Activities in North-Rhine Westphalia to implement the 2030 Agenda

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North-Rhine Westphalia in Brief

**NRW 2015**

- Area: 34,110 km²
- Population: 17.6 mn
- Population density: 517/km²
- GDP: EUR 645.6 bn
- GDP per capita: EUR 36,509
- Real growth: 0%
- Working Population: 9.2 mn

Largest German State in terms of population and GDP
Structure of economy

• Successful structural transformation from coal and steel to technology and services
• Renowned companies from the energy sector, the chemical industry, trade, telecommunication, postal services, media, manufacturing, automobile industry, air transport, building, food
• 18 of 50 Germany’s biggest companies with headquarters in NRW
  • more than 750,000 small and medium-sized companies
• High share for energy consumption (30 % of German total) and resource consumption

Starting Points for Sustainable Development

- after Rio Conference 1992 many Local Agenda 21 processes in local communities in NRW
- Agenda 21 process on regional level regional level 2000-2005
- Fresh start for a regional Sustainability Process in NRW in 2010/2012:

„Sustainability is our guiding principle. This means for us combining ecological responsibility and economic sense closely with social justice.“

(Coalition Treaty NRW 2012-2017)
References

- 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- EU Sustainable Development Strategy since 2001
- Europe 2020-Strategy since 2010
- National Sustainable Development Strategy of Germany since 2002, new version of 2016/2017
- Sustainable Development Strategies in many German Länder
- Activities in many larger cities like Cologne, Dortmund, Bonn and Münster but also small local authorities
Fields of actions and priority areas of the SD Strategy for NRW

- Climate protection (NRW Climate Protection Plan) and energy transition
- Sustainable economy (Green Economy Strategy)
- Protection of natural resources: Biodiversity (Biodiversity strategy), Forests, Water, Spatial planning/Soil, Air Quality, Environment & Health
- **Demographic change and neighbourhoods for all ages**
- Social cohesion (Action plan against poverty and social exclusion)
- Decent and fair work
- Integration (of migrants)
- Sustainable financial policy
- Sustainable urban development
- Sustainable mobility
- Sustainable consumption/sustainable lifestyles
- Land cultivation
- Health

*Horizontal issues: European & International Dimension, Gender Equality, Inclusion, Sustainability on the local level, Civic involvement, Education & Science, Education for sustainable development*
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<th>Goals of the NRW sustainability strategy</th>
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The State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia is committed to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. The table above lists the goals and strategies for achieving these objectives in NRW. The State Government is working together towards sustainable development in NRW, as indicated by the text box in the image.
All 17 SDGs covered

GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GOAL 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

GOAL 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

GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Timetable of SD Strategy NRW

- Sept.-Nov. 2014: Public consultation on a discussion paper
- 29 September 2015: Cabinet decision on Draft SD Strategy
- Oct./Nov. 2015: Public consultation on Draft SD Strategy
- June 2016: Final cabinet decision on SD Strategy for NRW
- Autumn 2016: discussion in Regional Parliament
- Regular reporting on the development of indicators (every 2 years) and progress reports (every 4 years)
Means of implementation

- **Sustainability Goals for 2030**, if possible quantitative, for all priority areas and fields of action
- **Around 70 Indicators** (inspired by national SD Strategy for Germany, Europe 2020, SDGs etc.)
- **Synergies and conflicts** between the different goals
- **Inter-ministerial coordination**: Environment Ministry and all other ministries
- **“Sustainability check“** for regional legal acts and programmes
- **Participatory elements** (with local communities, civil society, e.g. TEAM Sustainability with Wuppertal Institute and Dialogue with mayors)
- **Sustainable regional administration** (public procurement, climate neutral buildings, sustainable events etc.)
- **Annual Sustainability bonds** (2018 EUR 2 bn) and country ratings
- **Cooperation programmes with local authorities** for local SD strategies
- **Education for SD** with 23 regional hubs throughout NRW
Key learnings

- **Political will** as starting point, but also needed throughout the process
- **Common political ground** (political “narrative“)
- **Internal coordination between ministries** (“horizontal integration“)
- **Participatory process**, also including regional economy
- Integration of local – regional – national – European and international perspectives (“**vertical integration**“)
- **Concrete goals and time frame**
- **Legally binding?**
- **Implementation mechanisms**
  incl. human and financial resources
- **Evaluation and reporting mechanisms**

Adaption to specific political, economic and social circumstances necessary!
Current revision process

- Change of government in June 2017 (Social Democrats/Greens -> Christian Democrats/Liberals)
- New coalition treaty with fewer links to the concept of Sustainability
- Cabinet decision of March 2018 to start revision process of SD strategy, finalisation planned for mid 2019
- More alignment with strategy on federal level (goals, indicators etc.)
- New topics like digitalisation, e-mobility
- Focus on cooperation with local governments (2018 German Sustainability Award for three NRW cities)
- New public procurement law
- Role of Parliament?
- Independent Advisory Council?
Thank you!

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