

## P6.2-2 Hannover Climate Alliance 2020: On the Way to a Low Carbon City

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Schoolchildren are showing their teachers how to save energy. Tenants' representatives and the real estate industry are finding common ground. Companies are voluntarily paying more for green electricity, and churches are joining forces with the sports federation to pursue a common goal. Has the world turned on its head in Hannover?

On the contrary, but there is something special happening in the Lower Saxon capital. Setting an example for the entire country to follow, Hannover has assembled a broad alliance for climate protection: the **Climate Alliance Hannover 2010**. Together with nearly 80 stakeholders from all sections of society the city administration and the utility companies are making a commitment to climate protection. Their goal is to reduce local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% of their 1990 level by the year 2020; in other words, the city will emit 1.8 million tonnes less of damaging GHG every year!

To achieve these ends, Climate Alliance partners have conceived of a series of steps, including interlinked short-, medium- and long-term strategies.

The Stadtwerke Hannover AG (enercity) is adopting more efficient methods of energy generation and extending their involvement with renewable energies in order to save 700,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year in the city region – and all without resorting to nuclear energy.

Thanks to the unanimous City Council decision in December 2008, the city administration's CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goals are bound by law. Measures adopted will not only affect municipal buildings, but also the city's central purchasing department, the way city employees travel, and information-related and campaign activities.

And that's not all. Climate Alliance partners have identified numerous activities and implementation measures for climate protection at a local level. Some of the key focal points include modernisation of

existing buildings, construction of energy-efficient buildings, intelligent energy use, power generation, as well as informational and motivational initiatives. Some companies have even developed their own climate protection programmes. Description of Box.1 will present exemplary measures from every area of the city's life. We hope it will be a source of inspiration to you.

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Box 1:

### **Climate Alliance Hannover: A city commits to a better climate**

The conditions are very favourable for a successful climate protection policy in Hannover: as far back as 1992 the City Council of Hannover passed a resolution to reduce the city's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by one quarter within 15 years. An initial climate protection programme followed and important administrative measures were taken.

### **The challenge: 1.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**

When it ended in 1997, the first climate protection programme had achieved some success, but also revealed the need for further action. Emissions had been reduced since 1990, but to a lesser extent than expected. The city administration and the municipal utilities then initiated a new climate protection plan. Together with major stakeholders from industry, commerce and society they set a goal of reducing local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by about 1.8 million tonnes per year by 2020.

### **Robust structures for shared success**

As there already was a sound basis for climate protection in Hannover, the city was quick to formulate the steps that would be needed to reach the new goal. The process was controlled by a steering committee that included the Directorate of Economic and Environmental Services, the city treasury department,

and the enercity management board. A core team composed of city planners, facility managers, climate protection experts, energy suppliers, power supply operators and corporate strategists organised the process. This support helped all stakeholders to agree on ambitious yet realistic measures.

The core team also included other local climate protection institutions, such as the climate protection fund proKlima GbR ([www.proklima-hannover.de](http://www.proklima-hannover.de)), which was founded by enercity, the City of Hannover, and other regional municipalities in 1998. It provides roughly five million euros per year in funding for energy-efficiency and energy-saving measures in the region. The non-profit climate protection agency Klimaschutzagentur Region Hannover GmbH ([www.klimaschutz-hannover.de](http://www.klimaschutz-hannover.de)), which has been providing citizens, public authorities and companies in the Hannover region with information since 2001, is also involved.

### By stakeholders for stakeholders

At the inception of the Climate Alliance in 2007, Mayor Stephan Weil invited representatives from industry, housing companies and tenants' associations to work together in task forces. They began by formulating concrete climate protection steps. In June 2008, the new climate protection action programme was unveiled to the public. Finally, on 11 December 2008, the City Council Assembly confirmed the legally binding status of the agreed reduction targets.

Six sectoral task forces drafted the steps included in the climate protection programme:

- Industry;
- Residential buildings;
- Commercial buildings;
- Multipliers;
- City administration; and
- Municipal utilities.

### Measuring success

An independent engineering office will regularly measure how Hannover's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are developing. Every two years the city will publish results concerning the degree of success of the

climate protection measures. Moreover, an additional monitoring process is conducted every five years to observe the energy savings that have already been made. A report of this kind will be produced in 2010, 2015 and 2020.

### City administration and municipal utilities as models

As initiators and sponsors of the Climate Alliance, the city administration and the utilities have also set ambitious goals for themselves. The city administration is implementing CO<sub>2</sub> reduction measures in all areas under its control. The most important of these are:

- **Modernisation of buildings:** energy-efficient renovation of older municipal buildings by 2020;
- **Construction of all new buildings to passive-house standards:** incorporation of climate protection priorities in urban planning, municipal tenders and land sales;
- **Intelligent energy use:** energy efficiency in building management and procurement of materials, efficient street lighting and traffic signalling systems; and
- **Information and motivation:** involvement of users in the energy-efficient running of municipal properties.

The Stadtwerke contribute to the process in the following areas:

- **Energy generation:** increasing efficiency, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kWh of electricity generated; and
- **Renewable energies and co-generation of heat and power:** expansion of these approaches as far as current circumstances allow

The measures undertaken by the other stakeholders, which are described below, may also be classified in the categories mentioned above.

Lastly, the activities of the Climate Alliance Hannover 2020 focus on energy supply and consumption, as electricity and heat generation are by far the greatest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (83 per cent) in the Hannover region. The themes traffic, waste, land and forest management are covered by the framework programme for climate protection of the Hannover Region, and are therefore not included in the city's Climate Alliance.