

Dortmund

Inclusive energy-saving building renovation and retrofitting subsidies

Dortmund in context

Dortmund, the largest city in the Ruhr metropolitan region with a population of 609,000, has played a significant role in Germany's industrial revolution. This transformative period began in the mid-19th century with the discovery of coal deposits, leading to notable advancements in transportation, mining and metallurgy. Dortmund quickly emerged as a pivotal railroad hub within the industrial Ruhr area, attracting a wave of immigrants and experiencing substantial population growth. Nevertheless, this industrialization also took a toll on the environment, leading to pollution and waterway contamination.

In response, the city shifted its focus towards creating a more appealing sociocultural and urban environment with the aim of attracting employers. The "PHOENIX See" project was a notable example of this effort, as it transformed a former steel-making complex into an artificial lake, complete with affordable housing and sustainable energy infrastructure. This transformation earned Dortmund the German Sustainability Award in 2014, with a strong emphasis on social inclusion and public participation initiatives.

Climate protection in Dortmund

In 2021, Dortmund launched the "Immediate Climate Program" to advance climate protection and sustainable development in Dortmund. This program includes four sub-items:

- Establishing a Dortmund Fund;
- Developing a sustainability network;
- Implementing a municipal heating program; and
- Utilisation of rooftops for solar energy to the fullest extent possible.

These topics are now part of the Action Program Climate-Air 2030 (HP2030), contributing to the city's aim of achieving climate neutrality by 2035. Dortmund takes its responsibility for global climate protection seriously and sets a strong course of action for the next decade.

Dortmund is actively involved in several climate initiatives, including the "Fairtrade Towns" campaign. Additionally, the city is dedicated to the "Local Agenda 21 Process" and has adopted the Climate-Air 2030 action program, aiming to achieve climate neutrality ahead of schedule, in line with various European Commission recommendations.

Dortmund's demographic profile and social equity challenges

- **Vulnerable groups:** In 13 of Dortmund's 39 social areas, the social situation is significantly more challenging than the city average, indicating uneven distribution of opportunities and disadvantages for residents. Dortmund, like other large cities in Germany, faces enduring challenges related to ageing and migration. Vulnerable groups needing support include: senior citizens; refugees; the homeless; financially disadvantaged citizens; recipients of other transfer assistance and children of the above groups.
- **Migration:** Dortmund has a significant migrant population, dating back to the mid-1950s when so-called guest workers were recruited to work in the coking plants and steelworks. In 2017, 17.7% of residents did not have German citizenship. To address this, the city implemented the "Master Plan Migration/Integration" in 2005, focusing on four key areas: Education, Work and Business, Social Balance in Urban Areas, and a Cosmopolitan/International City. The Integration Council, established in 1972 (formerly the Foreigners' Advisory Council until 2009), plays a vital role in shaping the plan and fostering participation.
- **Unemployment and economic challenges:** The unemployment rate in Dortmund is 10.9% as of 2022, which is significantly higher than the average national rate of 5.7%.

Overview of the chosen climate measures for INCLU:DE

The city of Dortmund's municipal subsidy program was selected as the focus for the INCLU:DE project. This subsidy program offers a range of financial incentives and services to facilitate the energy transition. Two specific measures have been identified with the potential to provide the greatest benefits to low-income households: subsidies for plug-in balcony solar panels and e-cargo bikes. With a planned launch in mid-2023 for the solar balcony programs and a second edition of the successful cargo bike



program¹, the maximum rate of funding will be increased for social welfare recipients. They will be able to claim up to 90% of the costs for plug-in balcony solar panels and 80% for e-cargo bikes. The target of these three-year programs is to achieve at least 100 applications annually for the plug-in balcony solar panel subsidy and 75 applications annually for the e-cargo bikes.

Dortmund goals on INCLU:DE

- ✓ Refining the subsidy system to increase the number of low-income household applicants.
- ✓ Strengthening the communication and outreach strategy to successfully reach and encourage low-income households to apply for the subsidies.

¹ However, the latest information is that (as of October 2023) there will be no new funding in 2024 for e-cargo bikes. This is unlikely to change given the city's 2024 budgetary position. As a result, the focus of the INCLU:DE project may shift entirely to plug-in solar balcony subsidies.

