



Challenge support cycle 2020 – City of Dortmund, Germany

## Climate urgency response – piloting inter-departmental collaboration for integrated city action

In June 2019, the Dortmund city council officially recognized the urgent climate crisis and promised to support the climate movement of the young generation. Under the umbrella of the “Dortmund climate initiative”, climate protection efforts will be strengthened and prioritized. To ensure citywide efforts, the council has committed to consider the climate impact of all decisions and prefer solutions with positive effects on climate and environmental protection. All city departments in Dortmund must assess climate relevance in their planning actions.

For Dortmund’s climate protection team, new coordination and consultation roles are emerging. Within the next six months, climate considerations need to be systematically integrated into all areas of local government operations and policymaking. In addition, social equity considerations are to be incorporated in climate protection measures. The translation of the court decision into clear steps for action will require the development of quality standards and administrative processes. A guideline for assessing climate relevance of city initiatives will be needed. For different departments, different priorities and fields of action will steer implementation. Strategic planning and expansion of capacity in Dortmund’s climate protection team will be essential.

### Urban Transitions Alliance Support

The Urban Transitions Alliance will support the city of Dortmund in designing a collaboration pilot between the climate team and technical and social departments. Across the Alliance, the citywide implementation of transition strategies has taken many forms and often varies due to different administrative structures. The UN Sustainable Development Goals will be established as a common reference for exchange, enabling Dortmund to draw from the rich experience of successful planning processes in peer Alliance cities.

Balancing climate protection and social equity targets will be challenging. In the past, Dortmund’s climate compliant investments in buildings and green and blue infrastructure have been lacking an equity lens. As a result, benefits of these investments have not reached low-income populations. Buffalo and Turku are working to address such side-effects in their climate adaptation measures, while Cincinnati has recently designed its Green City Plan with cross-cutting keys to equity. Peer exchange will help to establish a long-term perspective and improve equity outcomes.

### Key Questions

- How will climate relevance be defined and assessed in city planning, and how can it be concretely implemented across all departments in the city of Dortmund?
- How is low-emission development and environmental protection interlinked with social equity concerns, and where are levers for the city to improve climate justice in Dortmund?

### Expected Outcomes

- Pilot process for inter-department collaboration between the climate team and other entities;
- Guidelines and recommendations for city staff for climate and equity considerate planning;
- Exchange process based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals as common reference.