

Sustainability Bond #3
State of North Rhine-Westphalia



Use of Proceeds

Eligible Assets

Düsseldorf, February 2017

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Sustainability Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia

The State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia advocates for a successful, equitable and future-oriented development in social, environmental and economic terms and therefore bases its actions on sustainability as a guiding principle. This contributes to the creation of a functioning equilibrium for today's and future generations. As the most populous federal state, we demonstrate how to implement successful change towards sustainable development while maintaining and reinforcing our economic and industrial structures. The [Sustainability Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia](#), as approved by the State Government in 2016, is also the political reference for the Sustainability Bonds.

Sustainable Development Goals

North Rhine-Westphalia actively joins the global efforts under the umbrella of the global Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) articulated in it. In its sustainability strategy, the State Government explains how it will implement this global consensus on all political levels (see [Activities in North-Rhine Westphalia to implement the 2030 Agenda](#)). The Agenda 2030 functions equally as a guiding theme for North Rhine-Westphalia's international cooperation efforts and interactions with partner regions.

Within the framework of the NRW sustainability strategy, a set of indicators was defined. Progress in the implementation of the strategy will be measured with these indicators. The reporting system comprises almost 70 indicators which relate to the 19 fields of action of the sustainability strategy and to the 17 SDGs. The Development of the indicators will be reported every two years. The first [Sustainability Indicator Report](#) was published in 2016. In addition, the results are presented on a dedicated website with regular updates (www.nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren.nrw.de/sdgs).

Sustainability Bond #3

The key aspect of Sustainability Bond #3 is the topic of Sustainable Development, in line with [Sustainability Bond #1](#) and [Sustainability Bond #2](#). An amount equal to net issue proceeds of the State Treasury Notes will be used to cover expenditures of the fiscal year 2016. Projects were selected in accordance with the categories and specifications set out in the Sustainability Bond Framework (annex 1 of the Second Party Opinion provided by oekom research). Main criterion is a clear environmental and/or social benefit. The eligible projects are part of the State's discretionary spending. Projects prescribed by federal law are excluded. Only the State's own expenditures (net of EU grants, federal grants or other sources of revenue earmarked for specific purposes) are taken into account. The State's personnel costs are excluded. Budget figures shown are preliminary results for the fiscal year 2016. The original budget plan figures are provided in brackets. Budget results may exceed budget plans due to specific permissions provided for specific items. The budget for the fiscal year 2016 closes around the end of the first quarter of 2017.

A Education and Sustainability Research EUR 808.0m

Demographic change, shortage of skilled labor, migration and integration as well as social disparity and heterogeneity create huge challenges for scholarly and non-scholarly educational institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia. Education must contribute to solving these issues to ensure that North Rhine-Westphalia can sustain its role as an industrial hub as well as a society based on knowledge and information.

Education generates a sense of purpose on the personal level. Education also promotes cultural life and is a prerequisite for participation and social inclusion. Against this background, the potential of every single individual should be supported, irrespective of his or her individual level of development, gender, ethnic origin or age. The process of learning itself should be designed in a sustainable manner to enable everybody to benefit from a wide range of learning options on an ongoing basis. The State's concept of Education for Sustainable Development ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)) supports interdisciplinary teaching from primary school to university. This approach helps strengthen the students' abilities to make long-term and future-oriented decisions.

Projects of category A refer to SDG 4 (*Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote life-long learning*).

- **Enlargement of universities, additional training facilities EUR 725.2m**

Bund-Länder-Covenant for the expansion of universities, State's share

Budget items # 06 100 title group 70, 06 100 685 52 and 06 670-840 EUR 631.7m (1,219.3m)

In recent years, demand for university education has grown significantly. From 2005 to 2016 the number of newly enrolled students at universities in North Rhine-Westphalia has increased by 55%. In the winter term 2016/2017, a total of 763,400 students were enrolled at 75 universities, more than ever before ([Hochschulen in NRW – Ergebnisse der Hochschulstatistik 2016](#)). No tuition fees are charged at public universities in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The State reacts to the growing demand with the creation of additional places to study in the context of the Bund-Länder-Covenant for the expansion of universities (Hochschulpakt 2020). The covenant will be extended for a third phase (2016 to 2020). Through this effort, a larger number of students get the opportunity to receive a high quality university education.

www.wissenschaft.nrw.de/hochschule/finanzierung/hochschulpakt/gemeinsame-wissenschaftskonferenz-einigt-sich-auf-hochschulpakt-2020

www.bmbf.de/de/hochschulpakt-2020-506.html

Training facilities for the education of teachers and special education teaching

Budget items # 06 100 685 40 and 685 52 EUR 31.2m (31.2m)

In order to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in the area of education, more teachers with special education teaching competence are necessary. Five universities will offer 2,300 additional places to study special education teaching. In addition, training facilities for the education of teachers for elementary schools as well primary, secondary and comprehensive schools are expanded to meet growing demand in these areas.

www.wissenschaft.nrw.de/studium/bewerben/abschluesse/lehrausbildung/mehr-lehramtsstudiengaenge-fuer-angehende-sonderpaedagogen

Professional education of geriatric nurses

Budget items # 15 044 title groups 60, 62 and 15 010 547 14 EUR 62.3m (64.8m)

According to section 5 of the State Law concerning Geriatric Care (Landesaltenpflegegesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen), the State finances the training of geriatric nurses at dedicated schools and provides funds for state-approved seminars for education in the fields of geriatric care and family care. Additional funds are earmarked for the implementation of the "welcome@healthcare" project, which focuses on the integration of refugees in the health care market, and for higher education for geriatric nurses.

- **Support for best in class universities EUR 27.4m**

Budget items # 06 100 686 55 and 893 00

EUR 27.4m (28.5m)

The Initiative of excellence ([Exzellenzinitiative](#)) is a joint effort by the Federation (Bund) and the German States (Länder) to promote top level research as well as to strengthen the overall quality of universities. In the current stage, extending through 2017, two elite universities, ten clusters of excellence and five graduate colleges are being sponsored in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In June 2015, the German Council of Science (Wissenschaftsrat) and the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) have published the [Report of the Joint Commission on the Initiative of excellence](#). In January 2016, an international panel of experts has published an [Evaluation of the Initiative of excellence](#) (with an Executive Summary in English).

www.wissenschaft.nrw.de/forschung/einrichtungen/exzellenzinitiative

- **Innovation and sustainable development EUR 40.8m**

Promotion of innovation

Budget item # 06 026 title group 61

EUR 8.3m (10.7m)

The State's innovation strategy focuses on the major challenges of our time such as climate change, demographic change, preservation of health and food safety, scarceness of resources, energy supply and access to information technology and mobility. Solutions for these challenges cannot purely rely on technological optimization, but must imply social and environmental implications, to provide sustainable progress for citizens and the community. The various research projects are carried out by universities, research institutes and private enterprises.

Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft

Budget items # 06 042 686 10-19 and 892 11

EUR 10.7m (11.1m)

The umbrella organisation of [Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) comprises [15 independent, non-profit scientific research outfits](#) which support the State's research and innovation strategy. The institutes pursue sustainable and future-oriented research for society, business and politics (see [Annual report 2015 of Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft](#)).

Research initiative "Progress for NRW"

Budget item # 06 100 title group 75

EUR 18.2m (20.0m)

The research initiative "Progress for NRW" ([Fortschritt NRW](#)) promotes research and innovation as well as related teaching in the area of sustainable development. The goal is to enhance the universities' contributions to solutions for major global challenges such as climate change, reliable energy supply, resource efficiency, mobility, health, demographic change and public safety.

Sustainable development

Budget item # 10 020 title group 66

EUR 1.1m (1.2m)

The State sponsors projects focusing on solutions in the context of the State's Sustainability Strategy ([Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie NRW](#)) and strengthening the links between education and sustainable development ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)).

Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development

Budget item # 10 020 686 72

EUR 2.0m (2.0m)

The Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development ([Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)) was set up by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in 2001. It supports projects of various organisations relating to dialogue between citizens of the northern and southern hemisphere, protection of environment and nature, intercultural exchange and sustainable development within the State. Since its inception, the Foundation has supported more than 1,150 projects with total grants of EUR 55m. Detailed information on these projects is accessible through a dedicated database (www.sue-nrw.de/projekte/projektdatenbank).

Facilities for environmental education

Budget item # 10 020 title group 77

EUR 0.5m (0.4m)

The State's support for environmental education facilities helps to establish a statewide network of such institutions in the context of the State's strategy "Education for sustainable development" ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)).

In all programmes of this category, projects relating to armaments, crude oil and coal as fossil resources, nuclear power or tobacco are not being sponsored.

- **Consumer protection EUR 14.7m**

Budget items # 10 040 684 10 and 686 10

EUR 14.7m (16.7m)

The State provides financial support for projects focusing on consumer education and for the works of the consumers' association of North Rhine-Westphalia ([Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.](#)). One of the most important current issues relates to how consumers are affected by the ongoing energy transition ([Energiewende](#)). Further topics include the promotion of a healthy, balanced and sustainable nutrition, especially for children and young people, and the integration of such measures into life at school and day care facilities (www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/ernaehrung).

In 2015, 600.000 citizens took advantage of the services through personal visits to one of the 60 regional offices, inquiries via phone calls or in writing.

[Annual report 2015 of Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.](#)

B Inclusion and Social Coherence EUR 176.7m

Inclusion is a key concept for a humane society that recognizes and accepts diversity and aims at value-based consensus within the society. In an inclusive school system, students with and without disabilities live and learn together. In the school year 2014/2015, the integration ratio (defined as the percentage of students with special needs who attend general public schools) reached almost 35%, up from below 9% in the school year 2000/2001. The State of North Rhine-Westphalia aims to continuously increase this percentage until 2030.

www.schulministerium.nrw.de/docs/Schulsystem/Inklusion/Praesentation-Auf-dem-Weg-zur-inkluisiven-Schule-in-NRW-August-2015.pdf

The State aims to bring the employment rate of persons with a migration background closer to the general employment rate in order to achieve a sustained reduction of poverty risk in this population group. This is to be achieved, among other things, by increasing educational participation and equal opportunities for people with a migration background, with a particular focus on social participation.

Demographic change creates great demands on the economy, the society and the infrastructure. Relevant issues range from changes in the workplace, a lack of skilled labor and problems with the change of generations at the helm of companies to social and health conditions. One result of such developments is an increase in demand for high quality services in the areas of health care and care for the elderly. Policy solutions for the situation of people of advanced age are necessary for all parts of the State, for the neighborhoods and urban centers as well as for rural areas.

Projects of category B refer to SDG 1 (*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*) and SDG 10 (*Reduce income inequality within and among countries*).

- **Inclusion, integration and qualification EUR 71.4m**

European Social Fund 2014-2020 (State's share)

Budget item # 11 032 title group 71

EUR 26.1m (27.0m)

The European Social Fund ([Europäischer Sozialfonds](#)) promotes education and employment opportunities. Core issues are competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies and employees, the employability of young people and migrants, the transition from school to employment, and human capital.

During the stage 2007-2013 of the programme, 1.1 million people participated in ESF projects. The most important cluster was employability / human capital (so-called priority axis B) with almost 700.000 participants in various projects. More than 90% of participants were between 15 and 25 years of age (www.mais.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/esf_durchfuehrungsbericht_2014.pdf).

The current programme for North-Rhine Westphalia ([Operationelles Programm 2014-2020](#)) also aims at fighting poverty.

Fight against poverty and social exclusion

Budget item # 11 042 title group 95

EUR 4.1m (5.4m)

Despite a fundamentally positive economic development in North Rhine-Westphalia, unemployment and forms of employment which do not provide a sufficient source of income remain a significant problem. The fight against social inequality, poverty and social exclusion is and will remain an important task for politics and the society in general. The State's initiative to fight poverty ([Handlungskonzept Gegen Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung](#)) provides funds for various projects focusing on children from low-income families or disadvantaged local communities. The State's initiative to prevent homelessness ([Aktionsprogramm Hilfen in Wohnungsnotfällen](#)) supports appropriate projects at the municipal level, with a focus on knowledge transfer, consulting, evaluation and reporting.

Detailed information on the social situation in NRW, including demographics, education, the labour market and income levels is set out in the latest social report for NRW ([Sozialbericht 2016](#)).

Social inclusion of persons with disabilities

Budget item # 11 050 title group 80

EUR 3.8m (4.1m)

The programme "NRW – One society for all" ([Eine Gesellschaft für alle – NRW inklusiv](#)) is a comprehensive set of measures adopted by the State to implement the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The projects and initiatives shall create opportunities for the participation for persons with disabilities in society. An overview of successful projects, measures and initiatives, clustered according to regions and action areas, is available through an interactive map of NRW ([Inklusionskataster NRW](#)).

Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

Budget item # 11 050 title group 86

EUR 6.8m (7.4m)

North Rhine-Westphalia features 104 accredited workshops which employ people with disabilities, thereby providing 77,000 employment opportunities. The State provides grants for construction and equipment of such workshops. The State also provides financial support to cover expenses for construction, equipment and other measures necessary to create jobs for persons with disabilities in so-called integration companies (Integrationsfirmen). Integration companies are independent companies which hire their staff in the regular labour market and have to compete on market economy terms. The goal is to create 250 new employment opportunities in integration companies per year ([www.mais.nrw/integration-unternehmen](#)).

Integration of migrants

Budget items # 11 060 title group 68 and 11 060 547 12

EUR 30.6m (40.0m)

The State supports a wide variety of efforts at the municipal level to help integrate migrants into society. Throughout North Rhine-Westphalia, 50 municipal integration centres work with migrants who have been living in North Rhine-Westphalia for quite a while as well as with a growing number of people who have arrived more recently, seeking shelter from persecution or civil war. The State also supports centres for intercultural exchange. Sponsored projects at these centres include various forms of education as well as community organisation.

- **Language skills in early childhood education, support and advice for families EUR 58.2m**

Language courses at child care facilities

Budget item # 07 040 title group 91

EUR 25.2m (25.0m)

The State finances language courses at child care facilities, in particular for children from low-income families or from disadvantaged local communities and for children whose first language is not German ([www.kita.nrw.de/fachkraefte-fachberatung/sprachliche-bildung](#)).

Support for family centres

Budget item # 07 040 title group 92

EUR 33.0m (34.6m)

In the State of NRW, 261 child care facilities are accredited as family centres ([Familienzentren](#)). Family centres provide information and consulting for parents with regard to child care and financial support. Family centres located in disadvantaged local communities receive additional funds. [www.familienzentrum.nrw.de/fileadmin/documents/pdf/09_Guetesiegel_Einzel.pdf](#)

- **School social work EUR 47.1m**

Budget item # 11 029 633 20

EUR 47.1m (47.7m)

The initiative School social work ([Soziale Arbeit an Schulen](#)) promotes education and participation for disadvantaged children. Supported projects aim at regular school attendance and improved school performance of their clients in order to strengthen their personal development and employability.

C **Public Transportation and Local Mobility EUR 188.1m**

Projects of category C refer to SDG 9 (*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*) and SDG 11 (*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*).

- **Public transportation for low-income citizens EUR 40.0m**

Budget item # 09 110 title group 60 EUR 40.0m (40.0m)

The State provides grants for municipalities and regions which offer public transport at subsidized rates for low-income citizens. So-called social tickets (SozialTickets) enhance the participation of all social classes in a society which is increasingly characterized by mobility. At the same time, the system of public transport is being strengthened. According to an evaluation from October 2015, 2 million people in NRW are eligible for social tickets and 290.000 take advantage of it. Half of them stated to use public transport more frequently now because of social tickets.

www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/dokumentenarchiv/Dokument/MMV16-3361.pdf

- **Public transportation for pupils and students EUR 130.0m**

Budget item # 09 110 title group 74 EUR 130.0m (130.0m)

According to section 11a of the State's law relating to public transport in North Rhine-Westphalia (ÖPNVG NRW), municipalities and regions get reimbursed for lost income due to reduced fares for pupils, students and trainees. The State also covers additional costs for the improvement of supply and quality in educational traffic ([Ausbildungsverkehr](#)).

- **Transportation infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians EUR 18.1m**

Local mobility

Budget item # 09 140 title group 61 EUR 9.7m (15.3m)

Improvement and expansion of bicycle lanes

Budget item # 09 150 777 14 EUR 8.4m (9.4m)

The State provides financial support for projects which improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, particularly on short-haul routes (local mobility, see [Aktionsplan Nahmobilität](#)). Major projects with regard to cycling relate to the construction of a bicycle road infrastructure and bicycle parking facilities as well as construction of bicycle paths on abandoned railway lines. Supported projects also include the websites of "Radroutenplaner NRW" (Bicycle Route Planner, available at www.radroutenplaner.nrw.de), "Wanderrouutenplaner NRW" (Hiking Route Planner, available at www.wanderrouutenplaner.nrw.de) and "Radverkehrsnetz NRW" (Bicycle Route Network, available at www.radverkehrsnetz.nrw.de).

D Climate protection and energy transition EUR 63.7m

In order to mitigate climate change and its inevitable impact, it is necessary to limit the global temperature rise to a maximum of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius in comparison with pre-industrial time. To achieve this goal, enormous efforts are needed at all political and social levels. A central element of the State's approach to energy transition and climate protection is the Climate protection law North Rhine-Westphalia (Klimaschutzgesetz NRW), which provides binding commitments with regard to climate protection objectives. Specific measures to achieve these goals will be laid out in a plan of campaign ([Klimaschutzplan NRW](#)).

In the context of current climate protection targets at the EU and the federal level, the State Climate Protection Act aims to reduce greenhouse gases in North Rhine-Westphalia by at least 25% by 2020 and by at least 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels. By 2025, more than 30 % of all electricity consumption in the State should be obtained from renewable sources. By 2050, the nation-wide goals of more than 80 % should translate into an equally ambitious development approach in NRW. In order to achieve these goals and to reduce environmental damage associated with raw material consumption, it is important to enhance the protection of natural resources, to strengthen the "recycling economy" and to increase energy efficiency and resource efficiency in general. Adaptation to unavoidable consequences of climate change will also become an increasingly relevant issue.

Projects of category D refer to SDG 7 (*Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*) and SDG 13 (*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy*).

- **Climate protection and renewable energies EUR 58.6m**

Renewable energies and energy efficiency

Budget item # 10 060 title group 63

EUR 15.6m (19.6m)

A significant contribution to the State's climate protection efforts is provided through the programme for rational energy consumption, renewable energies and energy saving "[progres.nrw](#)". Core elements of the programme focus on innovation, market launch and combined heat and power. In the context of innovation, the State provides financial support for projects of research and development (including prototypes) with regard to climate protection and energy consumption. Supported projects focus on biomass, fuels and engines, solar and geothermal energy. Projects relating to energy production from fossil fuels or projects targeted at replacing existing plants without improving energy efficiency are not eligible. In the context of market launch, the State promotes the distribution of technologies for the use of renewable energies and energy conservation measures (including local and district heating). Eligible are, inter alia, projects relating to the construction of thermal solar systems, photovoltaic systems and water turbines or biomass plants connected to a solar thermal system.

www.bezreg-arnsberg.nrw.de/themen/f/foerderpro_progres_nrw/broschuere_foerderprogramme.pdf

European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF) 2014-2020, State's share

Budget item # 10 90 title 82

EUR 43.0m (49.9m)

The State provides financial support for environmental initiatives carried out within the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Supported projects focus on climate protection and renewable energies, combined heat and power, energy efficiency and resource efficiency, decentralization of energy consumption, soil protection and remediation of land as well as reduction of noise. In the current period, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has a particularly high priority.

www.efre.nrw.de/fileadmin/user_upload/3_Factsheet_EFRE_NRW_final.pdf

In all programmes of this category, projects relating to armaments, crude oil and coal as fossil resources, nuclear power or tobacco are not being sponsored.

- **Resource efficiency EUR 5.1m**

Budget item # 10 020 title group 68

EUR 5.1m (4.4m)

The State sponsors the Efficiency agency North Rhine-Westphalia ([Effizienz-Agentur NRW](#)). The agency supports municipalities as well as small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises in the State with regard to policies and strategies enhancing their resource efficiency, thereby creating clear benefits for their businesses as well as for the environment. Supported projects focus on the efficient use of raw materials and energy, climate protection measures and promotion of renewable energies (www.ressourceneffizienz.de). Projects targeted at power generation from fossil fuels or relating to shale gas/fracking are not eligible.

www.umwelt.nrw.de/umweltschutz-umweltwirtschaft/umwelt-wirtschaft-und-ressourcenschutz/ressourceneffizientes-wirtschaften

E Protection of natural resources EUR 70.9m

With almost 18 million inhabitants, North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the most densely populated areas in Europe. At the same time, the State features a diverse and unique natural heritage. 26% of the State's territory is covered with woodlands, agriculture lands account for 49%. The State has 3,152 protected nature area sites covering more than 8% of the land area.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia is committed to the protection of biodiversity in its Biodiversity Strategy ([Biodiversitätsstrategie](#)) and in its Sustainability Strategy ([Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie](#)). Biodiversity is one of the most important foundations of human life. In NRW, however, diversity of this kind is dwindling at an alarming rate. According to the State's latest environmental report ([Umweltbericht Nordrhein-Westfalen 2016](#)), the number of extinct or lost species is higher than ever. A severe threat for habitats and species can be seen from "red lists" and unfavorable conservation conditions. Of the species studied in North Rhine-Westphalia, almost 45 per cent are endangered, threatened with extinction or already extinct.

The central objective of conservation policy in North Rhine-Westphalia is to avoid loss of biodiversity and to increase population of endangered species. The goal is to reduce the rate of red list species to 40 percent by 2030 and increase overall biodiversity over this period. Comprehensive protection of existing species, preservation of cultivated landscapes and sufficient space for undisturbed wildlife can significantly contribute to this. It is also important to use the forests in a sustainable manner.

Projects of category E refer to SDG 14 (*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*) and SDG 15 (*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*).

- **Protection of nature, landscape and biodiversity EUR 29.7m**

Waste management and soil protection

Budget item # 10 020 883 11

EUR 4.3m (3.8m)

The State provides financial support for soil protection efforts at the municipal level, with a focus on risk assessment. The goal is to protect the environment, mitigate hazards for public health, support regional planning and zoning regulation and allow for remediation of abandoned landfills or industrial sites ("land recycling").

www.umwelt.nrw.de/umweltschutz-umweltwirtschaft/umwelt-wirtschaft-und-ressourcenschutz/boden-und-flaechen/altlastensanierung-und-flaechenrecycling

The projects are coordinated by the Association for Area Recycling and Remediation of contaminated sites ([AAV](#)), a state-sponsored entity. The [Annual Report 2015](#) gives an overview over the current state of a broad portfolio of projects, most of them located in the Ruhr Valley. This area is heavily affected by contaminated sites due to its more than 200 years of industrial history

Protection of nature

Budget item # 10 030 title group 82

EUR 25.4m (36.0m)

An import pillar of the State's conservation policy is the Biodiversity Strategy of 2015 ([Biodiversitätsstrategie](#)). It reflects efforts at the national level, where the federal government has submitted the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) in 2007. The NBS contains around 330 goals and 430 measures for protection and sustainable use of nature in Germany with a time frame from 2010 to 2050. The Biodiversity Strategy of NRW supplements and specifies the NBS with regard to the specific conditions of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The State provides financial support for private environmental protection facilities ("Biologische Stationen") and for land acquisitions for conservation purposes. The "Biologische Stationen" in North Rhine-Westphalia are rooted in private initiatives for the conservation of nature. Today, these facilities serve as an important link between private and official efforts. The network of "Biologische Stationen" in North Rhine-Westphalia is unique nationwide and plays an important role in the implementation of the conservation work on site. Cooperation with agriculture, forestry and official authorities provides comprehensive support for the existing network of protection areas. Eligible activities also include voluntary conservation projects on site, implementation and support of wildlife conservation projects and education with regard to issues of environmental protection.

Through land acquisitions for conservation purposes, highly valuable areas are protected from intensive economic exploitation in order to allow for a more environment-friendly development (e.g., heath or moorland, grassland, arable, and forest land in protection areas). These parcels of land can serve as "Stepping stone habitat areas", allowing for unimpaired wildlife and strengthening the network of areas with favourable conservation conditions.

- **Flood protection and river restoration EUR 23.3m**

Budget item # 10 050 TG 66

EUR 23.3m (36.7m)

Early and environment-friendly flood control is essential in the densely populated and highly industrialized State of NRW, especially for the river Rhine, but also for many other waters. The flood prevention concept of the State ([Hochwasserschutzkonzept](#)) offers solutions for a wide range of possible flood events on large or small waters. The State's approach features concepts of technical assistance and water retention as well as planning instruments for flood prevention purposes, e.g. designation of floodplains. Natural watercourses and their floodplains can cache sprawling water, thus reducing the wave crest. Ecological restoration of streams and rivers can restore this property and thus contribute to flood prevention.

- **Responsible agriculture and rural development EUR 17.9m**

Responsible agriculture

Budget items # 10 080 683 11 and 683 31

EUR 5.7m (5.3m)

In the context of the national task to improve the agricultural structure and protect the coastline, as set out in section 91a of the Federal Constitution, the State supports measures to preserve and improve the living conditions of endangered animals and plants in North Rhine-Westphalia, to reduce the use of fertilizers and plant protection products and to protect soil and water. Additional goals are the protection of pasture land and cultivated landscapes, animal-friendly farming processes and an increase in the use of organic farming techniques to satisfy the demand for ecologically produced groceries. In 2015, 114 farms have been converted from traditional to organic agriculture, which brings the total number of such enterprises in 2016 to 1,570, working 62,000ha of land (see [Press Release](#) of 22 September, 2015).

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (ELER), State's share

Budget item # 10 090 title group 60

EUR 12.2m (38.3m)

The State's plan of campaign for rural areas ([NRW-Programm Ländlicher Raum](#)) supports selected projects within the framework of the European Agricultural Fund for the Development of Rural Areas (EAFRD) in North Rhine-Westphalia. The goal is to maintain and develop viable rural areas and to develop sustainable peasant agriculture through projects that help to restore, maintain and improve biodiversity, nature-oriented land management and contribute to the conservation of landscapes.

F Sustainable Urban Development EUR 72.6m

The policy of urban development in North Rhine-Westphalia focuses on urban and rural areas with significant structural difficulties. In cities and municipalities, nature and free space can enhance the quality of life through environmental and health benefits as well as through a positive influence on social cohesion. Other important goals include energetic modernization of the social infrastructure and barrier-free access to public spaces and buildings.

For the sustainability bond, the sub-programs "Urban Conversion West" ([Stadtumbau West](#)) and "Social City" ([Soziale Stadt](#)) were selected ([comprehensive list of all sponsored projects in 2016](#)). Under both programs, eligible projects must be based on an integrated urban development concept outlining the objectives and measures of the project in question. Such concepts must be implemented with the participation of the citizens.

Projects of category F refer to SDG 10 (*Reduce income inequality within and among countries*) and SDG 11 (*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*).

- **Urban Reconstruction in the West EUR 33.1m**

Budget item # 09 500 883 11 EUR 33.1m (38.6m)

The program "[Stadtumbau West](#)" (Urban Reconstruction in the West) focuses on the problems of a shrinking population and a stagnating economic development. Urban districts with a severe loss of functions or a high degree of abandoned or vacant property (residential, commercial, military or railway) are eligible for support under this program. The goal is to stipulate new initiatives for sustainable urban development. Relevant issues range from urban planning and housing to economic development and social and environmental policies. In 2015, seven new projects were launched, bringing the total number of participating municipalities to 91.

- **Social City EUR 31.3m**

Budget item # 09 500 Titel 883 11 EUR 31.3m (29.8m)

The program "[Soziale Stadt](#)" (Social City) tackles various challenges for local communities with regard to urban renewal, labor market development, economic structure and growth, housing, social and cultural infrastructure, integration and inclusion, schools, promotion of health, prevention of crime and public relations. Most projects start with concrete measures to improve conditions of living and the social environment, such as renewal of play-grounds, schoolyards and parks. Since its inception in 1994, 110 city centres have benefitted from this program. In 2015, six new projects were launched, bringing the total number of participating municipalities to 55.

- **Geriatric care and demographic change EUR 8.2m**

Development plan geriatric care

Budget items # 15 044 title group 90 and 15 010 547 14 EUR 8.2m (9.9m)

In the context of ongoing demographic change, the State's Development Plan Geriatric Care (Landesförderplan Alter und Pflege) aims at a suitable local infrastructure for the elderly. The concept addresses local planning processes and model projects for cooperation and networks. It also relates to reliable care for people in difficult economic situations as well as health care needs of migrants, refugees and citizens with special health conditions. A particular focus is on elderly people with disabilities or with a history of migration, in order to strengthen inclusion in the neighborhood. The overall goal is to protect and enhance independence and individuality.

G Modernisation of educational and public health facilities EUR 451.3m

Resource-efficient and cost-effective management public buildings are important contributions to sustainable development. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the management of state-owned real estate is the task of the state-owned Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb Nordrhein-Westfalen (BLB NRW), which is certified according to ISO 9001 (quality management), ISO 14001 (environmental management) and the eco-management audit scheme regulation of the EU (EMAS III).

www.blb.nrw.de/BLB_Hauptauftritt/BLB_NRW/Zertifizierung/EMAS_Umwelterklaerung_web.pdf

An important goal of the State's climate protection plan is a climate-neutral administration. Since 2016, the energy consumption of all public buildings managed by BLB NRW – 337 gigawatt-hours per year – are covered from renewable sources such as geothermal energy, solar panels, water and wind power or biogas plants, reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 200,000t annually. The State aims to renovate and retrofit 2% of the existing stock of public buildings in any given year. Currently the efforts focus on universities and university medical clinics.

Projects of category G refer to SDG 3 (*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*) and SDG 13 (*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy*).

- **Modernisation of university buildings EUR 93.5m**

Modernisation of university buildings

Budget items # 06 100 891 20, 06 110 685 20, 894 20 EUR 93.5m (115.2m)

The State's comprehensive programmes for the modernisation of university buildings ([Hochschulmodernisierungsprogramm](#) and [Hochschulbau-Konsolidierungsprogramm](#)) provide renovation and technical upgrades for various university facilities. Current standards for energy efficiency and accessibility are being obeyed.

- **Modernisation of university medical clinics EUR 357.8m**

Conservation and remediation of existing facilities

Budget items # 06 102 TG 63, 06 103-108 891 20 EUR 149.7m (148.1m)

The State plans to modernize all existing university medical clinics by 2020 in order to provide state-of-the-art possibilities for medical treatment, but also with regard to research.

The State's grants for conservation and remediation comprise funds for comprehensive measures to save energy and reduce emissions of existing buildings. Projects include asbestos, CFC and PCB disposal, where necessary, as well as modernisation of sewage systems. On a limited scale, small new buildings as well as conversions and extensions for existing facilities are included.

www.haushalt.fm.nrw.de/daten/hh2015.ges/daten/html/hp_06.html

Enlargement and other investments

Budget items # 06 103-108 891 30 EUR 208.1m (185.2m)

The State's grants for enlargement and other investments comprise funds for reconstruction and restructuring of existing buildings and new developments as well as major extensions, including the initial set-up. A detailed list of the individual projects can be found in the explanatory notes on the relevant budget items ([Haushaltsstellen](#)).