

Sustainability and Citizen Engagement

Experiences from the City of Solingen



Introduction

- Autonomes city next to Cologne and Düsseldorf
- 164.000 inhabitants from about 130 nations
- Main industries: blade and cutlery manufacturing, automotive supply industry and engineering, galvanic and metal working industry
- Many years of experience in sustainability, projects, campaigns and concepts
- Extensive participation culture with citizens



Q1 / Sustainability Conferences

- A crucial approach to the process
- With more than 100 stakeholders each conference
- To integrate stakeholders into
 - definition of targets
 - definition of projects
 - definition of action plan and next steps



Network of Experts

- Support in preparing the conferences
- Advisory services
- Presentation



Sustainability Strategy of Solingen Guidelines and goals



GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ONE WORLD

Further information on the procedure, objectives and measures: www.nachhaltigkeit.solingen.de

Sustainability rating in resolutions of the City Council

- Sustainability assessment since 2018
- for all draft resolutions of the Council and its bodies

Objective:

- check the expected impact of draft resolutions on the objectives of the sustainability strategy, present the results in the draft for political decision-making
- promote early discussion and inclusion of sustainable objectives in the development of projects / processes / concepts

Alles anzeigen	Zusammenfassen	farbige Darstellung	Als Grafik in die Zwischenablage	Speichern unter
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Gesellschaftliche Teilhabe		+	-
3	Bezahlbaren Wohnraum sowie generationsübergreifende Infrastrukturen anbieten		
3.1	Angebot an bezahlbarem Wohnraum erhöhen	X	
Natürliche Ressourcen und Umwelt		+	-
1	Nachhaltige Flächeninanspruchnahme und -nutzung gewährleisten		
1.1	Neuinanspruchnahme von unversiegelten Flächen reduzieren	X	
1.2	Nachhaltiges, bodenschonendes Flächenmanagement umsetzen	X	
Klima und Energie		+	-
1	CO ₂ -Emissionen deutlich reduzieren		
1.2	Energieeinsparung, Energieeffizienz und Nutzung erneuerbarer Energieträger systematisch erhöhen	X	
2	Energieverbrauch gesamtstädtisch senken		
2.2	Dezentrale, quartiersbezogene Energieversorgungskonzepte umsetzen	X	
4	Gesamtstädtische Klimaanpassungsstrategien umsetzen		
4.1	Maßnahmen zum klimagerechten Stadtbau realisieren	X	
Arbeit und Wirtschaft		+	-
3	Ressourcenschonende Flächeninanspruchnahme und -nutzung gewährleisten		5
3.1	Brachflächen reaktivieren	X	

Q2 / Challenges

- How to transfer the high level of engagement and motivation of several hundred people from the strategy process to the remaining 164.000 citizens in Solingen.
- Funding for implementing dialogue and projects
- Social habits and norms that are counterproductive, f.e. consumption and meat-based diet
- Unfavourable legal framework and tax regulation, f.e. discrimination of public transport and subsidization of cars and roads

Q3 / Projects and practical Engagement

Tree sponsoring and Campaign

„People need trees – trees need people“

The municipality pays for the purchase, planting and maintenance of one tree - approx. 1.000 Euros.

250 enquiries by citizens in a fortnight for this project



“Places of Change”

Different institutions act as ambassadors for sustainability and contribute concretely and continuously to change.

Within the framework of their public relations work, the places carry their commitment to the outside world and participate in events and sustainability conferences.

At least three long-term measures or activities are implemented and continuously expanded.

- municipal Youth House
- municipal Coworking Space
- public schools
- Housing Association
- municipal Home for Senior Citizens
- municipal Kindergartens



Days of Action “Cycling in the City”

- Nationwide action, organized in individual cities and municipalities
- Via website and application
- People form teams and collect kilometres
- Winner teams get prizes

Change of municipal Procurement – regional, ecological, fair trade

- Workshops with municipal employees in the department of procurement and the canteen of the city hall
- Change of selection of foods
- Purchase of sustainable paper



Thanks for support:

- Service Agency for Local Governments in One World
- The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia (LAG 21 NRW)
- Citizens of Solingen



Thank you for your attention

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