The role of Berlin in climate protection

Cities and climate protection:
Around 50% of the world’s population now lives in cities that account for 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Cities and regions around the world are therefore making a strong case for climate protection. Berlin is one of the pioneers here.

Berlin is already a climate-friendly city today. Berlin’s total carbon dioxide emissions, which are mainly generated by energy production and combustion processes, have already been reduced by more than a third compared with 1990 levels. At 4.9 tonnes of CO₂ (2014), emissions per capita are below the national average (9.6 tonnes of CO₂ in 2015). However, Berlin must continue to act if it is to be carbon neutral by 2050. The long-term goal is to reduce urban carbon emissions by 95% by the middle of the century.

Scientific expertise:
Berlin’s Climate Protection Advisory Council advises the Senate and the House of Representatives independently on issues relating to climate protection and energy policy. It was reconstituted in September 2017 and now consists of 10 representatives from science, industry and civil society.

Cooperate, inform and promote
Proven projects and instruments for cooperating, educating and informing as well as promoting climate protection are being continued and supplemented:

Climate protection agreements
Berlin utilities, universities and companies in the housing industry are committed to contribute to Berlin’s climate protection goals through appropriate activities.

Impulse programme
This is the central information and education platform for Berlin’s climate protection and energy policy. Annual highlights include the Impulse events during the Berlin Energy Days as well as part of the “Berlin saves energy” campaign.

Education
Projects on climate protection and energy in schools and kindergartens as well as events for young adults about the topic serve to anchor climate protection among the decision-makers of tomorrow.

BENE-Climate
The Berlin Programme for Sustainable Development (BENE), which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is among other things providing funding until 2020 for innovative measures and projects to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.

Berlin Climate Protection Information Office (BIK)
This provides an overview of the diversity of climate protection measures and practical projects in Berlin.

Adapting to the consequences of climate change
Effective climate policy is based on two cornerstones:

On the one hand preventing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change for more climate protection and, on the other hand, adapting to the consequences of climate change which are already unavoidable today.

In Berlin, climate change adaptation has been integrated into the Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme 2030.

Climate change and its specific effects but also the impact of the impleta are below the national average (6 tonnes of CO₂ in 2015). However, Berlin must continue to act if it is to be carbon neutral by 2050. The long-term goal is to reduce urban carbon emissions by 95% by the middle of the century.

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In 2000, Berlin could be as warm as the south of France is today.
Berlin is phasing out coal
Berlin is the first German federal state to announce that it is phasing out coal. In accordance with the provisions of Berlin’s Energy Turnaround Act, the Senate is working to end energy production from hard coal by 2030 at the latest. Berlin’s last remaining lignite-fired power plants were already decommissioned in 2017.

The contribution of cities is crucial as they are responsible for a large part of the causal emissions of greenhouse gases. At the same time, climate change is clearly noticeable in densely populated urban areas. Extreme weather events such as the severe storms and heavy rainfall events in 2017 also underline the need for action in Berlin.

Berlin accepts this responsibility and wants to be carbon neutral by 2050. This is an ambitious but realistic goal. The community of all states has agreed on a common goal and approach to combat climate change. The aim is to limit the rise in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius and approach to combat climate change. The aim is to limit the rise in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change has created a new and ambitious international framework to protect the climate. The contribution of cities is crucial as they are responsible for a large part of the causal emissions of greenhouse gases. At the same time, climate change is clearly noticeable in densely populated urban areas. Extreme weather events such as the severe storms and heavy rainfall events in 2017 also underline the need for action in Berlin.

BERLIN Energy and Climate Protection Programme
The Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme 2030 (BEK 2030) was adopted by the Berlin House of Representatives on 25 January 2018.

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A feasibility study conducted by the State of Berlin and Vattenfall is investigating in detail the options for phasing out the remaining carbon dioxide-emitting plants by 2030 and creating a largely CO2-free district heating supply. The aim is to develop a concrete roadmap that ensures an environmentally and socially responsible phase-out of fossil fuels while maintaining security of supply. With the successful implementation of this roadmap, a decisive step will be taken to facilitate Berlin’s heating transition.

The approximately 100 strategies and measures apply to the delivery period until 2021 and the 2030 development horizon. They were developed on the basis of scientific recommendations and findings from broad-based public consultations. The implementation of BEK 2030 is being co-ordinated by the Senate Department responsible for climate protection. Additional funding will be made available for this purpose in the coming years.

The delivery status, the effectiveness of the climate mitigation and adaptation measures as well as the delivery period until 2021 and the 2030 development horizon. They were developed on the basis of scientific recommendations and findings from broad-based public consultations. The implementation of BEK 2030 is being co-ordinated by the Senate Department responsible for climate protection. Additional funding will be made available for this purpose in the coming years.

The BEK 2030 is committed to a strategic and integrated approach combin- ing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

What does the Berlin Energy Turnaround Act also stipulate?
- Reducing the energy demand, changing to a decarbonised, safe and socially responsible energy provision flexibly based on renewable energies
- Increasing the rate and extent of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Providing support for energy efficiency and substituting fossil fuels through a mix of consulting, networking and promotion
- Strengthening the environmental network by making walking and cycling more attractive, increasing alternative drive systems and reducing fuel consumption
- Developing strategies and measures as well as the development of global warming-related changes in Berlin are being mapped with a digital information and monitoring system – BliBek for short.

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Parallel to this, it is also considerably important to renovate the existing public building stock. That is why it is now mandatory to draw up renovation roadmaps to systematically record the fabric of the buildings used by the central and district administrations and to establish a suitable sequence (roadmap) for the necessary energy-efficiency-led refurbishment steps. Through implementing the renovation roadmaps, the intention is to comprehensively upgrade the energy efficiency of the public building stock by 2050.

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BEK 2030’s fields of action
Because climate protection is a cross-sectoral task, the BEK 2030 differentiates between different fields of action. It is committed to a strategic and integrated approach combining climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The community of all states has agreed on a common goal and approach to combat climate change. The aim is to limit the rise in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.