focusing on various social sustainability aspects, such as inclusion or intercultural diversity. The projects “Inclusion disco” and “With

us Dortmund is colorful” can be mentioned as examples. Through these initiatives, young people can experience a diverse Dortmund in everyday life. The “Youth Forum” also supports the participation of children and young people and the promotion of democracy.

## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Access to high-quality education for all citizens	• Action Plan Socially Integrative City/Report on the Social Situation in Dortmund 2018	10.3
	• Federal program “Language Kitas: because language is the key to the world”	4.2
	• State program “plusKITA”	4.2
	• FABIDO Family Centers NRW	4.2
	• Project “Language bridges”—continuous language education in daycare centers and elementary schools	4.1
	• Project “Vast vasteste—Hand in Hand. Roma as educational mediators for newly immigrated and educationally disadvantaged children and young people from Southeastern Europe”	4.5
	• Project “Rethinking Learning”	4.a
	• “Zeitgewinn” strategy (Acting together—shaping the future together)	4.4
	• Dortmund at work	8.6
	• Training pact	4.4
	• Regional Vocational Training Center Dortmund/school trial	8.6
	• Joint project “Training in the neighborhood”	4.3
	• Mathematics bridge project	4.5
	• “Weeks of counseling” at the Service Center for Education	8.6
	• Digital Education in Dortmund master plan	9.c
	• “Science Master Plan”/ Dortmund University Days	9.5
	• Dortmund Science Conference	9.5
• Projects “School without Racism—School with Courage,” “PC Upcycling Project,” “Sevengardens—Obtaining Colors from Plants—a Participation Model”	4.5	

## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Education for Sustainable Development	• ESD as a building block of the pedagogical work in the municipal day care centers of the FABIDO Own Company—Example, “Fair KITAS.”	4.7
	• ESD in the context of the socio-spatial prevention networks INFAMILY	4.7
	• School sector: projects within the framework of the school development fund/ “Gardening together for the future” project	4.7
	• ESD in connection with the Municipal Integration Center	4.7
	• ESD through the adult education center	12.8
	• ESD overall strategy/model municipality in the joint project “Education—Sustainability—Municipality (BiNaKom)”	4.7
Supporting the employability of people in administration, municipal undertakings, and associated companies	• Center for Training and Competencies	4.4
	• Concepts: “Workplace of the future”/ “Personnel development today: Supporting practice with future-oriented competencies!”/ “Personnel development today: Supporting practice in an agile way!”/ “Personnel development today: Supporting practice digitally in training and further education!”	4.4
Supporting cultural affairs	• Sports master plan/pool concepts	3.4
Promoting an everyday culture of sustainability	• “Paths to Sustainability” project	12.8
	• Child and youth development: city-wide conference of sponsors, topic “Education and leisure”/working groups	4.5
	• Specific projects “Inclusion Disco”/“With us Dortmund is Colorful”/“Youth Forum”	4.a

## Indicators



### Basic services close to home—elementary school 4.1

METERS	2010	2017	2020	Population-weighted linear distance to the nearest elementary school
	n/a	583.0	n/a	

The number of elementary schools in a community has a significant impact on the daily lives of young families. The closure of elementary schools can lead to a reduction in the use of public transport services, which in turn favors private motorized transport. For families, this means more organizational effort and longer journeys in everyday life. Consequently, a lack of elementary schools close to home can encourage migration. There is not enough statistical data available to make a statement about the long-term development: In 2017, the inhabitant-weighted linear distance to the nearest elementary school in Dortmund was 583.0 meters. In 2017, the national average was 1030.0 meters. Targets in the sustainability strategies of the federal government or the state of NRW are not anchored.



### School dropout rate 4.1

PERCENT	2010	2015	2020	Proportion of school leavers without a secondary school-leaving certificate among all school leavers
	2.3	2.2	2.2	

The proportion of school leavers without a lower secondary school leaving certificate provides information on the number of people who complete their compulsory schooling without obtaining at least a lower secondary school leaving certificate. Entry into working life in Germany is significantly more difficult for people without a lower secondary school leaving certificate. School administration is a compulsory municipal task, and education is a far-reaching key issue for the future viability of a municipality. The content of instruction and its implementation are, in turn, the responsibility of the state. In Dortmund, the proportion of school leavers without a lower secondary school leaving certificate was 2.2% in 2020, reflecting the national average that year. The German Sustainability Strategy aims to “continuously reduce the percentage of early school leavers (18- to 24-year-olds without a school-leaving qualification)” through Objective 4.1.a.



### School dropout rate—foreigners 10.2

PERCENT	2016	2017	2020	Ratio of the school dropout rate of foreigners to the dropout rate of the total population
	166.9	206.4	198.9	

Education plays a central role for young people with a migration background. Basic school education is the key to employment and thus a prerequisite for economic integration. Young people with a migration background are often confronted with problems in everyday education (e.g., discrimination or insecure residence). The ratio of school dropout rates in Dortmund was 198.9% in 2020—this means that of the school dropouts in Dortmund, around twice as many students are foreigners. Over time, this rate has been significantly lower than the national average: In 2020, the rate was 361.3%—i.e., around 3.6 times as many school dropouts are foreigners. Overall, however, further efforts are needed to achieve the German Sustainability Strategy’s goal 10.1, “Increase the proportion of foreign school leavers with at least a lower secondary school leaving certificate and bring them into line with the proportion of German school leavers by 2030.”

## Indicators



### Childcare (under three years old) 4.2



Childcare in daycare centers enables early childhood education and joint preparation for entry into elementary school. In addition, it enables parents to re-enter employment. However, the indicator does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about the quality of early childhood education and, moreover, the care of children in daycare facilities is not a mandatory prerequisite for preparation for entry into elementary school. In Dortmund, the proportion of children under the age of 3 who are cared for in daycare facilities has increased significantly over time and reached 16.1% in 2019. However, a national comparison shows a higher proportion of 29.3% in 2020 (data for 2019 are unavailable). The NRW average was 18.9% in 2019. The German Sustainability Strategy's goal 4.2.a is to increase the share of all-day care for children up to 2 years of age to 35% by 2030.



### Integrative daycare centers 4.a

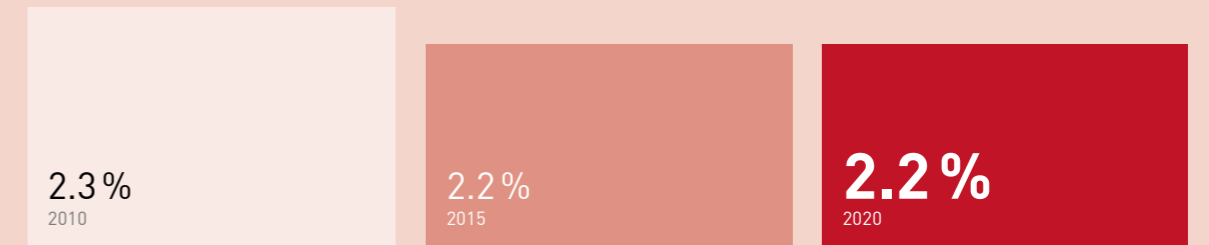


Integrative daycare centers follow the principle of inclusion and enable all children, regardless of their physical and mental condition, to receive a comprehensive education and upbringing. Children with and without disabilities are cared for and supported together. In principle, it is possible in almost every facility to care for a child with an impairment. In the city of Dortmund, the proportion of integrative daycare facilities among all daycare facilities has risen continuously over time. The NRW average has also risen steadily but is lower than Dortmund's share of 57.4% in 2019 (compared to the NRW share of 51.6%). No current data is available at the federal level. No specific targets are formulated in this regard in the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

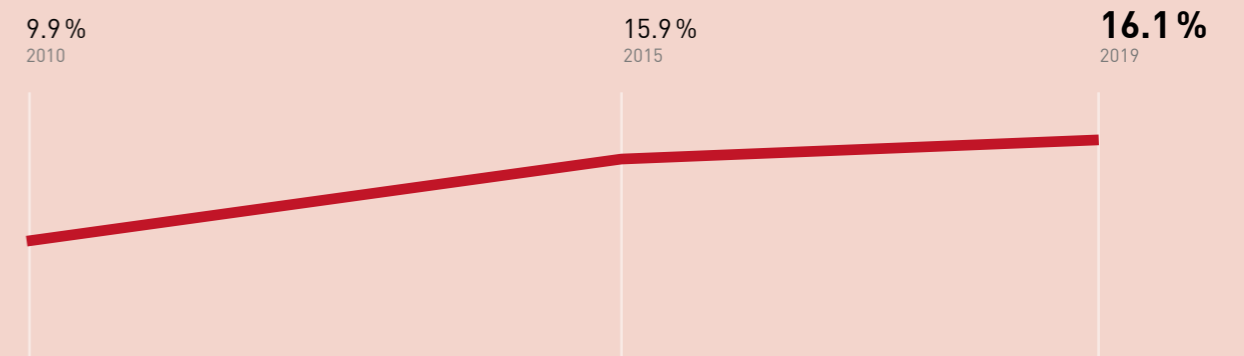
### School dropout rate

Proportion of school leavers without a secondary school-leaving certificate among all school leavers



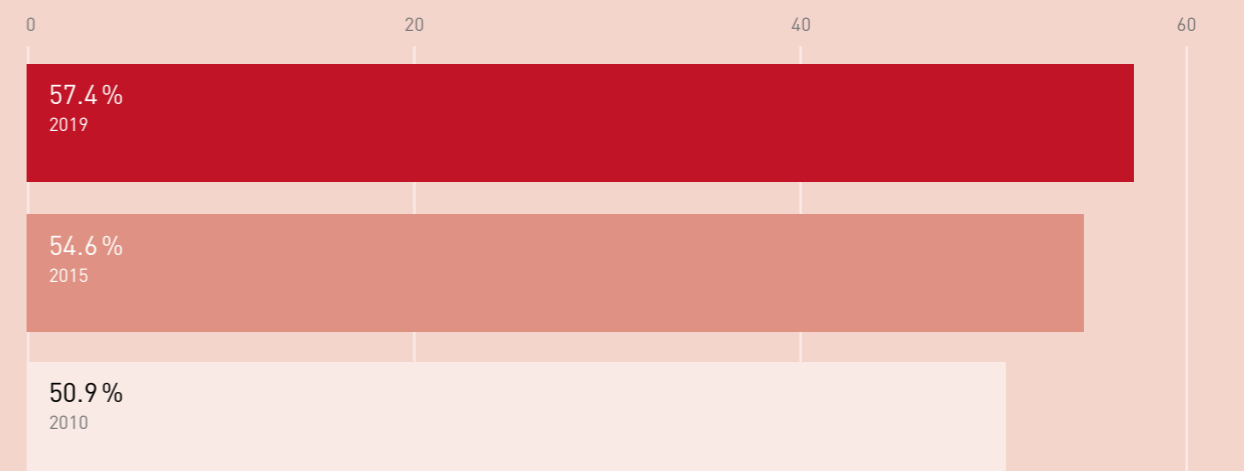
### Childcare (under three years olds)

Proportion of children under three years of age cared for in daycare facilities



### Integrative daycare centers

Proportion of inclusive daycare centers among all daycare centers





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

Participation and equality are the cornerstones of sustainable societies. The field of action Social Justice and Resilient Society relates primarily to securing the social, economic, and political participation of all segments of the population as well as integration. This endeavor includes the targeted promotion of disadvantaged population groups, the prevention of poverty, and measures relating to anti-discrimination, violence prevention, and equal opportunities. In addition, the field of action includes demographic development (which describes the current population structure in terms of factors such as size, age structure, birth rate, and immigration) and the shaping of demographic change (i.e., the change in the composition of the population, such as a decreasing number of young people and a simultaneously increasing number of older people.) The promotion of social and civic engagement—for example, by creating suitable structures—is also significant in this field of action.

## 3.5



## Social Justice & Resilient Society

### Qualitative Aspects

- Anti-discrimination, violence prevention, and equal opportunities
- Promotion of disadvantaged population groups
- Shaping demographic change and participation of old people
- Inclusive services of general interest and promotion of democracy
- Care and integration of refugees and homeless people
- Prevention of child, youth and old-age poverty
- Support of social commitment
- Supporting the resilience of the municipality through collaborations and networks

### SDG indicators

- Transfer service rate (provided by the city of Dortmund)
- Poverty: child poverty/youth poverty/ poverty in old age
- Ratio of employment rates for women and men
- Pay gap between women and men
- Proportion of women in the city council
- Naturalizations
- Crimes

### Add-on indicators (City of Dortmund)

- Election turnout

### 10 Anti-discrimination, violence prevention, and equal opportunities

Dortmund is a diverse and cosmopolitan city characterized by people for whom respectful cooperation at all levels of urban society is highly valued. Lived diversity and appreciation of diversity positively affect the entire urban society. Against this background, Dortmund promotes democracy and human rights with various measures and is committed to strengthening tolerance, preventing violence, and promoting diversity. Examples of initiatives include the “Dortmund Action Plan against Right-Wing Extremism” (updated in 2017) and annual events, initiated by the Equal Opportunities Office, for the International Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The city of Dortmund also supports equal professional opportunities with several projects and cooperations. For example, the Girls Praktikum Plus project, established in 2018, aims to increase the proportion of women in STEM professions in Dortmund as a measure in the Equal Opportunities Plan. As part of “Equal Pay Day”, annual events and high-profile campaigns are held for greater pay equity between the sexes, raising awareness and calling on politicians to take action. The Dortmund Action Alliance for Equal Pay Day currently has around 40 partner organizations. Under the coordination of the Equal Opportunities Office, the associations, clubs, trade unions, political parties, and other institutions perform a wide range of Equal Pay Day activities every year and promote measures at the political and trade union level that support structures for more pay equity.

The “Kompetenzzentrum Frau & Beruf Westfälisches Ruhrgebiet” supports women, companies, and institutions in the region to realize equal professional opportunities for women and sustainably strengthen working women in the regional economy. The employees of the Competence Center support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), strengthen and advise existing initiatives, develop new regional offers and formats, bundle and provide information, organize events, and promote networks and cooperation.

Together with the Dortmund Forum Frau & Wirtschaft e.V. and the Economic Development Agency, the Equal Opportunities Office of the City of Dortmund is the initiator of the Total E-Quality campaign in the Metropole Ruhr, which has been successfully active in Dortmund since 2012. Total E-Quality is a nationally recognized award given to companies, universities, administrations, and associations committed to exemplary action in terms of equal opportunity-oriented personnel management. Through consulting and information events in business, science, and administration in the Ruhr metropolitan region, the campaign promotes personnel work based on equal opportunities, which has led to successful applications for the nationwide Total E-Quality award. Since 2014, around 30 organizations from Dortmund and the surrounding area have received the award for equal opportunities.

To strengthen equal opportunities, the Equal Opportunities Office deliberately networks with women’s associations and other stakeholders in the city who are active in equal opportunities policy. The working group of Dortmund women’s associations and the Dortmunder Forum Frau und Wirtschaft e.V. are particularly noteworthy. The working group is a federation of 40 associations and networks that work for women’s social, political, cultural, and professional interests and concerns in Dortmund. The Dortmund Forum Frau und Wirtschaft e.V. is committed to increasing the proportion of women in qualified positions and at management levels and is involved in campaigns to reduce the gender pay gap and promote living wage employment for women. Various joint events, qualification programs, and political actions for equal opportunities are jointly initiated and implemented.

In cooperation with the Dortmund Forum Frau & Wirtschaft e.V., the Equal Opportunity Office has conceived the event series “Women’s Power Future”, aimed at women in the City Council of Dortmund. The women in the council are invited to enter into cross-factional discussions on central equality policy issues, get to

know the different perspectives and objectives, come to a cooperative networking, and, if necessary, participate in joint equality policy activities within the framework of local politics.

#### 10 Promotion of disadvantaged population groups

Inclusion is a human right that derives from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was signed by Germany in 2009. To achieve inclusion (i.e., equal participation), all people must be involved. The [Dortmund Inclusion Plan 2020](#) is a building block for the structured inclusion process in the city. It is not a static instrument but will be continued step by step. In the past, Dortmund and numerous actors successfully implemented numerous measures toward an inclusive city and are continuing on this path. In 2014, the city and the Technical University of Munich jointly launched the project “Dortmund—socially innovative city for participation (Do-iT)” project. The result of this joint project is a report on the living conditions of people with impairments and disabilities in Dortmund, which forms the basis for the Dortmund Inclusion Plan 2020. An advisory group, “Inclusion in Dortmund,” was involved in preparing the report.

#### 10 Shaping demographic change

Social isolation and loneliness among older adults is a central social problem in Germany that will become even more acute in the future due to demographic change. To actively address demographic change, Dortmund is relying on cooperation, among other things. For example, the city is a [board member of the Research Association for Gerontology](#). Within the framework of the board work at the Institute for Gerontology at the Technical University of Dortmund, there is a regular exchange of expertise regarding issues of demographic development and the aging population.

In addition, in 2015 the Council commissioned the administration to develop a [neighborhood-based concept for a demography strategy with](#)

[a focus on “age.”](#) The aim was to describe guidelines for age-appropriate neighborhood developments and to name concrete proposals for implementation. Age-appropriate urban development essentially pursues the following goals: Strengthening personal responsibility and shared responsibility, enabling participation, making work for seniors and the disabled inclusive, adapting housing and living environments, promoting mobility in old age, and strengthening independent living.

#### 10 Care and integration of refugees and homeless people

In Dortmund, around 38% of people have an immigration background. [The Migration and Integration Service Center](#), established in 2019, aims to ensure that all people immigrating to Dortmund are informed about the city and the options for meeting their individual needs immediately upon arrival. The goal is to open up ways for people to participate in Dortmund in a self-determined and social manner and to set the integration process in motion.

[The digital platform “Integreat”](#) was developed in 2015 to provide newly immigrated people with all relevant information in their national language as quickly as possible. With over 80 municipal partners, “Integreat” is intended to serve as a basis for further activities and measures.

The city-wide integration network for refugees and new immigrants, [“locally welcome”](#), launched in 2016, aims to improve the integration of refugees (and other migrants) into urban society. At seven locations covering all urban districts, the expansion and development of participation-oriented district-related social infrastructures and synergies are supported locally by initiating and ensuring the networking of people.

The [Municipal Integration Center \(MIA-DO-KI\)](#) bundles and networks all levels of the administration that deal with the topic of integration across all departments. Integration is understood as a cross-sectional task that must be considered everywhere. The work is close-

ly linked to the implementation of the Dortmund “Master Plan Migration/Integration.” The state of North Rhine-Westphalia has been promoting “Communal integration management” in NRW municipalities and districts since 2020. The municipal integration management sees itself as an integrated control concept, through which the diverse offers and services in the integration work within and outside the municipal administration are to be coordinated and uniformly aligned.

The city’s Equal Opportunities Office has supported the [PerMenti project](#) since 2016. The project is a collaboration between GRONE Bildungszentren NRW gGmbH and the Dortmund Forum Frau und Wirtschaft e.V. (dffw). The venture receives further support from volunteers. The project focuses on newly immigrated and/or women with refugee experience, good educational qualifications, and qualified work experience. The goal is to enable early vocational entry parallel to language acquisition. Through various initiatives such as individual coaching, workshops, networking, and mentoring opportunities, the women are prepared at an early stage for a career in Germany that matches their qualifications and are enabled to start their careers through internships in Dortmund companies, among other things. Due to its outstanding contribution to good coexistence and integration in North Rhine-Westphalia, the project was awarded the Mevlüde Genç Medal by the Minister President of NRW in May 2022.

Dortmund also offers various support services relating to the issue of homelessness. For example, there is a [continuous process to further develop and expand the network of homeless assistance](#) (municipal and associative). The goal is to reduce homelessness in close coordination with partners in the “Homeless Assistance” network. Preventive outreach work addresses homelessness, offers aftercare after homelessness, and seeks to remedy the multiple problems leading to homelessness. The services are continuously improved within the framework of continuous evaluation.

#### 1 Prevention of child, youth and old-age poverty

With the publication of the [report on Dortmund’s social situation](#) in 2007, a political decision was taken in the city, that resources should be directed to disadvantaged neighborhoods, and that tailor-made action concepts should be developed or implemented in individual neighborhoods. [The “Socially Integrative City of Dortmund Action Plan”](#), launched in 2008, was designed to turn disadvantaged neighborhoods into action areas. A central overarching goal in Dortmund is to combat child poverty. The 2007 Social Report showed how Dortmund residents were faring from the point of view of social reporting and identified neighborhoods in which the social situation was below average and areas of life that were causing particular difficulty. The results showed that in 13 of 39 Dortmund social areas—where most children and young people live—the social problems were greater than the urban average. The social report was updated in 2018 and provides information on current developments and dimensions of social inequality in Dortmund. As a result of the 2018 evaluation, 11 of the 13 action areas identified in 2007 continue to receive special support. Against this background, the report describes how the individual departments are responding to the challenges within the scope of their options for action. It shows how standard services are being adapted and redirected to meet needs. Where possible, new measures are initiated.

#### 17 Support of social commitment

A city thrives through the commitment of its citizens’. The [“Volunteer Agency Dortmund”](#) promotes this voluntary commitment and thus contributes to making Dortmund more “colorful” and attractive. The “Volunteer Agency Dortmund” store is a contact point and an information and exchange platform for voluntary work in Dortmund. The agency brings together people who want to get involved and organizations whose offerings can often only take place with the voluntary support of Dortmund residents. The team of volunteers advises interested parties and helps them find the right project

## 3.5

through one-to-one conversations. At the same time, the agency provides insights into the various areas of the commitment landscape, informs about qualification offers, and acts as the contact point for organizations in Dortmund regarding all questions related to volunteering and recognition culture. As part of the culture of recognition, the Volunteer Agency makes the €50,000 support fund available to nonprofit associations and organizations. Since 2022, the Ehrenamtskarte NRW can be applied for and approved via an app.

### 17 Supporting the resilience of the municipality through collaborations and networks

Dortmund is involved in numerous European and international networks. For example, since 2018, the city has supported the exchange of knowledge and experience in network meetings on the topics of fair trade, sustainable procurement, and Global Sustainability Goals at the European level as part of the EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade network. The most important other memberships are the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions—German



Section (RGRE), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), EUROCITIES, Connective Cities, MC2CM, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE), Mayors for Peace, the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Climate Alliance, and iKEN—Ideas & Knowledge Exchange Network. The Working Group on International Municipal Cooperation and Global Sustainability of the German Association of Cities should also be mentioned in this context.

One example of strengthening resilience at the international level is the “iResilience goes Europe” project, which is based in the Office for International Relations of the City of Dortmund. The multi-layered and extensive results of the research project “iResilience—Social innovations and intelligent urban infrastructures for the resilient city of the future” will not only benefit Dortmund’s urban neighborhoods and their residents but will also be transported to the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca through European knowledge transfer. Here, the findings contribute to the joint mastering of global challenges and the strengthening of international, partnership-based cooperation and networking. The international exchange adds value to both projects: The Romanian city builds on the knowledge from Dortmund, thus enabling a more in-depth treatment of the projects onsite and providing new inspiration for its own ideas. The German iResilience project, in turn, can draw conclusions about transferability and specify an application perspective.

Membership of the Future Network Mobility NRW is an example of regional cooperation and has been in place since 2016. The scheme is a state-wide network for municipalities, cities, and districts founded by the Ministry of Construction, Housing, Urban Development and Transport of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The central task is to network and advise the municipalities in the design of a future-oriented, safe and sustainable mobility development. The Future Network supports municipalities, in particular, in initiating and implementing municipal mobility management.

## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Anti-discrimination, violence prevention, and equal opportunities	• Girls Internship Plus	5.1
	• “Equal Pay Day”/Actions of the Dortmund Action Alliance on Equal Pay Day	5.c
	• Competence Center Women & Work Westphalian Ruhr Area	5.a
	• Total E-Quality campaign	5.1
	• Working Group of Dortmund Women’s Associations/ Dortmund Forum Frau und Wirtschaft e.V.	5.1
	• Series of events “Women’s Power for the Future”	5.5
	• Dortmund Action Plan against Right-Wing Extremism”/ Annual events on the International Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	5.2
Promotion of disadvantaged population groups	• Dortmund Inclusion Plan 2020	10.2
Shaping demographic change	• Member of the board of the Forschungsgesellschaft für Gerontologie e.V.: Expert exchange	10.2
	• Neighborhood-based concept for a demography strategy with a focus on “old age”	10.2
Care and integration of refugees and homeless people	• Service Center Migration and Integration	10.7
	• Digital platform Integreat	10.7
	• Integration network for refugees and new immigrants “locally welcome”	10.7
	• Municipal Integration Center/Municipal Integration Management	10.7
	• Project PerMenti	4.5
	• Further development and expansion of the homeless assistance network	1.3
	• Reports on the social situation 2007 and 2018/ “Social Action Plan Dortmund”	1.2
Support of social commitment	• “Volunteer Agency Dortmund”	17.17
	• Project “iResilience goes Europe”	11.b
Supporting the resilience of the municipality through collaborations and networks	• Involvement in numerous European and international networks, e.g., “EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade” network	17.17
	• Regional inter-municipal cooperation, e.g., membership of the Future Mobility Network NRW	17.17



## Transfer service rate <sup>1.3</sup>

PERCENT	2013	2018	2020
	16.2	16.6	16.4

Recipients of transfer benefits (social minimum income benefits) as a percentage of the main resident population (provided by the city of Dortmund)

The transfer service rate considers basic benefits for jobseekers under Book II of the Social Code, basic benefits for old age and reduced earning capacity under Book XII of the Social Code, assistance for subsistence outside institutions, and standard benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act. The receipt of state transfer payments for basic subsistence support is a key indicator for assessing the social situation and, as a result, the need for sociopolitical action. The need for action and options for action depend not least on the age of the target group. In Dortmund, the number of recipients of state transfer payments has recently (2020) fallen slightly to 16.4%. A comparison with the national or state average is not possible due to different calculation bases.



## Poverty—child poverty <sup>1.3</sup>

PERCENT	2010	2015	2020
	28.8	31.0	28.8

Proportion of under-15s affected by poverty

Child poverty is usually caused by the unemployment and poverty of parents. Possible consequences can be the under-provision in important areas of life, such as housing or nutrition, and unequal educational and participation opportunities. In the city of Dortmund, the proportion of under-15s affected by poverty has recently fallen slightly over time. This development can also be seen in a national comparison, but here the proportion in 2020 was 13.1%, significantly lower than the figure for Dortmund (28.8%), which tends to reflect the developments in other large cities in NRW with similar numbers of inhabitants. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not include any age-specific targets for poverty. However, in Goal 1.1.a., the German Sustainability Strategy pursues the general goal of keeping the "proportion of persons who are materially deprived (lack of certain durables, involuntary abstention from certain consumption for financial reasons) significantly below the EU28 value (28 states of the European Union by January 31, 2020) by 2030."



## Poverty—youth poverty <sup>1.3</sup>

PERCENT	2010	2015	2020
	21.7	24.9	24.3

Proportion of 15- to 17-year-olds affected by poverty

A considerable proportion of young people between the ages of 15 and 17 are affected by poverty. This limits their opportunities to participate in society and develop their personalities. Youth poverty is often accompanied by lower educational opportunities, so the possibilities of qualified vocational training may be limited. In Dortmund, the proportion of 15- to 17-year-olds affected by poverty has fallen slightly compared to 2015. This development can also be seen in a national comparison, where the share in 2020 was 9.9%, significantly lower than the share in Dortmund (24.3% in 2020), but in comparison with other large cities in NRW with similar numbers of inhabitants, the shares of youth poverty are similar. As mentioned above, the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not include age-specific targets on poverty.



## Poverty—old-age poverty <sup>1.3</sup>

PERCENT	2010	2015	2020
	4.8	6.4	6.7

Proportion of people over-65s affected by poverty

Old-age poverty describes the problem that arises when people, in some cases despite many years of employment, have a pension entitlement below the subsistence level when they reach retirement. In the coming years, this problem is likely to become more acute due to demographic change, pension reforms, and developments in the labor market. The possibilities for older people to actively change this situation are often limited, and old-age poverty can also increase isolation. In Dortmund, the proportion of people over 65 affected by poverty has risen slightly but continuously over time. This development can also be seen in the German average, where the share in 2020 was 2.7% and thus significantly lower than the share in Dortmund (6.7%). The shares of old-age poverty in other large cities in NRW with similar numbers of inhabitants are also slightly below the share of the city of Dortmund. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not include any age-specific targets on poverty.





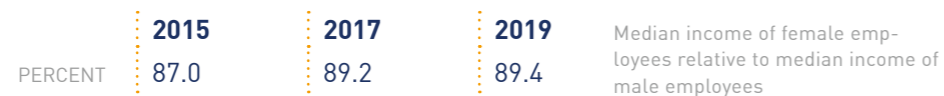
## Ratio of employment rates for women and men 5.1



The employment rates of women and men subject to social insurance contributions provide important information on possible forms of gender-specific discrimination in the labor market, although civil servants, the self-employed and marginal part-time workers are not part of the calculation basis. Likewise, no distinction is made as to whether employees are in full-time or part-time employment, so the volume of working hours has no influence on the indicator. The female employment rate in Dortmund in 2020 was 84.2% of the male employment rate and has fallen slightly since 2015 (if more women than men are employed subject to social insurance, the value is over 100%; if the value is below 100%, more men than women are integrated into the labor market). A Germany-wide comparison shows a similar development: the rate in 2020 was 89.7%, slightly above the rate in Dortmund. The employment rates of women and men are not explicitly addressed in the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW.



## Pay gap between women and men 5.1



There are still significant differences in income between female and male employees. This is due partly to different career choices, hierarchical levels, and professional experience. Temporary leave for family reasons has a negative impact on income. Despite the ban on discrimination, women are paid less than men, which also affects pension levels in the long term. The indicator reflects the (gross) median income of full-time employed women and puts it in relation to the (gross) median income of full-time employed men. In Dortmund, the median income increased slightly from 2015 to 2019. The national average shows a similar ratio (2019: 84.5%), slightly below the Dortmund development and confirms the lower pay of women compared to men. Consequently, further efforts are needed to achieve the German Sustainability Strategy goal 5.1.a., "Reduce the gap to 10% by 2020, maintain by 2030."



## Proportion of women in the City Council 5.5



Despite intensive efforts, the proportion of women in the city council, municipal council and district council has remained consistently low. Although the possibility of allocating list positions by the political parties contributes to an increase in the proportion of women, this has not yet led to the desired success. In Dortmund, the proportion of city council seats held by women recently fell to 35.6%. The national average shows women had a 28.8% share in 2019. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not explicitly address the proportion of women in councils. In principle, however, more intensive efforts are needed to achieve gender equality.



## Naturalizations 10.7



The number of naturalizations per year is considered an important indicator for making statements about integration, because naturalization generally contributes to a stronger identification with the society of the host country. In Dortmund, 0.9% of the foreign population obtained German citizenship within one year in 2020. Over the period under consideration, the percentage of naturalizations per year fluctuated between 0.9% and 1.9%. Most recently, the percentage roughly corresponded to the average German share of naturalizations, which was 1.1% in 2020. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW make no explicit reference to naturalizations in their objectives.

## Indicators



### Crimes 16.4

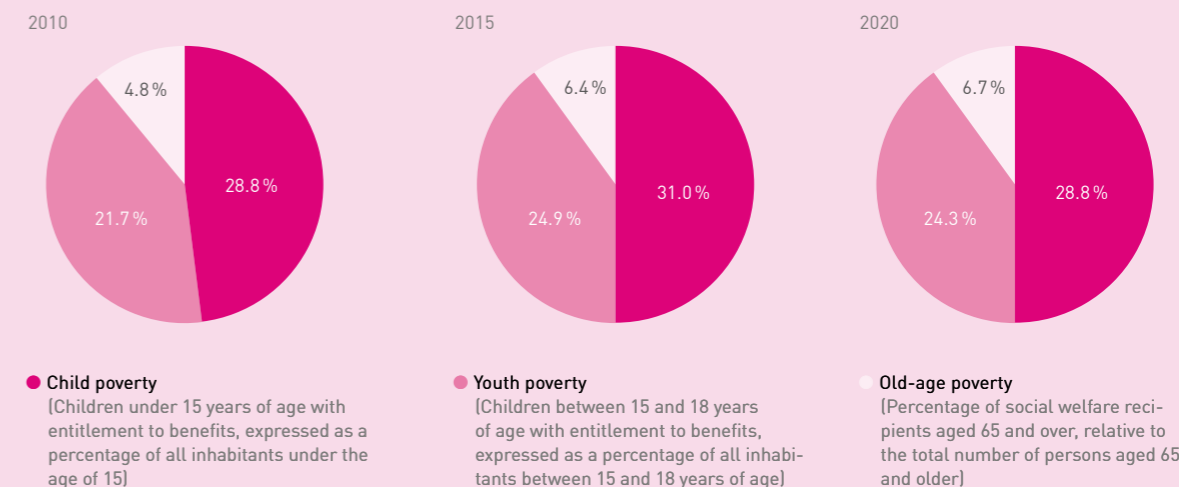


The indicator considered relates the number of crimes reported to the police within the municipality to the number of inhabitants and thus provides information on the public and general security situation. Since no distinction is made between different types of crime, it is impossible to derive any statements on the successful combating of organized crime. Although the number of registered crimes in Dortmund has declined over time, the 2020 figure of 105.1 recorded crimes per 1,000 inhabitants is higher than the similarly declining trend throughout Germany (63.9 crimes per 1,000 inhabitants in 2020). The trend nevertheless contributes to the achievement of goal 16.1 of the German Sustainability Strategy, "Decrease the number of recorded crimes per 100,000 inhabitants to below 6,500 by 2030."

## Visualization of selected Indicators

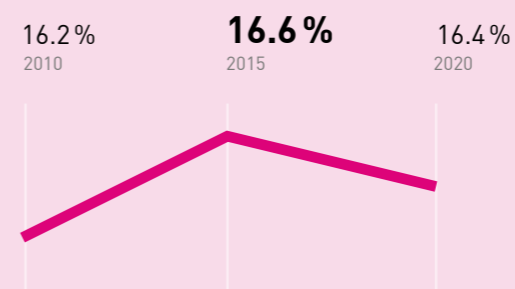
### Poverty

Share of under 15-year-olds (child poverty), of 15–18-year-olds (youth poverty) and of over 65-year-olds (elderly poverty) affected by poverty



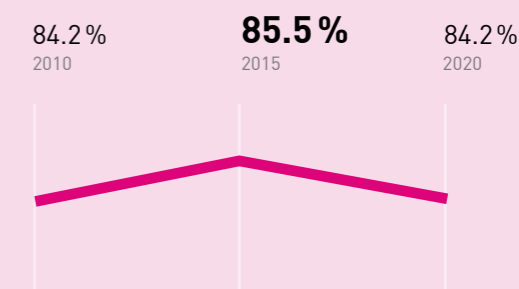
### Transfer service rate

Recipients of transfer benefits (social minimum income benefits) as a percentage of the main resident population



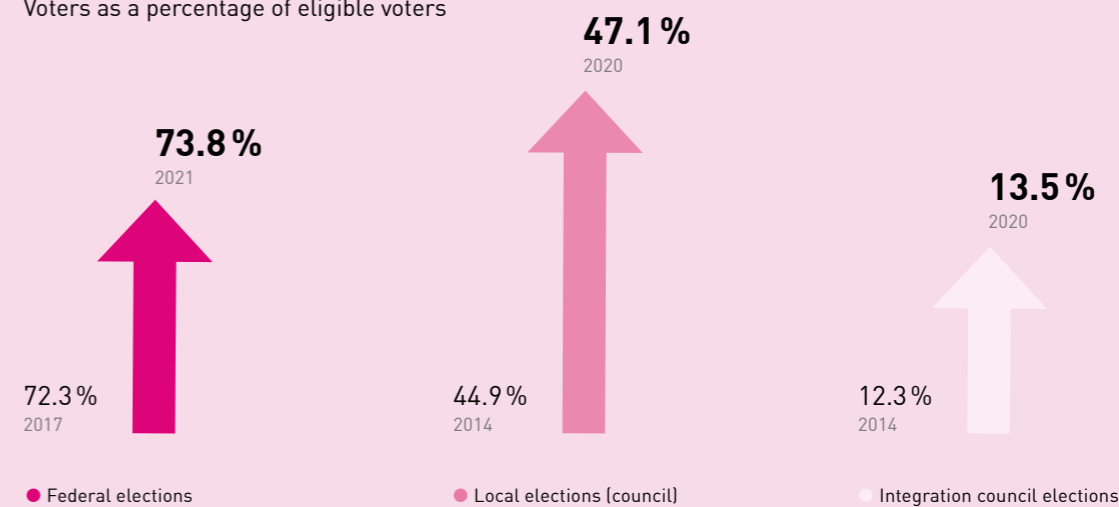
### Ratio of employment rates for women and men

Ratio of employment rate of women to employment rate of men



### Election turnout

Voters as a percentage of eligible voters





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

Neighborhoods, as places of living and social interaction, form people's everyday living and action space and are therefore of particular importance for sustainable development. Sustainable neighborhoods are characterized by the fact that they offer a high quality of life, promote participation in social coexistence, and consider environmental protection and resource conservation. Against the backdrop of population growth and rising rents, the provision of adequate housing in particular poses a significant challenge. Increasing segregation in German cities, for example, is manifesting itself in the spatial segregation of individual population groups across urban areas. In terms of sustainable development that promotes participation and integration, creating a heterogeneous population composition is an essential task of neighborhood development. Furthermore, the establishment of sufficient infrastructural facilities plays a vital role. In addition to access to local suppliers and green spaces, this also includes social and cultural infrastructures, which positively affect participation in neighborhood life and thus increase the individual quality of life.

## 3.6



## Housing & Sustainable Neighborhoods

### Qualitative Aspects

- Affordable housing
- Sustainable neighborhood development
- Participation in neighborhood development
- Noise protection
- Places for recreation and social contacts
- Avoidance of social segregation

### SDG indicators

- Rental prices
- Living space
- Local recreation areas
- Basic services close to home—supermarkets

### Add-on indicators (City of Dortmund)

- Stock of publicly subsidized apartments

### 11 Affordable housing

Since the first Municipal Housing Concept was drawn up in 2009, the situation in Dortmund's housing market has shifted in the direction of an increasingly tight housing market situation. Contrary to all forecasts, population and household numbers have increased significantly, and construction activity has struggled to keep pace with the steadily growing demand. Structural housing vacancies have decreased, inexpensive housing has become increasingly scarce, and negative balances again characterize migration to the surrounding areas. In the meantime, both the lower and middle-price segments of Dortmund's housing market are considered to be strained. Against this backdrop, the city developed a new municipal housing concept in 2021 that explicitly emphasizes creating and preserving affordable housing for all people as its primary housing policy goal. The housing concept was developed in a comprehensive, dialog-oriented working process involving the city administration and stakeholders from the Dortmund housing market, academia, and the city council. The concept involves a coordinated housing policy target system intended to increase the city's attractiveness through the design of the newly created housing supply. Special supply tasks arise for families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and households with market access difficulties. In addition to the target system, the concept includes measurable targets and tasks for future housing policy action as well as recommendations for a housing policy work program. Following an internal prioritization of actions, the tasks formulated in the housing concept are now being successively implemented.

In 2021, the city council also passed a resolution in principle on the realignment and further development of the Dortmunder Stadtentwicklungsgesellschaft (DSG). The DSG will contribute to creating affordable housing for all target groups. In particular, it will ensure housing with appropriate rents in the long term. This aim will be met by building a higher quota of publicly subsidized housing units in the

housing development projects than previously prescribed and by ensuring that rents remain stable even after the bonds expire. The municipal housing that will emerge from the restructured DSG will significantly contribute to meeting the current challenge in Dortmund's tight housing market. With the reorientation of DSG into a municipal housing company, it will be possible to exert a direct influence on the local housing market and the provision of housing, occupancy, and the price of municipal apartment rentals. In addition to social housing, the rents of privately financed apartments are to be kept at a moderate level, taking into account economic efficiency, in order to have a rent-reducing effect on the housing market.

The City of Dortmund produces an annual report assessing the current situation and development prospects of the local housing market. The Housing Market Report 2022, for example, contains an analysis of the housing market situation by looking at price trends, housing supply, and demand. The comprehensive analysis of supply and demand indicators contributes to determining or estimating the need for affordable housing. Overall, the analysis tool enables stakeholders to make housing policy and housing industry (investment) decisions at an early stage.

Despite the difficult situation, the creation and preservation of affordable housing has been successful over the last few years. With the existing measures and with the help of measures such as a quota for the construction of publicly subsidized apartments, the number of apartments with fixed rents and occupancy rates has been kept relatively constant in recent years, and a sharper decline has so far been avoided or curbed. Since December 2021, all residential construction projects have been subject to an increased quota, under which 30% of the gross floor area (GFA) must now be publicly subsidized. The realigned DSG will also make an important contribution to the number of subsidized apartments and will help stabilize rent levels in the future.

### 11 Sustainable neighborhood development

To promote sustainable neighborhood development, the most recent focus of the housing subsidies was on creating new rental apartments. In addition to a few single-family rental homes for families and dormitory accommodation, more than 200 apartments were newly built in multi-story residential buildings.

In addition, 561 dormitory places for students were upgraded previously through the modernization of the housing stock, making a significant contribution to climate protection. At the same time, rent and occupancy commitments were secured for the long term.

Housing promotion has also been an important factor in accessibility for many years. Since 1998, 3,065 barrier-free rental apartments (some still under construction) have been subsidized with housing subsidies in Dortmund, of which 992 apartments have barrier-free access via an elevator. Against the backdrop of ongoing demographic change, the issue of accessibility and housing suitable for the elderly will continue to play a central role.

Energy-efficient refurbishment of existing buildings is one of the key measures for improving climate protection. The Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Service Center plays a central role as an intermediary between the climate policy programs of the federal and state governments and the funding programs for building owners. The service center offers a free initial consultation with experienced energy consultants on “energy-efficient modernization” and “energy-efficient construction.” By networking, the actors and their activities and the transparency of the consulting and funding structure can be improved. The initial consultation provides an overview of the possible savings potential of the building. Determining which regenerative energies can be used in the building is also part of the consultation, as is basic information on concrete measures (such as heating system renewal or facade insulation and their

costs). A wide range of information is also available on ecological building materials that can be used in new and old buildings. The aim is to ensure independent, neutral, and high-quality information and advice as a first point of contact with a pilot function.

In addition, Dortmund is implementing other projects and measures to promote sustainable neighborhoods. With the funding guideline for design and greening on private properties within defined urban renewal areas, last updated in 2019, the city grants subsidies in accordance with the guidelines and the respective budget statutes. This rule applies to urban renewal areas defined by the City Council in which the design enhancement of facades and/or unsealing, design, and greening of private properties are objectives of the renewal. As part of the advisory services, private property owners can obtain low-threshold information in urban renewal areas on issues relating to the structural upgrading of their property. The open space and facade program for large housing estates (Westerfilde & Bodelschwingh urban renewal area) is an example of a classic urban renewal funding measure upgrading house facades and open spaces in a large housing estate.

### 17 Participation in neighborhood development

The city of Dortmund attaches great importance to public participation and the involvement of the entire urban society. Since 2015, the city has been implementing the ten-year participation project “northwards”, in which civil society, administration, politics, science, and business assume joint responsibility for the further development of Dortmund’s northern districts. The defined project area represents 46% of the city area and 42% of its population. The strengths of the seven districts are being brought to the public’s attention through innovative public relations work. The goal is to drive structural change in the northern districts in a targeted manner and to harmonize the quality of life in all of Dortmund’s districts. The project is divided into ten central thematic areas:

1. Urban development
2. Employment
3. Infrastructures
4. Education
5. Social innovations
6. Housing
7. Social City Action Plan
8. Integration and participation
9. Identity and civic engagement
10. Safety, order, and cleanliness.

These topics cover projects already being implemented or planned for the future in the “northwards” area. The topic areas are grouped into so-called project families based on the criteria of sustainable urban development (economy, ecology, social issues, and civil society). Economic, ecological, and social optimization potential was seen above all in the topics of land development, creation or safeguarding of jobs, enhancement of the environment, quality of life, and qualifications and education. On this basis, ideas, and concepts for independent projects were developed in a broad-based dialog and participation process with citizens, stakeholders, and initiatives in the northern districts of the city,

which meet the concrete needs of the people to improve living conditions and opportunities. This process has resulted in approximately 240 projects, all of which have undergone a transparent evaluation process for quality assurance. In the implementation phase, the creators of the projects can benefit from non-material, financial, or organizational support. By mid-2021, 70% of all projects were being implemented or had been completed. The remaining projects are in the process of further development and qualification. In terms of long-term anchoring, the transferability of the process findings and effects achieved in the city as a whole is an important future task for “northwards.” In 2017, the “northwards” project received an award in the European competition in the category “Projects at the municipal level” (European Institute of Public Administration, EIPA). The European Public Sector Award honors “northwards” innovative administrative action as “Best Practice.”

In addition to this central project, there are various other measures to promote participation in neighborhood development. For example, citizens’ forums with a participation format are



part of the process of drawing up urban renewal areas and integrated action plans. In ongoing urban renewal processes, target group-specific citizens' events are often held on urban renewal projects. If necessary, neighborhood advisory councils, consultation groups, or similar are established in urban renewal areas for mutual communication. Neighborhood management also brings together the diverse commitment of different actors (residents, associations, housing companies, etc.) and supports them in implementing ideas and projects to improve the housing and living situation in the urban renewal areas. The neighborhood management promotes and supports civic engagement in the district and involves residents in the planning and implementation of activities (e.g., cleanliness or beautification campaigns). A neighborhood fund can provide financial support for projects. Each year, up to €35,000 is available for actors and residents of a neighborhood to implement new ideas.

### 3 Noise protection

High noise pollution poses a serious risk to human health. In German law, noise protection is divided into many individual areas with different responsibilities. The focus of the city of Dortmund relates to the control of environmental noise, especially that from existing unmodified roads, which is the noise source from which most people feel burdened. Within the framework of the EC Environmental Noise Directive, conurbations are obliged to perform noise mapping every five years and draw up noise action plans on this basis. These plans must also be reviewed regularly after they have been drawn up and revised if necessary. By identifying noise hotspots, defining quiet areas, and specifying measures, noise action planning aims to prevent, avoid, or mitigate harmful effects, including annoyance, caused by environmental noise. In 2020, it was decided to retain the 2014 noise action plan, and noise action planning will continue on that basis. Independently of the noise action planning, the various methods of noise protection are also taken into account in the context of urban land use planning, traffic planning, and the approval and operation of technical facilities.

Various specific noise abatement measures have been successfully implemented recently. The successive, standard installation of noise-reducing asphalt, speed restrictions for noise protection reasons (introduction of Tempo 30) on various streets and the installation of soundproof windows as part of the soundproof window program have contributed significantly to the relief of several thousand residents in noise-polluted streets.

### 11 Places for recreation and social contacts

Public spaces can play a central role in the coexistence of residents and, depending on how they are designed, can contribute to a sense of togetherness characterized by dialog and neighborly solidarity. Against this backdrop, the project "KoopLab—Participation through Cooperative Open Space Development," which will run from 2018 to 2021, pursues the goal of cooperatively designing residential open spaces and developing them jointly with the involvement of residents and local actors. In this way, the development of green and open spaces could be promoted and participation and neighborly interaction strengthened. In addition to ecological upgrading, awareness of sustainable neighborhood development issues has also been raised. A study on the effects of KoopLab concluded that 88% of those surveyed rated the changes in the project area as positive. For example, raised beds were considered valuable in the context of "urban gardening," and the park and the neighborhood were upgraded through the involvement of the residents. The task of taking responsibility for the area is an aspect that improves the neighborhood, strengthening contact between residents and creating meeting spaces. The participants enabled the stabilization of the project and the initiation of follow-up projects.

Another example is the SuPraStadt project (2019–2022), in the course of which the spread of sustainable everyday practices ("sufficiency practices") in urban neighborhoods is being investigated. To this end, special educational and implementation formats will be established with

the cooperation of policymakers, the housing industry, schools, and settler communities. The participants can develop and implement new ideas that improve their neighborhood and contribute to protecting the environment. The aim is to raise awareness of the issues of climate protection and sustainability. The participation formats have been largely completed, and an extension of the project is planned.

In addition, various targeted urban development projects are implemented within the funding periods in urban renewal areas. These include the development of community centers, financial support for "citizens' meetings" in urban renewal areas to strengthen civil society, support for the barrier-free expansion of playgrounds and open spaces for recreation, and support for the structural upgrading of social facilities.

### 10 Avoidance of social segregation

All districts have their history and character. They are places of identification and home, of integration and coexistence. However, in addition to potential and opportunities, neighborhoods also present challenges and problems (e.g., with regard to urban development and infrastructure, the economy and employment, social participation and education, and adverse environmental conditions).

With the 25% quota housing promotion adopted in 2014 and since increased to 30%, a quota was established to increase the number and proportions of publicly subsidized housing units. In addition to the creation of subsidized housing, the instrument of a binding quota is also important against the background of a social mix, as it means that new apartments with fundamentally higher rents are also available for population groups with market access difficulties, and a mixed occupancy can be guaranteed. The consideration of the socio-economic situation of the residential locations in the implementation of the instrument also demonstrates a targeted and good control option to prevent possible segregation

tendencies. The quota must be complied with in all residential construction projects, taking into account the respective urban development and socio-structural situation and the principle of economic feasibility. Since 2014, 818 new rental apartments have been promoted on the basis of the Council resolution as part of the development of new residential construction areas and the sale of municipal land. This initiative was accompanied by a slowdown in the decline of publicly subsidized apartments.

## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Affordable housing	• Municipal housing concepts 2009 and 2021	11.1
	• 30 % quota—housing promotion	11.1
	• Basic decision on the reorientation and further development of Dortmund's urban development company	11.1
	• Annual housing market report	11.1
Sustainable neighborhood development	• Modernization of the housing stock	11.3
	• Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Service Center	7.3
	• Funding guidelines for design and greening of private properties within defined urban renewal areas	15.a
	• Consulting services for private property owners	11.3
	• Open space and facade program for large housing estates	11.7
Participation in neighborhood development	• Participation project "northwards"	16.7
	• Citizens' forums during the preparation of integrated action concepts	16.7
	• Citizens' events on urban renewal projects	16.7
	• Neighborhood advisory councils, consultation groups	11.3
	• Neighborhood management	11.3
	• Neighborhood funds/district funds in urban renewal areas	15.a
Noise protection	• Noise action planning	3.4
	• Specific measures: Installation of noise-reducing asphalt/speed restrictions for noise abatement reasons/soundproof window program	3.4
Places for recreation and social contacts	• "KoopLab—Participation through cooperative open space development" project	11.7
	• Project SuPraStadt	13.3
	• Targeted urban development projects	11.3
Avoidance of social segregation	• 30 % quota—housing promotion (increase in the stock of publicly subsidized housing and social mix through fixed quota of subsidized housing in new construction projects)	11.1

## Indicators



The topic of "housing" plays a central role in everyone's life and has a significant impact on quality of life. This fact makes the developments in many German cities all the more worrying: bottlenecks in the supply of affordable housing due to privatization and capitalization of the housing market on the one hand, and migration trends and the accompanying decline in housing quality on the other. In Dortmund, an increase in net cold rents per square meter can be seen over time (from €5.00—€6.00 in 2010 to €7.00—€8.00 in 2020), which may be accompanied by challenges in the supply of affordable housing. Comparable data at the federal and state levels are not available. In this regard, the German government's sustainability strategy Target 11.3, "Reduce the share of overburdened persons in the population to 13 % by 2030," sends a signal to Germany's major and university cities.



The living space per person has increased continuously in Germany over the years, partly due to households with fewer people on average. Since this is an average value, no differentiation is made regarding how the living space is distributed. The above-mentioned trend is also reflected in Dortmund: Over time, the available living space per person has continuously increased slightly, and in 2020 the figure was 41.2 m<sup>2</sup> per person. This value is around 4 m<sup>2</sup> below the German average of 45.6 m<sup>2</sup> per person (2020). The German Sustainability Strategy does not have any explicit targets for living space, but goal 11.1.b addresses the "reduction of the loss of open space per inhabitant" and thus the asset of open space, which is also crucial in the course of housing construction.



With the existing measures and, among other things, the help of the 25 % quota, which stipulates that 25 % of newly built apartments are publicly subsidized (the quota is now 30 %), it has been possible to keep the number of apartments with rent and occupancy commitments relatively constant and to avoid a sharper decline. Over time, the number of publicly subsidized apartments fell only slightly from 22,155 apartments in 2018 to 21,714 apartments in 2020.

## Indicators



### Local recreation areas 11.7



Local recreation areas in a municipality include undeveloped areas (including green spaces, parks, allotment gardens, sports fields, and campsites) predominantly used for sports and recreation and also home to animals or plants, thus having a high social and ecological value. In Dortmund, the share of local recreation land in the total land area has steadily increased and was 3.4 hectares in 2020. The German average is higher, at 5.6 hectares per 1,000 inhabitants. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not define any goals for the development of local recreation areas.



### Basic services close to home—supermarkets 11.1

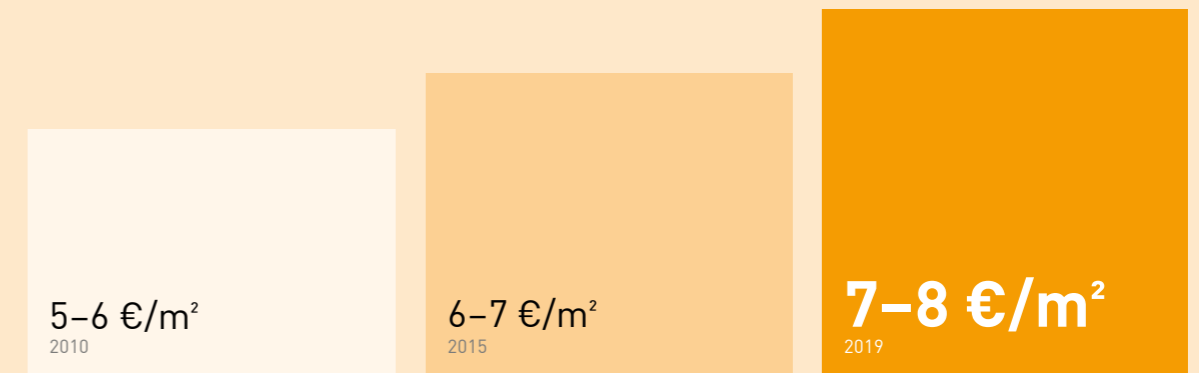


The supply of food is a basic human need and an important aspect of regional development. Consequently, it should be possible to travel to the nearest supermarket quickly and with minimal logistical effort. Nevertheless, the trend toward relatively remote, large supermarkets has increased, which makes it difficult to reach them on foot, especially in rural areas. However, the statistical data (municipal and federal level) on the population-weighted linear distance to the nearest supermarket or discount store does not allow valid statements to be made about long-term development. Figures are only available for 2017, when there was a comparable nationwide average value of 962 m air-line distance to the nearest supermarket or discount store. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not address this issue.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

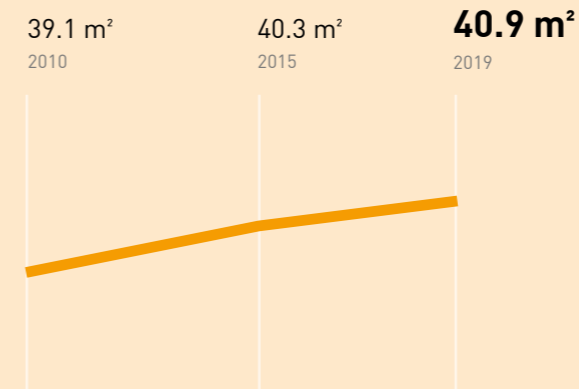
### Rent prices

Average net rent per square meter in euro



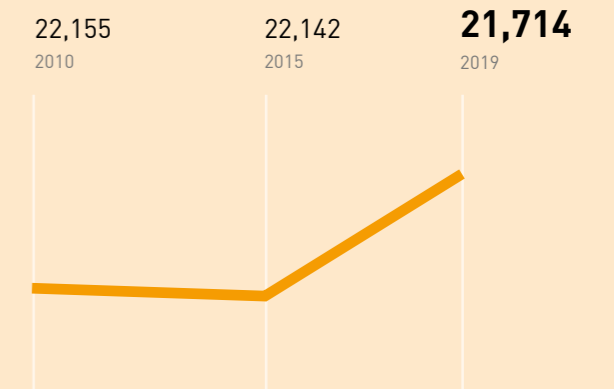
### Living space

Available living space per person



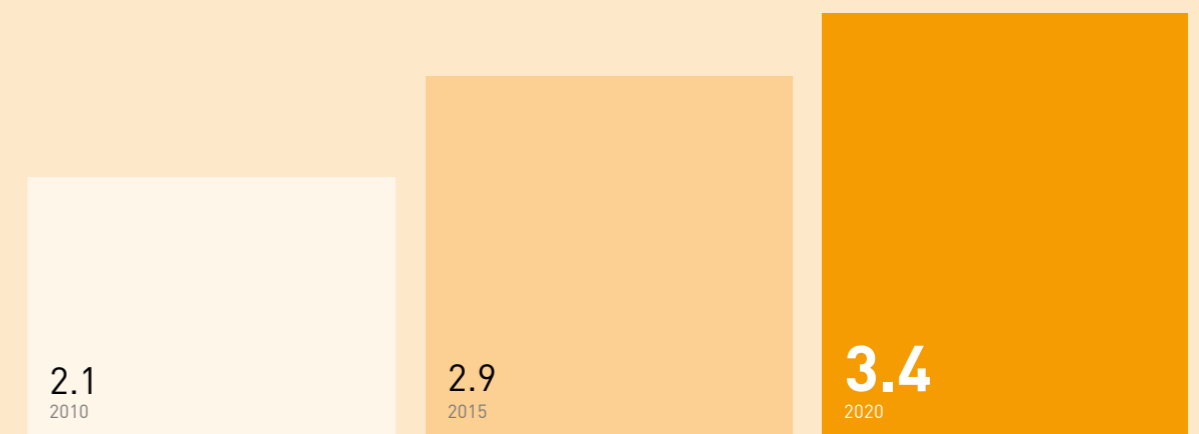
### Stock of publicly subsidized apartments

Stock in the previous year and newly built publicly subsidized apartments—apartments no longer tied to the system



### Local recreation areas

Share of recreational area in total land area (hectare)





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

The field of action Decent Work and Sustainable Economy encompasses local economic and labor market development and the situation of employees at their place of work. A functioning economy with sufficient jobs enables people to satisfy their basic needs and develop their potential. In this context, the creation of family- and employee-friendly structures and the promotion of diversity and equal opportunities is a central task. Simultaneously, it is essential to promote a sustainable business location in a community and encourage innovation in this area. With a view to sustainable development, companies have an important ecological and social responsibility toward society. This includes implementing sustainable production patterns and creating and safeguarding adequate working conditions. Demographic change and the associated consequences—along with advancing digitization, which is leading to profound changes in the labor market—require special attention with regard to economic development.

## 3.7



## Decent Work & Sustainable Economy

### Qualitative Aspects

- Family and child-friendly structures and offers
- Compatibility of family and career in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies
- Diversity and equal opportunities in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies
- Sustainable management of resident companies
- Sustainability-oriented start-up and business development

### SDG indicators

- Gross Domestic Product
- Long-term unemployment rate
- Employment rate—15 to 64 year olds/ 55 to 64 year olds/foreigners
- Employed persons receiving unemployment benefit
- Highly qualified employees

### Add-on indicators (City of Dortmund)

- Employment data

### 8 Family and child-friendly structures and offers

Companies are increasingly focusing on strengthening family-conscious personnel policies. To strengthen family-friendliness in Dortmund companies, the city's Economic Development Department has initiated the consulting and qualification program FamUnDo (Family-conscious Companies in Dortmund). The program is generally aimed at companies that want to become more family-conscious, providing companies of all sizes and sectors with suitable tools and motivation to provide employees with the best possible support in reconciling their life plans with their careers. This approach is intended to increase the fundamental attractiveness of companies. The FamUnDo program is designed to run for one year. During this time, companies receive individual consulting appointments to assist them in developing a program of measures and complete workshops on diverse focus topics together with other companies in a project round. The eighth FamUnDo round started in 2022.

With an action plan for participation and education for children, young people, and families in Dortmund, the city is explicitly addressing the educational and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (Council resolution in 2021). In this way, the city wants to enable children, young people, and families to “come out of the crisis strong.” A database provides all interested stakeholders and citizens with an overview of numerous projects and measures, tailored to the diverse needs of young people and families. The data-based integrated education and youth welfare planning will serve as a central point of contact in the future. The process is carried out in a participation-oriented manner in coordination with the relevant internal and external administrative actors. For this purpose, existing structures will be linked and further developed in an integrated control structure.

### 10 Diversity, equal opportunities, and compatibility of family and career in administration

The State Equality Act of North Rhine-Westphalia obliges the municipality to implement equality between women and men within the municipal administration. In implementing the requirements, the Equal Opportunity Officer and the team of the Equal Opportunity Office identify needs for action, call for changes, and advise the department on developing and implementing suitable measures. The Equal Opportunities Office coordinates the Dortmund Action Alliance for “Equal Pay Day” every year.

The Dortmund City Administration was awarded the Total E-Quality rating as an employer for equal opportunities in its personnel policy and was able to repeatedly apply successfully for the rating and the “Add On Rating Diversity” due to its diverse measures and offers.

To implement the city administration goal “Dortmund is emancipated,” the city is undertaking the decade project “My City—My Perspective,” which began in 2022. The decade project is the strategic project in the field of action “Equal opportunities in the city administration” and generates action-relevant findings for Dortmund's equality policy work. The project's objective is to gain insights into career biographical decision-making processes, identify the hurdles and challenges of individual career planning and implementation in the Dortmund city administration, and recognize possible gender-differentiating effects. From this, action-relevant knowledge for the further development of existing and new offers will be derived, along with support possibilities and starting points for the reduction of hurdles and disadvantaging framework conditions for individual groups of employees.

The Equal Opportunity Office also offers various qualification and mentoring programs for prospective female managers to promote equal opportunities and to increase the proportion of women in management positions. In addition, two internal women's networks promote networking among women in the city administration.



It is not always easy for single parents with children to find their way back into the workforce. To offer this support and highlight opportunities and prospects for their professional future, the [career reentry network](#) from Dortmund organizes an annual information day for single parents. The Equal Opportunities Office of the City of Dortmund is part of the network. Around 500 single parents, mostly women, took advantage of the offer on the last information day in August 2022 at the Dietrich Keuning Haus. In a relaxed atmosphere, they learned about career reorientation, qualifications, further training opportunities, and employment offers at various information booths, while their children took advantage of the extensive range of free games.

#### 8 Sustainable management of resident companies

Various projects exist in Dortmund to promote sustainable business in the city. As part of its [membership in the corporate network for social responsibility and sustainable action "Bewusst wie e.V."](#), the city provides content input and accompanies the activities as

a business development agency. Founded in 2013 by the Dortmund Economic Development Agency and committed city organizations and companies, the network has quickly established itself as a regionally significant impetus and authoritative voice in the dialog on "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" issues. The association's foundation in 2019 confirms this positive development for the future. "Corporate Social Responsibility" involves contributions from companies in the fields of action market, workplace, environment, and community to promote sustainable economic, ecological, and social developments. The current 75 member companies are supported in their efforts to promote corporate social responsibility through networking and training opportunities. Overall, this endeavor strengthens Dortmund's development as a sustainability metropolis.

The [CSR Competence Center Ruhr](#) also supported companies in systematically introducing and implementing corporate social responsibility from 2017 to 2020. To implement the project, Economic Development Agency



Dortmund collaborated with other regional partners to form a project network. The competence center aimed to support small and medium-sized enterprises through a demand-oriented mix of offers and measures to build and expand competencies for CSR's strategic and organizational anchoring and implement practical measures.

Since 2000, 12 project rounds have been completed in Dortmund as part of the [Eco-profit project](#) (Ecological Project for Integrated Environmental Technology). Participating companies are supported in introducing and improving operational environmental management through a consulting and qualification program to increase resource efficiency concerning energy, water, and waste while reducing operating costs. The project also forms a local network for sustainable business. A new project round started in September 2022.

To specifically promote sustainable mobility to strengthen environmental protection and achieve climate targets in companies, the city's business development department and the Dortmund Chamber of Industry and Commerce launched the [CargoBike-Dortmund initiative](#). The initiative promotes the use of cargo bikes for professional applications in companies. Among other things, CargoBike Dortmund provides interested companies with suitable providers and thus promotes the general conditions for developing sustainable logistics in the region.

#### 9 Sustainability-oriented start-up and business development

Since 2022, the ["greenhouse.ruhr" funding program](#) has supported founders with social and ecological business ideas and has assisted intrapreneurs with socially innovative project ideas in their further development. The "greenhouse.ruhr" project is run by the city's Economic Development Department in cooperation with the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The scholarship program aims to systematically promote innovation

through entrepreneurial activities and establish a regional social entrepreneurship ecosystem. The funding period is four months, and the maximum value of the scholarship is €10,000.

To promote start-ups, the city's business development department has been initiating "helpathons" since 2020, a format intended to generate ideas. Together with stakeholders from Dortmund city society, science, business, and administration, the aim is to find socially innovative project and business ideas. Embedded in a strategy to promote the local economy, the "helpathons" are intended to address current challenges and develop solutions adapted to local conditions.

Promoting social innovations to solve urban social challenges is also the goal of the [Social Innovation Center](#), which has existed since 2019. The center mediates between business, science, urban society, and administration within the framework of collaborative (network) work. It focuses on work and neighborhoods, work and care, schools and businesses, and corporate social responsibility.

Since 2018, the ["Social Start Up Days"](#) have been held around twice yearly to promote social-ecological business ideas. The "Social Startup Days" give interested parties the opportunity to further consider their social business idea in a two-day workshop and to test their business model with the support of experts. [Co-working vouchers](#) for founders with social or ecological business ideas support sustainable startups in the field of social entrepreneurship.

Since 2010, the [Gründerinnenzentrum Dortmund](#) has supported women on their way to self-employment. Its goals are to increase the rate of self-employment among women and to promote female founders. The incubator is part of the Dortmund Economic Development Agency and works in close cooperation with the Startercenter.NRW. It provides women interested in starting a business with an overview of the necessary steps for their own company and arranges contact with relevant persons.

## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Family and child-friendly structures and offers	• Consulting and qualification program FamUnDo (Family-conscious companies in Dortmund)	5.4
	• Action plan for participation and education for children, young people and families in Dortmund	4.5
Diversity, equal opportunities, and compatibility of family and career in administration	• Dortmund Action Alliance on Equal Pay Day	16.b
	• Dortmund City Council receives Total E-Quality award as an equal opportunity employer	5.1
	• Decade Project "My City—My Perspective"	10.4
	• Qualification and mentoring programs for prospective female managers	5.5
	• Career reentry network—information day for single parents	5.4
Sustainable management of resident companies	• Membership of the corporate association for social responsibility and sustainable action "Bewusst wie e.V."	12.6
	• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Competence Center Ruhr	12.6
	• ECOPROFIT project	8.4
	• CargoBike Dortmund initiative	11.2
Sustainability-oriented start-up and business development	• "greenhouse.ruhr"—funding program	9.4
	• "Helpathons" (format for idea generation)	8.2
	• Social Innovation Center	8.2
	• "Social Start Up days"/Co-Working vouchers for founders	8.2
	• Founders' Center Dortmund	8.2

## Indicators

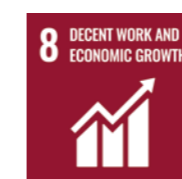


### Gross domestic product **8.1**

EUROS	2010	2015	2019
	31,179,10	35,370,60	36,626,80

Gross domestic product per inhabitant

Gross domestic product defines the total value of an economy's economic output. At the municipal level, it is the sum of all formally produced goods and documented services minus intermediate inputs and imports (gross value added). However, gross domestic product alone cannot be used to make statements about municipal characteristics, such as the location of companies or the commuting situation of employees. In addition, no statement can be made about the ratio of value added to the use of resources (through indicators such as raw material or energy productivity). The gross domestic product per inhabitant in Dortmund has risen continuously over time. The average development in Germany also tends to increase (€37,348.60 per inhabitant in 2019) and is slightly above Dortmund's value. Goal 8.4 of the German Sustainability Strategy aims for "steady and appropriate economic growth." The general development in Germany corresponds to this goal, which is not quantified further.



### Long-term unemployment rate **8.5**

PERCENT	2010	2015	2020
	7.9	7.4	5.8

Proportion of long-term unemployed in the total labor force

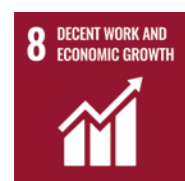
The long-term unemployment rate describes the proportion of unemployed persons registered as unemployed for a year or more with the employment agencies or the providers of basic benefits for jobseekers under Book II of the Social Code. Persistent unemployment has a major impact on the financial, social and health situation of those affected and their families and can also affect the municipality's financial situation. However, the indicator does not consider the gender or age of the unemployed; consequently, statements on gender-based improvements in the employment situation, including young people, cannot be made. In Dortmund, the proportion of long-term unemployed has fallen steadily over time to 5.8% in 2020, which aligns with developments in other large cities in NRW with similar populations. The German average was significantly lower at 2.3% in 2020. This trend positively affects the German Sustainability Strategy's goal 8.5.a., "Increase the employment rate to 78% by 2030."



**Employment rate—15- to 64-year-olds** 8.5



The employment rate indicates the share of employees aged 15 to 64 subject to social insurance contributions in the total population of working age (i.e., civil servants, self-employed persons, and marginally employed persons are not included in the statistics). The rate is therefore similar to the overall employment rate across the population, since most of the employed are in this age group. Overall, the rate allows conclusions to be drawn about the social situation of the population. Employment secures individual financial independence and contributes to the future viability of a municipality. In Dortmund, the proportion of people in employment has risen steadily over the period under consideration from 45.2% to 55.6%, and this development reflects the Germany-wide trend, which is, however, somewhat higher with a proportion of 60.9% (2020). This development contributes to the achievement of the German Sustainability Strategy’s goal 8.5.a., “Increase the employment rate to 78% by 2030.”



**Employment rate—55- to 64-year-olds** 8.5



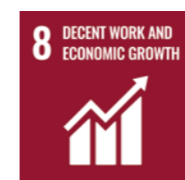
The employment rate indicates the share of employees aged 55 to 64 subject to social insurance as a percentage of the total working-age population and complements the above-mentioned indicator (see “Employment rate—15- to 64-year-olds”). A high employment rate in this age group indicates financial independence and social inclusion, even if demographic change leads to an imbalance between pensioners and contributors in the long term. In Dortmund, the proportion of employees has risen steadily over time from 32.0% to 49.2%; this development also reflects the trend across Germany, which had a slightly higher figure of 55.5% in 2020. The rising trend contributes to the achievement of the German Sustainability Strategy’s target 8.5.b., “Increase the employment rate among older people (from 60 years to the statutory retirement age) to 60% by 2030.”



**Employment rate—foreigner** 10.2



The employment rate of people with a migration background allows conclusions to be drawn about integration into the labor market. A high employment rate of people with a migration background indicates economic and social integration and participation in society and ensures people’s financial independence. However, no statement can be made about the freedom from discrimination of people with a migration background; furthermore, reasons such as legal restrictions on taking up work can influence the employment rate. In Dortmund, the employment rate of people with a migration background in relation to the employment rate in the overall population was 71.7% in 2020, which was below the German national rate of 80.8%. The German Sustainability Strategy does not contain explicit targets for the indicator; the NRW Sustainability Strategy aims to “reduce the poverty risk rate of people with a migration background” in Goal 10.4.



**Employment data** 8.5

	2013	2018	2021
ESI	208,401	239,745	256,915
PART-TIME	55,029	68,747	75,042
SIDE JOB	17,542	17,805	20,703
PLACEMENT/HIRING OUT OF WORKERS	5,539	8,516	7,898
MARGINALLY EMPLOYED	45,579	37,506	32,254
EMPLOYED PERSONS	314,500	320,800	333,000

Number of employed persons by type of employment (provided by the city of Dortmund)

Overall, the indicators for employment allow conclusions to be drawn about the social situation of the population. Employment secures individual financial independence and contributes to the future viability of a municipality. In Dortmund, the number of employees subject to social insurance contributions (ESI) rose steadily over time to 256,915 in 2021, while the total number of people in employment rose to 333,000. In contrast, the number of temporary workers and marginal part-time workers has fallen recently.



**Employed persons receiving unemployment benefit** 8.5



Employed persons who receive unemployment benefits (ALG II) because their income is insufficient to cover their living expenses are referred to as “working poor receiving top-up benefit.” ALG II recipients who supplement their benefits through gainful employment within the legally permissible framework are also considered top-up recipients. If support has to be claimed despite gainful employment, this may indicate structural deficits in the economic sector. Complex entitlement regulations and the time-consuming application process and applicants’ sense of shame suggest that the number of unreported cases is high. In Dortmund, the proportion of people receiving additional benefits has declined slightly, and the figure was 21.3% in 2020, which is close to the most recent national trend (22.8%). The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain any explicit targets for this indicator.

# Indicators



## Highly qualified employees 9.5



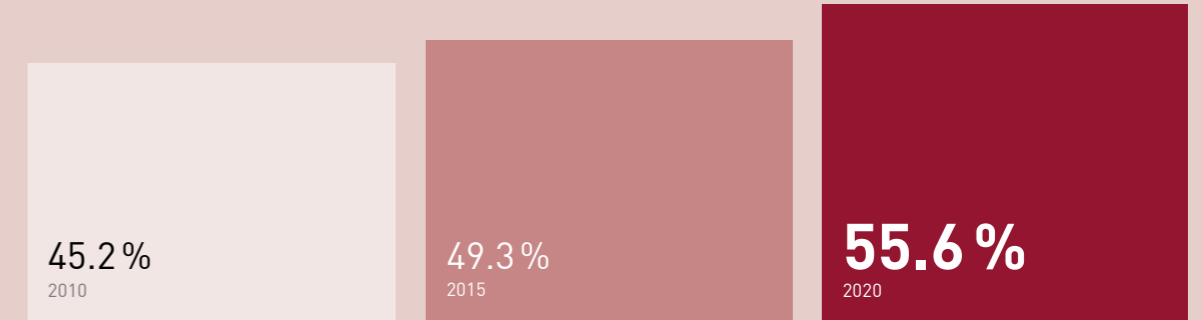
Proportion of employees subject to social insurance contributions with an academic degree among all employees subject to social insurance contributions at the place of work

The proportion of highly qualified people in a municipality has various positive effects. In addition to increasing the economic performance and thus the future viability of municipal companies, the level of qualification also has economic effects—for example, through business tax revenue for the municipality. However, the share says nothing about the actual need for highly qualified people or the required degree of specialization at a location. In Dortmund, the share has risen over time and, at 18.1% in 2020, is above the national average of 17.4%. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain any explicit targets for this indicator.

# Visualization of selected Indicators

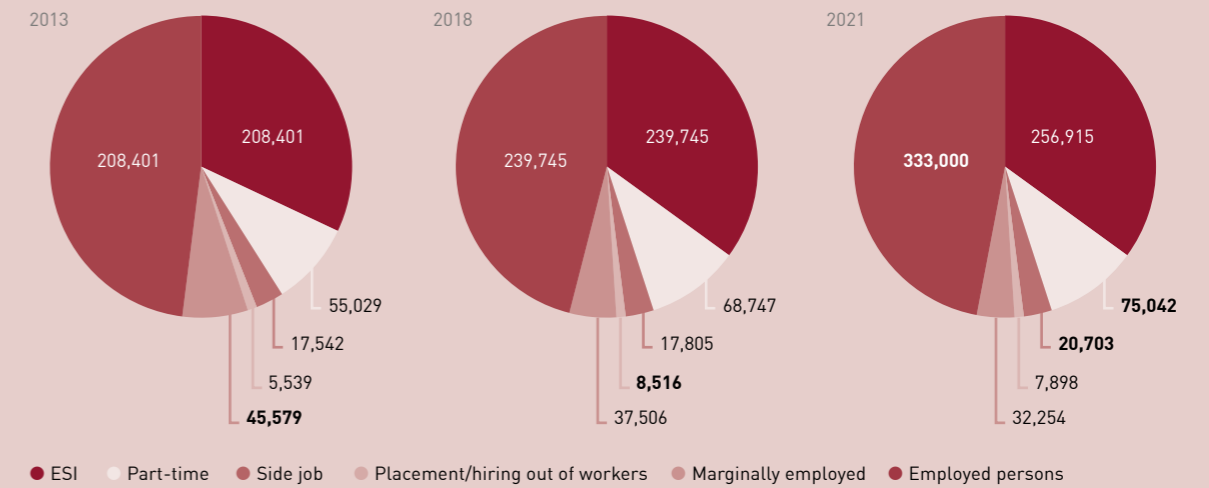
## Employment rate

Proportion of socially insured employees aged 15–64 in the total population of working age



## Employment data

Number of employed persons by type of employment



## Long-term unemployment rate

Proportion of long-term unemployed inhabitants in the labour force



## Highly qualified employees

Proportion of employees subject to social insurance contributions with an academic degree among all employees subject to social insurance contributions at the place of work





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

The field of action Sustainable Consumption and Public Health combines the topics of a sustainable and healthy lifestyle in a municipality. Sustainable consumption characterizes consumer behavior that considers ecological and social aspects when purchasing and using or disposing of products or services. In German municipalities, this involves a change in consumption styles to reduce resource consumption and with a view to the globally equitable distribution of resources. To promote a circular economy, it is necessary to keep resources in use for as long as possible, thus creating a closed cycle. Conscious and sustainable consumption can also have positive effects on personal health. In this respect, ensuring high-quality healthcare for all people, regardless of social status and other factors, is a central task of services of general interest. Because society is aging, care and healthcare are increasingly significant location factors. High-quality medical care and services close to home are therefore of particular importance.

## 3.8



## Sustainable Consumption & Public Health

### Qualitative Aspects

- Local offers for supporting sustainable-consumption and lifestyles
- Sustainable tourism
- Ensuring quality health care
- Health promotion for employees in administration, municipal undertakings and associated companies
- Care and support

### SDG indicators

- Drinking water consumption
- Waste amount
- Premature mortality—females/males
- Hospital care
- Basic care close to home—family doctor/ pharmacy
- Nursing home staff
- Personnel in care services
- Nursing home places
- Immission of air pollutants

### Add-on indicators (City of Dortmund)

- Overweight and obese children

### 12 Sustainable consumption and lifestyles

Sustainable consumption includes consumer behavior that considers environmental and social aspects when purchasing, using, and disposing of products. The City of Dortmund promotes sustainable consumption as part of its sustainable procurement measures. The numerous activities to promote global justice also support sustainable consumption. For example, as part of “[Dortmund promotes fair trade](#)”—an initiative by the Dortmund Action Alliance for Fair Trade—two specific online city guides have been created since 2009. The [digital store finder](#) provides interested parties with an overview of all stores in Dortmund that have included fair trade products in their product range. The store finder is also divided according to city districts. In addition, a [restaurant finder](#) has been published that lists Dortmund restaurateurs who offer fair trade products. Overall, the goal is to bring fair trade products out of their “niche existence” in the short to medium term and to sensitize the population to sustainable consumption. In addition, the “[Buy good Stuff—Fair Fashion Shopping Guide Ruhr Region](#)” lists stores that offer sustainable fashion.

In 2021, the council of the city of Dortmund passed a [resolution on the topic of nutrition and climate](#), which promotes sustainable consumption in the area of nutrition as part of the Dortmund food industry. The resolution includes the topics of local sustainable food systems, sustainable community catering, reduction of food waste, nutrition and climate, food democracy, urban agriculture, nutrition education, and international cooperation in the field of food policy. The civil society initiative “[Lokalgenuss eG—Erzeuger-Verbraucher-Gemeinschaft Dortmund](#)” promotes sustainable food production in the city. Regional farmers are encouraged to join the cooperative, and the products they produce are to become increasingly sustainable over time. Simultaneously, Dortmund consumers are to become members of the Lokalgenuss initiative in order to have opportunities to buy regional goods.

### 8 Sustainable tourism

Dortmund offers various tourist experiences throughout the year and is an attractive city for all target groups. The high proportion of open space—significantly higher than in comparable large cities—is a notable attraction. Thus, the city is characterized by its “green side,” which constitutes approximately half its 280 square kilometers. In addition to the nationally known Westfalenpark and the Dortmund Zoo, other popular attractions include extensive parks, such as the Rombergpark Botanical Garden and the Fredenbaumpark. The Stadtgarten acts as the city’s “green lungs.” The PHOENIX Lake is a prime example of landscape and urban development transformation in a former industrial wasteland. The PHOENIX recreational facility opened in 2011, and the recreational area has become extremely popular.

Since 2017, the [master plan ERLEBNIS.DORTMUND](#) has offered an overarching strategy for Dortmund as a leisure and experience location. The sustainability concept currently being planned for EURO 2024 European Football Championship is an example of the integration of sustainability in tourism-relevant events. The tournament will be held in Germany in 2024, and Dortmund has successfully applied to host the event. The sustainability concept concerns all areas in fan zones (public viewing venues) and public space, including protection of human rights through sustainable tenders and procurements, environmental protection of buildings and areas, sustainable mobility/event traffic, waste management, sustainable catering, inclusion, diversity, and anti-discrimination.

### 3 Ensuring quality healthcare

The Public Health Service is part of the local government and offers specific services in the health sector. For example, the [Dortmund Public Health Department’s coordination office](#) in the health sector has published “[All Around Healthy from A-Z](#),” an overview of Dortmund’s diverse offers of health education. The guide includes courses and information events from numerous

## 3.8

providers on all aspects of health, from healthy eating, stress management, and relaxation to information on medical topics and health sports.

In the health field, the city of Dortmund focuses on strengthening prevention (e.g., municipal prevention strategy to reduce obesity in childhood and adolescence or prevent addictive disorders). For the prevention of childhood accidents, a “round table” was founded in 1998, an association of interested citizens and representatives from various institutions and associations. Through an annual workshop, the work is constantly expanded to include new topics and existing projects are further developed.

The city’s youth welfare office also plays a special role in prevention. From a socio-educational point of view, prevention contributes to young people growing up healthily. As one of its goals for 2020 to 2025, decided by the Committee for Children, Youth and Families, the Youth Welfare Office’s prevention department was tasked with developing a prevention mission statement. The publication “Prevention can only

succeed together” (2017) presents the guiding statements of the department on the understanding of prevention. This mission statement represents the first step in an integrated overall concept in the Youth Welfare Office.

### 3 Health promotion for employees in administration

As a modern service provider, the Dortmund city administration depends on the commitment of its employees. Their motivation, willingness to perform and health are elementary cornerstones for the reliable and sustainable performance of tasks. However, there are new work requirements and increasing stresses and strains. The challenges include more flexible working hours, job changes due to necessary change processes, and rising average age. These challenges are met by occupational health and safety management (OH&S). The following services work closely together in this area and support managers and employees in all matters relating to health: the Occupational Health Service (AMD), the Occupational Safety Service (ASD), the Employee Counseling Service (BS), Occupational Integration Management (BEM), Occupational Health Promotion (BGF), Company Sports (BSP), and the Fire Protection Service (BSD). Overall, this involves the implementation of statutory requirements combined with voluntary services and assistance.

### 3 Care and support

Against the backdrop of progressive demographic change, the focus is increasingly on ensuring sufficient nursing and care. People in need of care and their relatives have access to a comprehensive range of outpatient services and care facilities in Dortmund. The “Dortmund Guide to Care” provides an overview of all providers within the city area. The brochure “Living in old age—information and tips for older people in Dortmund”, published by the city’s social welfare office, also provides a list of all providers and services.



## Overview of contributions

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Sustainable consumption and lifestyles	• “Dortmund promotes fair trade”: Shop finder and restaurant finder	12.1
	• Brochure on sustainable fashion in the Ruhr region: “Buy good Stuff—Fair Fashion Shopping Guide Ruhr Region”	12.1
	• Council resolution on the topic of nutrition and climate Dortmund nutritional turnaround	2.4
	• Initiative Lokalgenuss eG—Producer-Consumer Community	2.4
Sustainable tourism	• Masterplan ERLEBNIS.DORTMUND	8.9
	• Sustainability concept for the EURO 2024	8.9
Ensuring quality health care	• Measures of the health coordination office located in the health department, e.g., guide “All Around Healthy from A to Z”	3.8
	• Round table on prevention of childhood accidents	3.4
	• Prevention unit of the Youth Welfare Office: prevention mission statement (“Prevention can only succeed if we work together”)	4.a
Health promotion for employees in administration	• Occupational health and safety management	3.8
Care and support	• Dortmund Guide to Care	3.8
	• Brochure “Living in old age—information and tips for older people in Dortmund” from the Social Welfare Office	10.2



## Drinking water consumption 12.2

LITERS	2010	2015	2020
	148.6	143.6	169.6

Drinking water consumption in liters per inhabitant per day

Drinking water is one of the most precious resources, especially in view of increasing periods of drought and hot summers. In principle, Germany is a water-rich country, and direct consumption has remained largely constant over recent years. Nevertheless, the provision is associated with energy expenditure and material input, and the indicator does not provide information on the indirect consumption of “virtual water” (“hidden” in the products, services and processes people buy and use). In Dortmund, drinking water consumption was last slightly above the NRW average in 2020, at 162.3 liters per inhabitant per day. It must be considered that in addition to the inhabitants, commuters also contribute to water consumption. For the period 2010 to 2018, data is available at the federal level, which shows a relatively constant consumption of around 126 liters per inhabitant. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain targets for drinking water consumption by private households.



## Waste amount 12.5

TONS	2010	2015	2020
	0.5	0.4	0.5

Amount of waste disposed of per inhabitant

The amount of waste in a municipality and the resulting need for disposal can be directly influenced by individuals through their consumption decisions. Over time, the amount of waste disposed of per inhabitant can be used to draw conclusions about the urgency and necessary scope of waste prevention. Since 2016, the amount of waste per inhabitant per year has been 0.5 tons, which corresponds to the average amount of waste in Germany. The stagnation is to be seen against the background of an increasing number of inhabitants and indicates the consideration of the five-step waste hierarchy of prevention (highest priority according to the Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management Act), preparation for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. The German Sustainability Strategy’s goal 12.1.ba aims to “continuously reduce the global environmental footprint of private household consumption.”



## Premature mortality—females 3.4

NUMBER	2010	2015	2020
	1.1	1.1	1.1

Number of deaths among women under 70 years per 1,000 population

The number of premature deaths among women under 70 years per 1,000 inhabitants can provide information about health risks and problems in the healthcare system. In general, women under 70 are significantly less likely to die than men. Reasons may include career choices, healthier lifestyles, or willingness to undergo preventive checkups. In Dortmund, the development of the indicator is consistent: For every 1,000 women under 70, 1.1 women died prematurely. Compared to the rest of Germany, the most recent value (2020) was 0.9 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. The development in Germany already corresponds to the German Sustainability Strategy’s target 3.1.a, “Reduction to 100 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (women) by 2030.”



## Premature mortality—males 3.4

NUMBER	2010	2015	2020
	2.0	1.9	1.8

Number of deaths among men aged under 70 years per 1,000 population

The indicator for the number of premature deaths among men under 70 per 1,000 inhabitants is the male counterpart to the indicator “premature mortality—females” (see above). In Dortmund, the values decreased from 2.0 in 2010 to 1.8 premature deaths of men per 1,000 inhabitants in 2020. In a national comparison, the value was 1.6 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in 2020. This development corresponds to the German Sustainability Strategy’s goal 3.1.a, “Reduction to 190 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (men) by 2030.”



## Hospital care 3.8

NUMBER	2010	2015	2019
	746.5	662.4	671.1

Number of hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants

Comprehensive hospital care is an essential element of healthcare services. Hospitals must act according to strict economic parameters while guaranteeing high-quality medical care. This can lead to a shortage of supply. Hospital care close to home is showing an increasing urban-rural divide due to rationalization measures. In Dortmund, the number of beds per 100,000 inhabitants has increased slightly over time (671.1 beds in 2019). The average number of hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants in Germany shows lower figures over time, with 594.4 in 2019. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain explicit targets for this indicator.



## Basic care close to home—family doctor 3.8

	2011	2015	2020	
METERS	566.0	567.0	n/a	Inhabitant-weighted linear distance to the nearest family doctor

In the event of acute illness, the rapid and immediate accessibility of the family doctor is crucial. In principle, working people, families with children, and older people benefit particularly from basic health care close to home and accessible at low cost. In addition to the social factors mentioned above, demographic and economic structures (urban-rural divide) play a particularly important role in the density of care provided by family doctors. The higher the population density, the greater the number of primary care physicians close to home. In Dortmund, the population-weighted linear distance to the nearest family doctor was 567.0 meters in 2015; more current data or comparative values at the federal or state level are not available. The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia also do not contain explicit targets for this indicator.



## Basic care close to home—pharmacy 3.8

	2010	2015	2017	
METERS	n/a	n/a	569.0	Population-weighted linear distance to the nearest pharmacy

Short distances to pharmacies are as important as proximity to the general practitioner or hospital. The number of pharmacies is influenced by the demographic structures of a region, the urban/rural divide, and competition from the free market economy (including new digital retail outlets). Due to a lack of data, it is not possible to make statements on the development of basic care close to homes in Dortmund. Only one value from 2017 is available, which indicates a resident-weighted linear distance of 569.0 meters to the nearest pharmacy. This value is significantly lower than the national average of 1,248.0 meters (2017). The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW also do not contain explicit targets for the indicator.



## Nursing home staff 3.8

	2010	2015	2020	
NUMBER	776.6	858.4	833.5	Personnel in nursing homes per 10,000 inpatients in need of care

In view of demographic developments, the number of people in need of care is rising steadily, and people's increasing life expectancy is leading to a longer average duration of care. Both developments pose considerable personnel and financial challenges for the German healthcare system in its current form. The number of full-time equivalents per 10,000 people in need of care has fallen slightly over time in Dortmund to 833.5 (2020), almost mirroring the national German average (832.2 full-time equivalents 2020). The sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain explicit targets for personnel in nursing homes.



## Personnel in care services 3.8

	2010	2015	2020	
NUMBER	0.18	0.24	0.17	Personnel in outpatient care services per person in need of care

Due to demographic change, demand for healthcare services is rising continuously, and people's increasing life expectancy is leading to a longer average duration of care. This situation is reflected above all in the demand for outpatient care services. To guarantee quality outpatient care in Germany and maintain the care system, better working conditions must be created by reducing personnel burdens. In Dortmund, the trend is downward. In 2020, there were 0.17 employees (full-time positions) per person in need of care. In 2015, there were still 0.24 employees. This development is nevertheless slightly above the trend in Germany (0.14 employees per person in need of care in 2020), which indicates a need for action in nursing professions. However, the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia do not contain explicit targets for this indicator.



## Nursing home places 3.8

	2010	2015	2020	
NUMBER	44.8	51.6	50.3	Number of available inpatient places in nursing homes per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and over

The number of available inpatient places in nursing homes plays a key role given the major staffing and financial challenges in the German healthcare system. Demographic change is leading to changes in the demand for nursing home places. In addition, some social needs require nursing home places close to home, enabling regular family visits and social contacts. In Dortmund, a slight decrease in nursing home places is discernible (50.3 available places in 2020). Nationally, there was a slight increase to 53.6 nursing home places per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and over in 2020. The increasing demand requires an expansion of nursing home places, but the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not contain explicit targets for this indicator.



## Overweight and obese children 3.4

	2017	2018	2019	
OVERWEIGHT	14.10 %	13.00 %	13.30 %	Overweight and obese children in Dortmund at the time of school entry examinations (provided by the city of Dortmund)
OBESE	5.82 %	5.88 %	5.29 %	

In Dortmund, every 8th child with a BMI of over 25 is considered overweight at the time of the school entry examination (2019: 13.3%). Furthermore, almost every 20th child is obese (2019: 5.29%), with a BMI of 30 or more, a value above the state average (2019: 4.64%).



## Indicators



### Immission of air pollutants 3.9

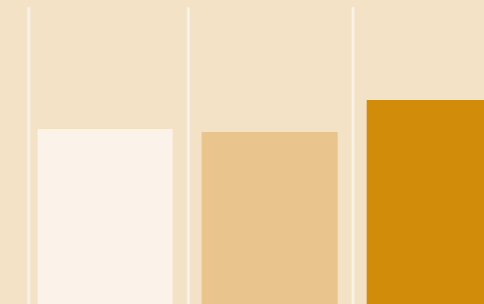
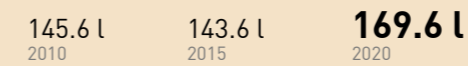


The indicator “Immission of air pollutants” describes the impact of disturbance factors on people or the natural environment. Particularly high levels occur in energy generation, road traffic, agriculture, and industry. Particulate matter (PM) is considered harmful to health and is a burden primarily in densely populated areas. Limit values are set by the European Union and the World Health Organization. In Dortmund, the concentration of particulate matter (PM10)—particles with a maximum diameter of 10 micrometers in the outdoor area in 2019 was 14.6 µg / m³. Comparative values at the federal or state level are not available. The German Sustainability Strategy formulates in goal 3.2.b the “achievement of the WHO guideline value for particulate matter of 20 micrograms/cubic meter for PM10 as an annual average, if possible, across the whole country by 2030.” Since 2021, the WHO has recommended compliance with a value of 15 µg / m³. The city of Dortmund fell below this limit value in 2019.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

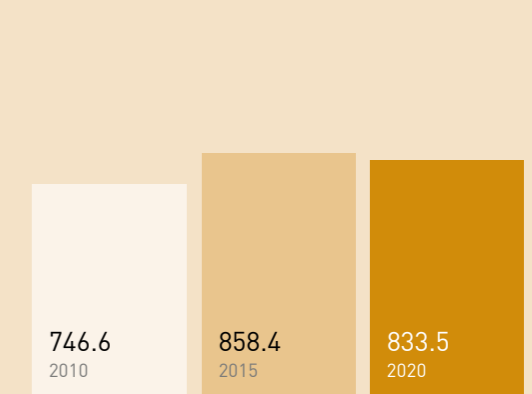
### Drinking water consumption

Drinking water consumption in liters per inhabitant per day



### Hospital care

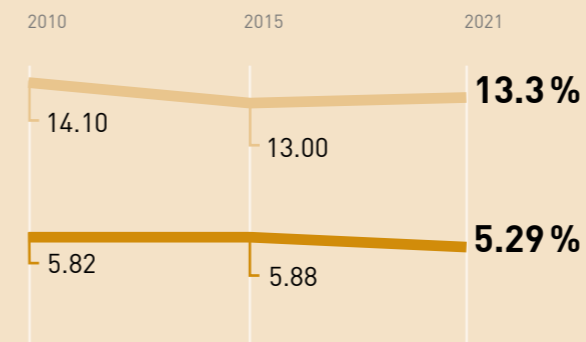
Number of hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants



### Overweight and obese children

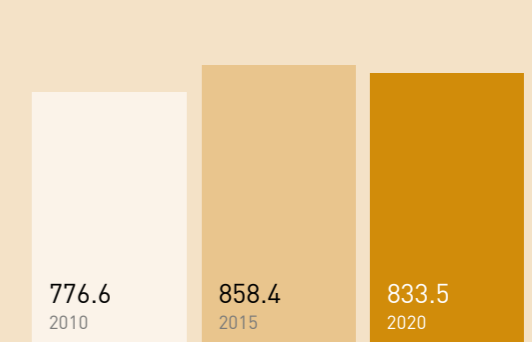
Overweight and obese children in Dortmund at the time of school entry examinations

● Overweight ● Obese



### Nursing home staff

Personnel in nursing homes per 10,000 inpatients in need of care





### General Introduction to the Field of Action

Individuals, organizations, and communities act in a globally responsible manner if they are committed to equal opportunities or participatory justice, a fair global distribution of goods, peaceful development, the preservation of the environment and the protection of resources. Therefore, assuming global responsibility means ensuring that our actions and economic activities do not harm people in other regions. Against this background, the field of action Global Responsibility and One World covers various topics, including cooperation through networks and partnerships, local approaches to promoting global justice (e.g., through fair trade, promoting a sense of communal responsibility, and municipal development cooperation. For example, the exchange of knowledge between the global North and South in the context of city and project partnerships contributes to an increased understanding of different living conditions.

## 3.9



## Global Responsibility & One World

### Qualitative Aspects

- Promoting sustainability through intermunicipal cooperation in the home country
- Local cooperation for global justice
- International municipal development cooperation

### SDG indicators

- Fairtrade-Town
- Fairtrade-Schools

### 17 Promoting sustainability through intermunicipal cooperation in the home country

Domestically, Dortmund maintains various co-operations and partnerships to promote sustainable development. In 2013, the Ruhr region became the first large region in Germany to be awarded the title "Fair Metropolis." Twenty-one cities and municipalities, plus the district of Wesel, have a share in this. Their designation as Fairtrade city and Fairtrade district has paved the way for the designation of the entire Ruhr region. Today, 4.5 million people in the Metropole Ruhr live in a Fairtrade Town or a Fairtrade District. Within the framework of the FaireMetropole Ruhr network, there is a regular exchange of knowledge and experience on the topics of fair trade, sustainable procurement, and across the board on the implementation of the Global Sustainability Goals in the Metropole Ruhr. Dortmund is a founding member of the network, which bundles the activities of civil society, church and municipal actors around the One World commitment and fair trade in the Ruhr region. The network advises and accompanies local actors, provides educational offers, networks, and offers best practice examples to anchor the ideas of fair trade and fair public procurement more firmly in the Ruhr region. A current project is the "Charter Fair Metropolis Ruhr 2030."

Another example is the Aplerbeck elementary school's Erasmus project, "From Climate Awareness to Climate Action," which has been running since 2020. This project develops and shares best practices through the development of a "climate curriculum" for elementary schools to integrate the topics of "climate change" and "sustainability" into everyday school life. The curriculum can be flexibly adapted to meet the needs of each school. Best practices, resources, and training are shared between the partner schools.

### 17 Local cooperation for global justice

Dortmund has been committed to global justice for many years and is one of the most committed municipalities in Germany in this respect,

performing a role model function. The city has won many awards in the "Capital of Fair Trade" competitions organized by the Service Agency Communities in One World (2003, 2005, 2009, 2015, 2017). Fair trade promotes global justice by improving trading conditions and securing social rights for producers and workers, especially in the countries of the Global South. Dortmund was the first city in the Ruhr region to participate in the Fairtrade Towns campaign and was awarded the status of Fairtrade Town in 2009. Municipalities receive the award from the association TransFair e.V. (Fairtrade Germany) if they meet defined criteria for implementing fair trade. Due to the many projects and actions the city has carried out recently, Dortmund has been recertified in 2021 and will hold the title for another two years. A steering group consisting of Dortmund "Action Alliance Fair Trade" members works continuously to implement city district awards and recertification. The Action Alliance is a voluntary association for the promotion of fair trade. It includes around 70 partners from world groups, churches, schools, trade, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, associations, and municipal departments. The alliance has made a significant contribution to Dortmund's successes in promoting global justice.

Germany's sustainability fair has been held in Dortmund since 2010, first as the FAIR fair, and then as the FAIR FRIENDS fair, evolving into Germany's largest fair trade fair in 2019. In the three core areas of "Sustainable Lifestyles," "Fair Trade," and "Social Responsibility," the fair brings together different target groups in one place, creates networking opportunities and promotes exchange and dialog on sustainable topics. In 2022, end consumers of all ages could learn about fair and sustainable product alternatives from many exhibitors. Expert contributions, projects, and sustainability approaches from initiatives, start-ups, and larger companies were presented. A diverse lecture and workshop program and various activities made the fair an effective communication platform for sustainability. In 2022, "Fair Friends" was held as part of the "Sustainable Days." This initiative combines various event formats. In addition to the FAIR FRIENDS trade

fair, these include the “Sustainable Procurement” specialist day, the “Impact Friends” start-up congress, and the “German Freight Bike Congress.”

In addition to the Fairtrade Town campaign, Dortmund also supports the Fairtrade Schools and Fair day care centres (German: KITA) campaigns. In 2021, eight schools were certified as Fairtrade Schools in Dortmund. In 2017, the city council decided that all FABIDO (Family Complementary Educational Institutions for Children in Dortmund) municipal daycare centers should strive for the “FaireKITA” certificate. Eighty-five municipal FABIDO daycare centers have since been certified as “Faire KITA.” As a provider, FABIDO has been certified as a “Fair Provider.” FABIDO is thus the second daycare provider in Germany to be certified as a “Fair Agency.” Overall, the expansion to “Fair KITAS” has supported the development of education for sustainable development in the FABIDO daycare centers. The obligatory educational projects have sharpened children’s and professionals’ views of, for example, their consumer behavior and global interrelationships. In 2022, the Fair KITAS Dortmund and FABIDO were honored as a Fair Agency at the FAIR Friends trade fair.

**17 International municipal development cooperation**

As an internationally oriented city, Dortmund maintains numerous relationships with partners around the world. The international cooperation of municipalities has become increasingly



important. As a cross-sectional function within the topics of international affairs, Europe, and sustainability, Dortmund has therefore established a position for the coordination of global city diplomacy (urban diplomacy), in which it is active at all levels (municipalities, state, federal government, Europe, and worldwide). “Urban Diplomacy” describes a complex field of activity including, among other things, engagement in city partnerships and project partnerships and the occupation of topics in development and economic policy. Dortmund is the first municipality in Germany to dedicate itself explicitly to the topic of urban diplomacy with a position for the coordination of global city diplomacy.

Dortmund also maintains numerous international project partnerships. The goal is cooperation on an equal footing, with added value for partners based on reciprocity and promoting the implementation of sustainability goals in the relevant countries or regions. The participating municipalities look for topics on which both are working and offer mutual support in finding solutions. Dortmund’s most important project partnerships are briefly presented below. As part of a climate partnership, the cities of Dortmund and Kumasi, Ghana, are working on the topic of climate adaptation. Both have similar challenges regarding urban climatic changes and are currently working on developing a city-wide climate adaptation concept. A project partnership was initiated with the city of Dabola in Guinea, focusing on waste disposal and prevention. Dortmund also maintains a municipal project partnership with the city of Dura, Palestine. Within the framework of the partnership, numerous initiatives have been established in the areas of waste disposal, social work, IT equipment, and medical care. The mayors of Dortmund and Pittsburgh, USA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 09.09.2022 to lead an innovation and climate partnership. Both cities are connected by a similar structural change, and contact between both actors has existed for more than 20 years. Currently, there are exchanges on climate technologies, such as the municipal application of hydrogen, and also on the topic of the food system change, offering many avenues for cooperation at

the administration, science, and business levels. Within the framework of various projects such as the International Urban and Regional Cooperation program of the EU Commission (IURC) or the Transatlantic Climate Bridge, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection, further cooperation is being supported and expanded. There is also an exchange with the city of Vancouver in Canada on the previously mentioned topics. As part of a trilateral alliance between Dortmund, Pittsburgh, and Vancouver, specialist events have been organized, with topics including food and emission-free inner cities, and these are to be continued in the future. In addition, the International Relations team at the

City of Dortmund has been coordinating municipal development cooperation since 2018. The focus of the BMZ-funded project “Coordination of Municipal Development Policy” in Dortmund (KEPOL) is to strengthen global sustainability goals at the local level. The aim is to implement the Global Sustainability Goals and make them tangible through events, targeted networking, and the institutionalization of development policy dialogs with various groups in Dortmund. One focus of the project is the topic of global supply chains and the identification of sustainable alternatives in food/agriculture and energy. In addition, the Dortmund city population is to be sensitized to North-South connections.

**Overview of contributions**

Aspect	Contribution	Allocation to SDG Targets
Promoting sustainability through intermunicipal cooperation in the home country	• Network FairMetropolis Ruhr	12.7
	• Erasmus Project “From Climate Awareness to Climate Action”	13.3
Local cooperation for global justice	• Capital of Fair Trade	12.1
	• Fairtrade Town Certification	12.1
	• Dortmund “Fair Trade Action Alliance”	12.1
	• FAIR FRIENDS Fair	12.1
	• Fairtrade Schools certifications	12.8
	• “FaireKITA”—Certification of all FABIDO (Family Complementary Educational Institutions for Children in Dortmund) municipal day care centers	12.8
International municipal development cooperation	• Office for the Coordination of Global Urban Diplomacy—Urban Diplomacy	17.16
	• International project partnerships, e.g., Kumasi (Ghana), Dabola (Guinea), Dura (Palestine)	17.6
	• Coordination for Municipal Development Cooperation (KEPOL)	17.3

## Indicators



### Fairtrade-Town 12.1



The award "Fairtrade Town" is a Fairtrade Deutschland e.V. certification, which recognizes municipal commitment to fair trade products (at fair minimum prices for the producer). Municipalities, districts, or regions must meet certain criteria (existing council resolution, establishing a steering group, Fairtrade products offered by local retailers, involvement of civil society and existing public relations work). The award must be recertified every two years. By 2021, Dortmund had received five awards as a Fairtrade Town. No comparable data is available at the federal and state levels of NRW, and the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not include targets on the status of the awards.



### Fairtrade-Schools 12.1

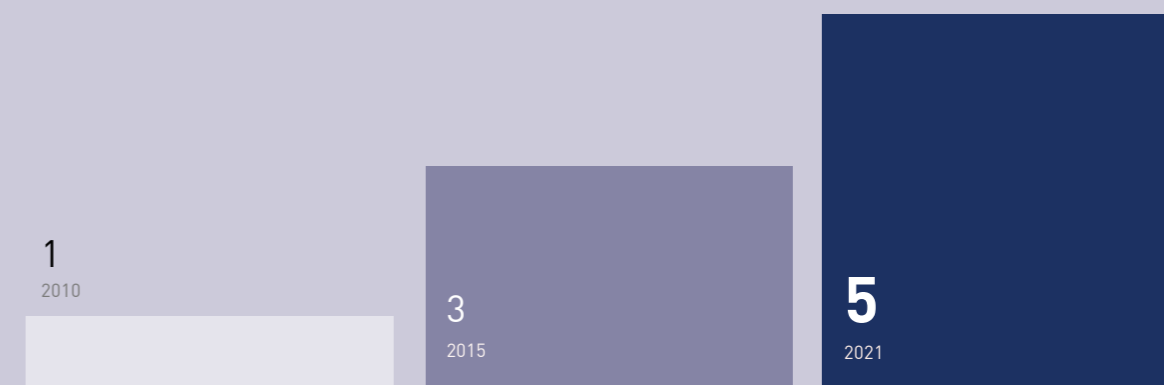


The award "Fairtrade School" is a Fairtrade Deutschland e.V. certification, which honors the school's commitment to fair-traded products at fair minimum prices for the producer. The award can be obtained by any school in Germany. The following criteria must be met: Establishment of a school team, creation of a "Fairtrade Compass", offering of fair trade products, fair trade as an integral part of teaching, and events and public relations work on the topic of Fairtrade. The award must be recertified every two years. In Dortmund, nine schools have been certified. No data is available at the federal and state levels of NRW, and the sustainability strategies of the federal government and the state of NRW do not include targets for the status of the award.

## Visualization of selected Indicators

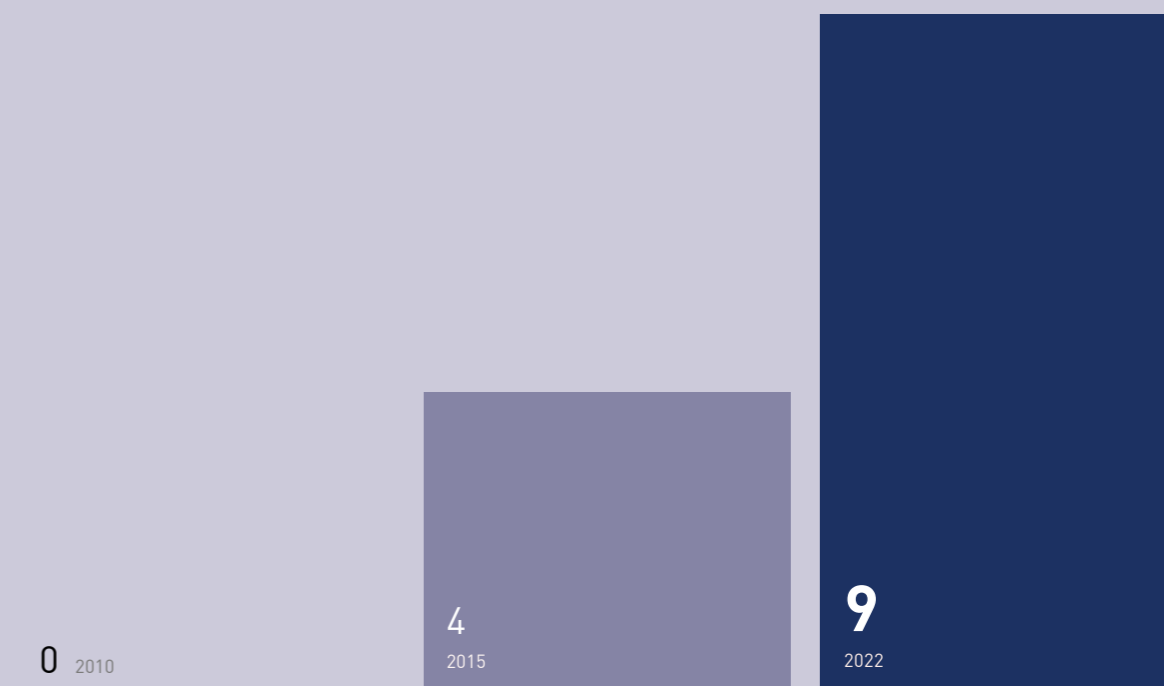
### Fairtrade Town

Number of times the municipality has been awarded Fairtrade Town status



### Fairtrade Schools

Number of awarded Fairtrade Schools



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## Overview: Allocation of the Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals and their Targets





**Sustainable Development Goal**

**Targets**



**SDG 1**—End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty
- 1.2 Reduce relative poverty
- 1.3 Implement social protection systems and policies, achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 Ensure equal rights to economic and other resources
- 1.5 Increase resilience of poor people (to environmental, economic and social shocks/disasters)
- 1.a Mobilize resources for developing countries to implement programs/policies to end poverty
- 1.b Establish policy frameworks at regional, national, and international levels to eradicate poverty



**SDG 2**—End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1 End hunger, ensure access to food
- 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition
- 2.3 Double agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Ensure sustainability of food production and use of resilient agricultural practices
- 2.5 Preserve genetic diversity of seeds, crops, domestic/domestic animals (as well as wild relatives)
- 2.a Invest to improve agricultural production capacity in developing countries
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in global agricultural markets
- 2.c Take measures to ensure the functioning of food commodity markets and facilitate access to market information



**SDG 3**—Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 Reduce maternal mortality
- 3.2 Reduce newborn and child mortality
- 3.3 Combat communicable diseases
- 3.4 Reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases, promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse
- 3.6 Halve deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes globally
- 3.7 Ensure access to sexual/reproductive health care / inclusion of reproductive health in national strategies
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage/access to health services and essential medicines/vaccines for all
- 3.9 Reduce deaths and illnesses from chemicals and pollution of environmental assets
- 3.a Strengthen the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- 3.b Support research and development and access to vaccines and medicines
- 3.c Increase health financing/education and training of health workers in developing countries
- 3.d Strengthen early warning, risk reduction and management of health risks



**SDG 4**—Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.1 Ensure free and quality schooling for all students
- 4.2 Ensure access to quality early childhood education and care
- 4.3 Ensure access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.
- 4.4 Ensure sufficient skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 Ensure equal opportunities and equal access to all levels of education and training
- 4.6 Minimize the number of illiterate people
- 4.7 Improve knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development
- 4.a Develop safe, inclusive and effective educational institutions
- 4.b Increase the number of available higher education scholarships for developing countries
- 4.c Increase supply of qualified teachers in developing countries



**SDG 5**—Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

- 5.1 End discrimination against women/girls
- 5.2 Eliminate violence against women/girls
- 5.3 Eliminate child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, and genital mutilation of women/girls
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.5 Ensure participation and equal opportunities for women in leadership roles at all levels
- 5.6 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- 5.a Implement reforms to create equity in access to economic and other resources
- 5.b Improve use of enabling technologies to promote women’s empowerment
- 5.c Strengthen sound policies/legislation for gender equality and women’s empowerment

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**Targets**



**SDG 6**—Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 Achieve access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all
- 6.3 Improve water quality
- 6.4 Increase efficiency of water use, reduce water scarcity
- 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management
- 6.6 Protect and restore water-connected ecosystems
- 6.a Expand international cooperation and assistance to developing countries on water and sanitation issues
- 6.b Increase participation of local communities in sustainable water management and sanitation.



**SDG 7**—Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 7.1 Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 Increase the share of renewable energies
- 7.3 Increase energy efficiency
- 7.a Increase international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology
- 7.b Improve infrastructure/technology in developing countries to provide sustainable energy services



**SDG 8**—Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth
- 8.2 Achieve higher economic productivity through diversification, modernization and innovation
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies to support decent work, entrepreneurship and innovation
- 8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption & production, strive to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- 8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work and equal pay for work of equal value for all
- 8.6 Reduce proportion of young people out of employment and education/vocational training
- 8.7 Take action against forced and child labor, slavery and human trafficking
- 8.8 Protect labor rights and promote workplace safety
- 8.9 Develop and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism
- 8.10 Strengthen capacity of national financial institutions to promote access to financial/insurance services
- 8.a Increase aid for trade to developing countries
- 8.b Develop global strategy for youth employment and implement Global Jobs Pact



**SDG 9**—Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

- 9.1 Build resilient and sustainable infrastructure to promote economic development and human well-being
- 9.2 Promote sustainable industrialization and increase industry’s share of employment and GDP
- 9.3 Increase access to financial services for small industrial and other enterprises
- 9.4 Modernize infrastructures and retrofit industries in a sustainable manner
- 9.5 Improve research and build technological capacity of industrial sectors
- 9.a Support developing countries to develop sustainable infrastructures
- 9.b Support indigenous technology development, research and innovation in developing countries
- 9.c Expand access to information and communication technology and provide access to Internet



**SDG 10**—Reduce income inequality within and among countries

- 10.1 Achieve income growth of the poorest population
- 10.2 Promote empowerment and inclusion of all people
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequalities
- 10.4 Take policy action to increase equality
- 10.5 Improve regulation and supervision of global financial markets and institutions
- 10.6 Strengthen the voice of developing countries in decision-making in international economic and financial institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly and safe migration and mobility, implement managed migration policies
- 10.a Apply principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries
- 10.b Promote development assistance and financial flows in developing countries
- 10.c Reduce transaction costs for migrants’ home remittances

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**Targets**



**SDG 11**—Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

- 11.1 Ensure affordable, safe and adequate housing and basic services for all
- 11.2 Provide access to sustainable transportation systems for all, increase road safety
- 11.3 Implement integrated sustainable urban development
- 11.4 Improve protection and preservation of the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 Improve disaster prevention
- 11.6 Reduce environmental impact of cities
- 11.7 Ensure access to green spaces and public spaces for all
- 11.a Through enhanced higher-level development planning, support linkages between cities and communities
- 11.b Develop sustainable urban development policies in more cities and towns, and a holistic disaster risk management
- 11.c Support developing countries in constructing sustainable and resilient buildings



**SDG 12**—Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1 Initiate measures for sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 12.2 Achieve sustainable management and use of natural resources
- 12.3 Halve food waste and reduce food losses
- 12.4 Ensure environmentally sound disposal of waste and chemicals
- 12.5 Reduce waste generation
- 12.6 Encourage businesses to use sustainable process techniques and reporting
- 12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement
- 12.8 Ensure information and awareness of sustainable development among all people
- 12.a Assist developing countries in transitioning to sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 12.b Develop monitoring tools for the impacts of sustainable tourism and support
- 12.c Reduce fossil fuel subsidies, taking into account the special needs of developing countries



**SDG 13**—Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy

- 13.1 Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change
- 13.2 Integrate climate protection measures into national policies
- 13.3 Improve education and human and institutional capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- 13.a Provide financial support for climate change mitigation activities in developing countries
- 13.b Enhance climate change planning and management capacity for developing countries



**SDG 14**—Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution
- 14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- 14.4 Implement sustainable fisheries mechanisms
- 14.5 Contribute to the conservation of coastal and marine areas
- 14.6 Prohibit forms of fisheries subsidies that lead to excessive and illegal fishing
- 14.7 Increase economic benefits through sustainable use of marine resources for developing countries
- 14.a Deepen scientific knowledge to improve ocean health and increase biodiversity
- 14.b Ensure access of small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Improve conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**Targets**



**SDG 15**—Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- 15.1 Ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems
- 15.2 Promote sustainable management of all forest types
- 15.3 Combat desertification and neutralize land degradation
- 15.4 Preserve mountain ecosystems
- 15.5 Reduce degradation of natural habitats, end biodiversity loss
- 15.6 Promote equitable sharing and adequate access to genetic resources
- 15.7 End poaching and trade in protected plant and animal species
- 15.8 Prevent introduction of invasive alien species
- 15.9 Incorporate ecosystem and biodiversity values into policies
- 15.a Increase financial resources for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation
- 15.b Increase financial resources for sustainable forest management and provide incentives for developing countries to do so
- 15.c Combat poaching and trade in protected species



**SDG 16**—Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.1 Reduce violence and violence-related mortality
- 16.2 End violence against children
- 16.3 Promote rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
- 16.4 Combat organized crime, reduce illicit financial and arms flows
- 16.5 Reduce corruption
- 16.6 Build effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- 16.7 Ensure participatory decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Increase participation of developing countries in global governance institutions
- 16.9 Ensure legal identity for all people
- 16.10 Ensure access to information and protect fundamental freedoms
- 16.a Prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Implement non-discriminatory legislation and policies



**SDG 17**—Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

**Financing**

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic tax collection resources in developing countries
- 17.2 Fulfill development aid commitments
- 17.3 Mobilize additional resources for development assistance
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in dealing with indebtedness
- 17.5 Implement investment promotion schemes for developing countries

**Technology**

- 17.6 Expand cooperation for knowledge transfer
- 17.7 Promote development, transfer and dissemination of sustainable technologies in developing countries
- 17.8 Systematize cooperation for science/technology/innovation; introduce global mechanism for introduce global mechanism for technology promotion

**Capacity building**

- 17.9 Increase international support for capacity building in developing countries

**Trade**

- 17.10 Promote open, equitable, and rules-based global trading system
- 17.11 Increase exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Achieve tariff/quota-free market access for developing countries

**Systemic issues**

- 17.13 Improve global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Improve policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15 Respect national sovereignty in implementing sustainability policies
- 17.16 Expand global (multi-actor) partnerships for sustainable development
- 17.17 Promote formation of public, public-private and civil society partnerships
- 17.18 Increase capacity building for data availability in developing countries
- 17.19 Develop measures of sustainable development progress, support statistical capacity building in developing countries



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## Conclusion and Outlook



## 5.1

### Conclusion and Outlook

Municipal sustainability reporting fulfills three essential functions. First, it is a tool for analysis—a stocktaking of the status quo with regard to activities and developments in the municipality. Second, it serves as a communication tool considering different audiences at distinct levels (such as the public and politics on local, national, and international levels). Third, it has a steering function, reflecting on actual developments and adapting current and future activities (such as revising a Sustainability Strategy.) This Voluntary Local Review submitted to the UN will, in principle, promote all of these benefits.

The report contributes to the growing global VLR movement, with more and more municipalities producing an assessment of their progress implementing SDGs. This complements the official national reporting by UN member states by highlighting practical experiences from the concrete implementation level of municipalities. In the “Decade of Action” for sustainable development, this joint action is urgently needed.

The VLR used the Reporting Frame Sustainable Municipality, a standardized structure for local sustainability reporting that is currently promoted in Germany. In the Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia project, all five VLRS (Düsseldorf, Bonn, Münster, Dortmund, and Arnsberg) were developed based on this structure. Hence, this report contributes to establishing a more coherent reporting format in German municipalities. The present work shows how the global framework of the 2030 Agenda can be successfully localized with regard to qualitatively structuring the thematic

fields in municipalities and applying suitable quantitative indicators for this level. With the combination of reporting the activities in the municipality (integrated or sectoral strategies and concepts, measures, projects, resolutions of the city council, specific goals, collaborations, networks, and organizational structures) and recent developments through indicators, this report highlights the status quo of sustainable development comprehensively.

Several guidelines on VLRS (cf. chapter 1) highlight that the emphasis in reporting local contributions to the 2030 Agenda should be on the process itself rather than the outcome. In this sense, the process of preparing this review has contributed to the localization of the SDGs—for example, in supporting horizontal coordination in the municipality. The VLR process represents a journey that does not end with the report. The report enables a stocktaking of the progress and shortcomings in the local SDG implementation, and the findings can be considered in existing and future implementation efforts.

Overall, this report underlines the crucial role of municipalities in the global implementation of the 17 SDGs. It demonstrates that contributions to most of the 169 SDG targets can be made at the local level. In this regard, the report supports claims in the literature that at least 65% of the targets cannot be reached without the full engagement of municipalities. The yearly growing VLR community underlines this role. However, VLRS must become more systematically involved in the respective national reporting tools in the future. If many more municipalities report their contributions in the forthcoming years and the link between national and local reporting becomes stronger, the 2030 Agenda can be jointly implemented at all levels in the Decade of Action.

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# Appendix



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## Short Portrait— Service Agency Communities in One World



### Who we are—the Service Agency Communities in One World

The Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) is a programme of Engagement Global. It is your partner for all issues related to municipal development cooperation in Germany. Since 2001, the Service Agency is available to municipalities as a service and consultation institution on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The focus is on future issues as municipal partnerships, migration and Development, Global Sustainability Municipalities-Localising SDGs and fair trade and fair procurement.

The Service Agency supports actors in administrations, local politics and civil society to shape their engagement in municipal development cooperation. It implements pilot projects and offers financial and professional support. With the aim of strengthening municipal partnerships, the Service Agency offers a dialogue platform to exchange experiences and jointly develop local solutions to global issues for municipalities from Germany and countries of the Global South.

### The Support project Global Sustainability Municipalities

The project Global Sustainability Municipalities supports municipalities in implementing the strategic integration of the SDGs. The daily actions of municipalities should be following the principals of the Agenda 2030—aiming to implement an eco-economic, social and ecologic sustainable development locally by taking global responsibility as well.

To be able to achieve this a key element is the development of an integrated sustainability strategy for municipalities in the context of the 2030 Agenda, as implemented in the “Global Sustainable Municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia”

project. The anchoring of sustainability on all levels is a condition for visionary municipal development. The municipality prepares itself for the future and can thus use cost and efficiency advantages. Support services are provided throughout this processes, by carrying out inventories, advising on how relevant municipal actors (e.g. from politics, administration, civil society, companies, science) can best be involved and in sustainability management and its long-term establishment. This offer is being implemented in currently 10 federal states in Germany, with 171 municipalities taking part.

In addition to sustainability strategies and reporting, we offer the following support:

- Conferences to discuss and exchange possible actions to implement the 2030 Agenda in German municipalities;
- Support for the implementation of Agenda 2030 events in the municipalities (e.g. event series, information campaigns, dialogue processes);
- Information materials such as the SDG fact sheets, studies, SDG posters, SDG flags, municipal practical examples and flyers;
- Support in co-signing the specimen resolution “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Shaping sustainability at the local level” and networking with other municipalities;

#### More information:

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/municipalities-for-global-sustainability.html>

## Short Portrait Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia (LAG 21 NRW e. V.)



### Who we are, where we come from

The Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia (LAG 21 NRW e. V.) is an independent network of municipalities and civil society associations, unions and actors in North Rhine-Westphalia that provides strategic support for local sustainability processes and implements them in a practice-oriented manner through education, consulting, projects and campaigns. In dialogue, we rely on the involvement of politics, administration, civil society, science and business to meet the social, ecological and economic requirements of sustainable development. In our actions, we are committed to Agenda 21 and the resolutions of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, and since 2016 to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In doing so, we are guided by the model of Strong Sustainability, which focuses on the limits of the planet Earth (planetary boundaries) as a guideline for human action.

The network's origins lie in the worldwide Local Agenda 21 movement, which creates solutions for central issues of socially, ecologically, and economically just development at the local level according to the guiding principle “Think globally, act locally.” In 2001, LAG 21 NRW was founded as a municipal network to enable an exchange of content and undertake statewide projects and campaigns together with local sustainability initiatives. We have helped professionalize Agenda 21 processes and anchor them more firmly in politics and administration. Within the NRW Sustainability Network framework, we have developed into a central point of contact for local sustainability both statewide and nationally and see the network as a moderator and shaper, facilitating the transformation process of sustainable development through discourse.

### How we work

We believe a transformation toward sustainable development can only be achieved through a process in which civil society, politics, administration, science, and business can participate on an equal footing. Therefore, we strive to initiate and accompany lasting change processes through discourse, dialogue, consulting processes, projects, campaigns, and our research work. We focus our work locally, regionally, and nationwide and contribute our experience to national and international processes. We make the methods and results of our work transparently available.

### What we offer

We support, advise, and accompany municipalities and civil society actors in the development and implementation of sectoral and integrated sustainability strategies and reports. Through our research work, we also teach children, young people, and adults the skills to shape sustainable development and contribute to the targeted transfer of knowledge. We bring together stakeholders and initiate participation processes to firmly anchor sustainability goals in society.

We believe that current and future challenges cannot be met with the problem-solving strategies of the past. Climate change, species extinction, population development, growth and prosperity, and a socially and environmentally compatible economy require a new, systemic, and cross-cutting approach to thinking and acting.

### Have we stirred your interest?

You can find more information at [www.lag21.de](http://www.lag21.de), or you can contact Dr. Klaus Reuter directly at [k.reuter@lag21.de](mailto:k.reuter@lag21.de), tel. +49-231-936960.

