



RELEASE:

Dortmund to pilot inter-departmental collaboration for more integrated climate action

The City Council has committed to consider the climate impacts of all its decisions.

Dortmund, Germany 09.11.2020. The City of Dortmund, Germany, is exploring how to integrate equity and climate considerations into every aspect of the city's departments, operations and policy making. All city departments in Dortmund are to assess climate relevance in their planning actions.

Additionally, Dortmund has been selected as one of five global cities to explore social equity in their climate planning framework as part of the [Urban Transitions Alliance](#), a city network and knowledge-exchange hub that supports former industrial hubs from across the globe to identify common challenges, share knowledge and develop solutions tailored to their individual transitions to a sustainable future.

“Balancing climate protection and social equity targets is challenging. In the past, our climate-compliant investments in buildings and green and blue infrastructure have not consistently considered low-income populations because they were not planned with equity in mind. Now, Dortmund commits to make sustainability the new normal, benefiting all our citizens. Our city council will lead by example” said Michael Leischner, Department Head for Climate protection, Air control and Noise reduction / Dirk von Bracht, Climate Protection Manager, City of Dortmund.

To ensure that climate protection efforts will be citywide, the city council has committed to consider the climate impact of all decisions and prefer solutions with positive effects on climate and environmental protection.

In the upcoming months, climate considerations will be systematically integrated into all areas of local government operations and policy making. These considerations will additionally include social equity, hence requiring clear steps for action, new quality standards and administrative processes as well as assessment guidelines for the city's initiatives.

Due to different priorities and fields of action of the various departments, the role of Dortmund's climate protection team will itself evolve and expand to act as the



focal point for swift and coordinated implementation of climate and social equity measures. It has already foreseen a pilot cooperation between the climate team and the social department to explore how equity and climate considerations can be aligned.

After suffering a downward spiral of soaring unemployment, environmental pollution and economic decay brought about by the late-1950s' industrial decline, Dortmund embarked on an urban transition journey that benefited its tertiary sectors and citizens' quality of life, peaking with the 2014 German Sustainability Award. Today, Dortmund advances its urban transition also through the Urban Transition Alliance.

“Dortmund is not alone in its journey. Alliance Members Buffalo (Dortmund's sister city), USA, and Turku, Finland, are working to address the side-effects in their climate adaptation measures, while Cincinnati, USA has recently designed its Green City Plan with cross-cutting keys to equity. We believe peer exchange among these cities will help establish a long-term perspective and improve equity outcomes,” said Rebecca Wessinghage, Transition Concepts Officer at ICLEI World Secretariat.

The Urban Transitions Alliance is an initiative led by [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#), a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development, and supported by the [Stiftung Mercator](#), a German foundation committed to solidarity and equal opportunities.

You can find Dortmund's full Urban Transitions Alliance 2020 challenge [here](#).

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About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI's Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.



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