



Berlin to become climate-neutral

As we all know, climate change is happening and it will require enormous efforts to achieve the internationally agreed two-degree target to limit global climate change. This is where cities will play a particularly important role. They are not only home to a large portion of the global population, but also contribute significantly to climate change.

As the German capital, Berlin must and will make an important contribution in this regard. However, even though Berlin is already one of the most environmentally friendly cities in Germany, we must intensify our efforts. The “Climate neutral Berlin 2050” feasibility study shows that Berlin can develop into a carbon-neutral and sustainable city by 2050. To firmly anchor the goal of climate neutrality, we are enshrining this in the “Energy Turnaround Act for Berlin”. The specific strategies, measures and instruments will form part of an “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept”, which we will begin developing this summer. I cordially invite you to participate and join the discussion in its development. After all, climate protection only works when everyone is on board.

Michael Müller, Senator for Urban Development and the Environment

Bundled expertise

The State of Berlin will make a significant contribution to climate protection and the energy turnaround in Germany. Berlin has set an ambitious goal in this regard: the city plans to become “climate neutral” by 2050. To achieve this, the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions must be massively reduced and in all areas of urban life, ranging from the energy sector, buildings and urban development to private households, consumption, industry and mobility. An important task will be to make the urban energy turnaround socially equitable and fair. Tomorrow’s energy supplies must be secure, affordable and ecological.

Climate protection and energy under one roof

The interdisciplinary tasks relating to climate protection are being coordinated in the “Special committee for climate protection and energy”, which reports directly to the state secretary responsible for environmental issues. This therefore recognises the particular importance given to climate protection. All significant climate protection and energy policy plans are being prepared and coordinated in the special committee. In shaping its energy and climate policy, the Berlin Senate is receiving advice from a Climate Protection Advisory Council composed of renowned experts from science, research, business and society.

Berlin’s Climate Protection Advisory Council:
Experts on climate, environment and energy issues.



The foundation has been laid

With its climate neutrality target, Berlin is addressing the dangers posed by climate change. The Senate Department for Urban Development and Environmental Protection has examined whether and how this goal can be achieved and which conditions must be created for this as part of a feasibility study. The study, which was presented in March 2014 by an interdisciplinary project team under the direction of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), shows that Berlin can be a carbon-neutral city by 2050.

The findings of the “Climate neutral Berlin 2050” feasibility study

For the key fields of action – namely energy provision, buildings and urban development, industry, private households/consumption and transport – the evaluators have examined possible development paths and derived recommendations for strategies and measures. According to the study, along with the building sector considerable potential lies in transforming the energy provision. By expanding photovoltaics and combined heat and power, Berlin could even develop into an electricity exporter over large parts of the year. According to the study, this could also be linked to significant economic growth and employment opportunities for Berlin.

The final appraisal report and a brochure on the theme are available at www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/klimaschutz/studie_klimaneutrales_berlin

Energy Turnaround Act: Berlin is making its climate change targets binding

The draft law implementing the energy turnaround and promoting climate protection in Berlin – known as the Energy Turnaround Act for short – contains specific climate protection goals for Berlin: 40 percent less CO₂ by 2020, 60 percent less by 2030 and at least 85 percent less by 2050 relative to 1990.

How the aims enshrined in the Act are to be achieved will be regulated in an “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept” and not in the Act itself. This will allow discussions, broad public participation and ultimately flexible solutions that can be adapted to current developments. In addition, the draft law contains a series of model obligations for the Senate, such as the establishment of a refurbishment roadmap for public buildings.

A Webpage providing detailed information on the design and content of the draft law is available at . www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/klimaschutz/energiewendegesetz

Implementing the goals: The “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept”

In addition to the Energy Turnaround Act, the “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept” will form the most important element of Berlin’s energy and climate protection policy. Based on the “Climate neutral Berlin 2050” feasibility study, concrete strategies and measures will be defined for the fields of action identified there. Indicators have been developed to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures and to identify necessary control requirements. The “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept” thus provides the “route planner” for achieving the climate policy objectives. At the same time, necessary strategies for adapting to the long-term, unavoidable consequences of climate change will also be included in the concept. It is intended to develop the “Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept” with broad public participation from summer 2014 to autumn 2015.

When the concept development begins, a Webpage will provide information on the latest events and opportunities for participation at www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/klimaschutz



An important component for climate neutrality: Ecological construction.

The energy turnaround at the local level: Energy provision as an essential service

The Berlin Senate’s goal is to increase public influence in shaping the energy infrastructure. This is aimed at creating new scope for Berlin’s energy policy and for implementing the climate policy goals. The management of the energy networks in Berlin provides an important tool in this regard. The State of Berlin is therefore bidding for the concessions for operating the gas and electricity network in Berlin.

In addition, a municipal utility shall be established as a subsidiary of the Berliner Wasserbetriebe (Berlin Water Works utility), whereby the focus will be on developing and implementing climate and environmental policy provisions. For example, it is intended that the municipal utility shall generate and provide energy exclusively from renewable sources. In addition to rapidly expanding its own generation facilities, the municipal utility shall also cooperate with large public companies that already operate CHP plants for efficient heat and power generation or solar power systems.



Role model: Public baths in Berlin's Mitte district, which have been refurbished with energy efficiency in mind.

In addition, it is planned to develop and bundle further generation capacities in the municipal utility. This will enable the municipal utility to supply heat and electricity to several thousands of households on a short-term basis in an environmentally friendly and inexpensive manner.

Acting as a role model: Public institutions

The public sector is aware that it needs to lead by example when it comes to climate change, since energy savings in public buildings have a strong impact. That is why in future Berlin will pay even more attention to procuring and consuming energy in public buildings in a climate-friendly manner. The draft law for the Energy Turnaround Act also provides a series of role model obligations. For example, it is intended that the administration shall be climate-neutral from 2030 onwards. This requires refurbishment of the public building stock.

Berlin has already been concluding energy saving partnerships since 1996, in which energy service providers invest in modern efficiency technology. The costs of the investments are recovered through the energy savings. This makes public buildings such as schools, offices or clinics more energy-efficient without the State of Berlin having to make the investments itself. Berlin's City Hall, the Berliner Rathaus, has also been involved in the programme from the start.

Fully informed: The Berlin ImpulsE programme

The Berlin ImpulsE programme is a central information and education platform for the Berlin climate protection policy. With the "Energy ImpulsE" magazine, newsletters and events, ImpulsE provides information about climate protection and energy in the capital. An annual highlight is the Berliner Energietage (Berlin Energy Days) conference, which has developed into the leading event for energy efficiency in Germany. The ClubE climate protection and energy policy forum brings young people into contact with experts from industry, science and politics.

All information services provided by the Berlin ImpulsE programme can be found at www.berliner-impulse.de

Berlin saves energy

The "Berlin saves energy" information campaign is aimed at consumers, tenants and private building owners. It shows successful energy-saving projects in the capital. Since 2012, numerous interesting projects have opened their doors to the public as part of an action week. These include energy-efficiently renovated residential buildings as well as office complexes or power plants.

Exemplary energy saving projects and tips for saving energy are available at www.berlin-spart-energie.de

"Berlin saves energy": Efficiency projects open their doors.



Climate protection in Berlin: The work programme

Berlin supports the energy turnaround. The city plans to become climate-neutral by 2050. In future, renewable energies will play an even bigger role, buildings will have to become more energy-efficient, and transport more climate sensitive. The "Special committee for climate protection and energy" is coordinating these tasks, which extend to many different policy areas:

- As a legal framework for protecting the climate in Berlin, a draft law for a Berlin Energy Turnaround Act has been introduced.
- As part of a broad public participation process and based on the "Climate neutral Berlin 2050" feasibility study, the "Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept" is being developed that among others is intended to contain climate protection and adaptation measures.
- With numerous initiatives, Berlin is also involved in furthering the energy turnaround at the federal level.
- The Climate Protection Advisory Council, which was established in 2012, provides the Berlin Senate with expert and independent advice.
- Strategies are being developed to ensure that the public sector can fulfil its function as a role model.
- Projects and information programmes such as the Berlin ImpulsE programme and the "Berlin saves energy" campaign are supporting Berlin's energy turnaround.

In future, renewable energies could meet a large part of Berlin's energy requirements.



Specialist concept:

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Further details on Berlin's energy and climate protection policy can be found at www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/klimaschutz

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