Sustainability Bond #6 State of North Rhine-Westphalia



Use of Proceeds

Eligible Assets

Düsseldorf, November 2019

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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. As the most populous federal state, we demonstrate how to successfully implement change towards sustainable development while maintaining and reinforcing our economic and industrial structures. The <u>Sustainability Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia</u>, as approved in 2016, is also the political reference for the Sustainability Bonds.

North Rhine-Westphalia actively joins the global efforts under the umbrella of the global Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) articulated in it. In its Sustainability Strategy, the State Government lays out how it will implement this global consensus on all political levels (see Activities in North-Rhine Westphalia to implement the 2030 Agenda). At the same time, Agenda 2030 is a guiding theme for North Rhine-Westphalia's international cooperation efforts and interactions with partner regions.

A set of relevant targets and indicators is being used to measure progress with regard to implementation of the strategy. The reporting system comprises almost 70 indicators related to the fields of action of the strategy and to the 17 SDGs. The first <u>Sustainability Indicator Report</u> (in German) has been published in 2016. In addition, the results are available on a dedicated website with regular updates (<u>www.nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren.nrw.de/sdgs</u>). The NRW Sustainability Strategy is currently under review, aligning the methodology more closely with the federal Sustainability Strategy of 2017.

Sustainability Bond #6

As in the previous issuances, the key aspect of Sustainability Bond #6 is the topic of Sustainable Development in the context of SDGs and the State's own Sustainability Strategy.

An amount equal to net issue proceeds of the State Treasury Notes will be used to cover expenditures of the fiscal year 2019. Projects were selected in accordance with the categories and specifications set out in the Sustainability Bond Framework (see Second Party Opinion provided by ISS ESG). Main criterion is a clear environmental 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.

A Education and Sustainability Research EUR 968.4m

Principal goals:

SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Secondary goal:

SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

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 in order 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 person 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.

• Enlargement of universities, additional training facilities EUR 860.2m

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

Budget item # 06 100 title group 70 (without # 06 100 231 50),

Title 685 10 (partly) of chapters 06 111 - 06 850

495.9m

North Rhine-Westphalia has a diverse university landscape with 14 public universities, 16 public universities of applied sciences, 7 public colleges of art and music, 28 recognized private and church universities with headquarters in the State as well as 5 administrative colleges.

Fortunately, many people with university entrance qualifications or a professional qualification choose to study in North Rhine-Westphalia. The total number of students in the winter semester 2018/19 was around 763,000. The number of first-year students was 105,230. In recent years, demand for university education has grown significantly. From 2006 to 2016 the number of newly enrolled students at universities in the State has increased by 67%. No tuition fees are charged at public universities in North Rhine-Westphalia, making university education available for a large group of citizens.

The State responds to growing demand for university education with the creation of additional places to study in the context of the Bund-Länder-Covenant for the expansion of universities (Hochschulpakt 2020), which has been 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.bmbf.de/de/hochschulpakt-2020-506.html

Training facilities for the education of special education teachers

Budget items

06 131 685 10, 06 181 685 10, 06 230 685 10, 06 240 685 10, 06 250 685 10 (partly)

21.2m

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. Existing facilities can no longer meet the training needs. Additional colleges will set up Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes with 2,300 additional study places. This is an important step on the way to an inclusive school system in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Measures to improve the quality of teaching and study at universities

Budget item # 06 100 title group 72

249.0m

From winter semester 2006/07 until summer semester 2011, universities and colleges in North Rhine-Westphalia were allowed to charge tuition fees of up to EUR 500 per semester and student. These revenues were used for teaching and quality improvements. The aim of the state government is to provide unfettered access to quality education. Therefore, tuition fees have been abolished since winter semester 2011/12. In order to further improve the quality of higher education, funds for quality improvement of the same amount as the previous tuition fee revenues are provided to universities.

Return programme for highly qualified young researchers from abroad

Budget items # 06 100 title group 65

4.3m

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia makes it easier for researchers to return to Germany after a career station abroad. Only two years after completing their doctorate, they can set up their own research group at a NRW university of their choice and qualify for a permanent professorship in this way. So far 32 promising young researchers have been returned to NRW via the programme. For each junior research group, the State provides up to EUR 1.25m over a period of five years. The money is intended for operating expenditures and the purchase of larger equipment.

www.mkw.nrw/forschung/foerderung/wissenschaftlichen-nachwuchs-foerdern/rueckkehrprogramm/

Promotion of equality at universities

Budget items # 06 100 title group 73

4.3m

In order to allow for the full innovative potential of women, participation of women at all levels of qualification in the field of science should be increased. Funds provided will be used to improve equality at universities, in particular to increase the number of female scientists in top positions in the academic system and for the coordinating office of the NRW Network on Women and Gender Research, including the implementation of projects of the Women's Research Network and the Coordinating Body of the National Conference of Equal Opportunity Officers of the Universities and University Hospitals of the State.

The Federal Government and the German States launched the professorship programme for women in 2008. The programme works on two levels: It increases the number of female professors and it strengthens gender equality structures at German universities through specific measures. Universities qualify for participation in the programme through gender equality concepts that are subject to external assessment. Among other things, these concepts include equality-promoting measures geared to the respective university. Universities that present a convincing gender equality concept can apply for start-up funding of up to three positions for female professorships for a period of five years. In the case of North Rhine-Westphalia, 19 universities have applied with their equality concepts in the current round of the programme (2018-2022) and all of them were successful.

www.land.nrw/de/pressemitteilung/19-hochschulen-des-landes-ueberzeugen-mit-konzepten-zur-chancengleichheit-im

Professional education of geriatric nurses

Budget items # 11 090 title group 60

85.5m

According to section 5 of the State Law concerning Geriatric Care (Landesaltenpflegegesetz NRW), the State provides financial grants for the training of geriatric nurses.

Excellence Strategy EUR 32.0m

Budget items # 06 100 686 55 and 893 00

32.0m

In 2016, the Federal Government and the German states agreed to support cutting-edge research at German universities with a new funding programme. The goal is to strengthen Germany as an internationally competitive location for science. The funds are provided to enable top scientific achievements, to sharpen the profiles of universities and to stimulate networking and cooperation in the science system. The strategy of excellence thus combines the promotion of research with long-term and strategic investment in the higher education system.

The new Excellence Strategy builds on its predecessor programme, the Excellence Initiative from 2007 to 2017, which has contributed to outstanding research achievements. It has also strengthened the cooperation of universities with non-university partners and has led to increased networking of German universities with universities around the world. This development is attracting worldwide attention. More and more researchers are attracted to Germany from abroad. Other countries have launched their own programmes modelled on the Excellence Initiative. The entire German university landscape benefits from growing international visibility. The strategy is designed to maintain and expand this positive momentum.

The strategy consists of two parts, so-called funding lines: the "Clusters of Excellence" and the "Universities of Excellence".

The "Clusters of Excellence" promote internationally competitive research fields at universities or university associations on a project-related basis. In the clusters, scientists from various disciplines and institutions work together on a specific research project. The support provided allows them to focus intensively on their research goals, to train junior scientists and to recruit top international staff. Universities with clusters of excellence can also apply for additional lump sum funding as a policy supplement to strengthen their organization and strategic direction.

The selection of the Clusters of Excellence and Universities of Excellence is done solely on the basis of academic competitions. These procedures are carried out on behalf of the Federal Government and the States by "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (DFG) and "Wissenschaftsrat". With two universities of excellence (University of Bonn and RWTH Aachen University) and 14 clusters of excellence, North Rhine-Westphalia occupies a leading position nationwide and has expanded its portfolio by four additional clusters (compared to the previous awards of 2012).

The Federal Government and the States will provide around EUR 533m annually for the Excellence Strategy from 2018 onwards. 75% of the funding is provided by the Federal government and the remaining 25% by the State where the cluster of excellence or the university of excellence is located. All clusters of excellence together account for around EUR 385m per year. The universities of excellence are funded with the remaining EUR 148m annually. Figures shown are the share of expenditures borne by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

www.mkw.nrw/exzellenzstrategie

• Innovation and sustainable development EUR 57.4m

Promotion of innovation

Budget item # 14 400 title group 61

16.3m

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 ongoing progress for citizens and the community. The various research projects are carried out by universities, research institutes and private enterprises.

Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft

Budget chapter # 06 042, budget items # 07 080 685 10 and # 08 500 685 00

14.9m

The umbrella organization of <u>Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft</u> comprises <u>15 independent, non-profit scientific research outfits</u> which support the State's research and innovation strategy. The institutes pursue sustainable and future-oriented research for society, business and politics.

Annual report 2018 of Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft

Energy research

Budget item # 14 300 title group 69

6.9m

The State supports measures for the implementation of the Energy Research Offensive, which focuses on the establishment of a sustainable economy. Research and innovation play a key role in this process. The initiative is based on a broad concept of innovation, which not only encompasses the technological

implementation of scientific findings and ideas into marketable products but also offers new processes and solutions for all sectors of society. For this purpose, funding is provided for projects at the private level and for entities outside the State administration, for the implementation of new ideas for products, services and processes, for innovation with regard to existing products and procedures as well as for the transfer of knowledge. Universities and research institutes can apply for support. Public relations work and the Energy Research Report are part of the overall efforts.

Research and innovation in the fields of sustainable development

Budget item # 14 400 title group 75

11.1m

These funds support the development of innovative ideas in the context of industry and science. In particular, contributions in the fields of major societal challenges such as climate change, energy transition, demographic change, health, resource efficiency and increasing demands on mobility and digitalization are financed. The focus is on projects and structures of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, involving stakeholders from business and civil society in the context of the state's innovation and digital strategy. The transfer of knowledge and technology into economic and social applications, spin-offs and start-ups, patenting and utilization structures is part of the initiative. The aim of a research-friendly and business-friendly innovation policy is to enable researchers, entrepreneurs and founders in NRW to carry out bold future investments.

Sustainable development

Budget item # 10 060 title group 66

1.5m

The State sponsors projects contributing to sustainable development in the State, in the context of the State's Sustainability Strategy (<u>Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie NRW</u>) and the concept of Education for Sustainable Development (<u>Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung</u>).

Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development

Budget item # 10 020 686 72

2.0m

The Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development North Rhine-Westphalia (Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung Nordrhein-Westfalen) strives to create a forum for environmental and development policy activities in North Rhine-Westphalia and to connect these projects with practical engagement of civil society. The goal is to make a contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030. The Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development supports projects of various organizations 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 in 2001, the Foundation has sponsored about 1,400 projects with total grants of EUR 70m. Detailed information on these projects is accessible through a dedicated data base.

Annual report 2018 of Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development

Facilities for environmental education

Budget item # 10 020 title group 77

1.9m

The State's support for environmental education facilities helps to establish a statewide network of such institutions in the context of the concept of Education for sustainable development (<u>Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung</u>).

EU School programme

Budget item # 10 040 title group 60

2.9m

Promoting balanced and healthy school meals is an important task for the State government. The aim of this EU school programme is to introduce children to fruits, vegetables and milk and to make their diet healthier in the long term. To this end, the State provides complementary financing for the implementation of the programme.

• Consumer protection EUR 18.8m

Budget items # 10 040 684 10 and 686 10

The State provides financial support for projects focusing on consumer education and for the works of the consumers' association of North Rhine-Westphalia (<u>Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.</u>). One of the most important current issues relates to how consumers are affected by the ongoing energy transition (<u>Projekt Energiewende</u>). 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 2018, citizens took advantage of these services more than 516,000 times, through personal visits to one of the 61 regional offices, inquiries via phone calls or in writing.

Annual report 2018 of Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.

In all programmes in category A, projects relating to nuclear, tobacco, armaments, crude oil and coal are not being sponsored.

B Inclusion and Social Coherence EUR 556.9m

Principal goals:

SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 10 – Reduce income inequality within and among countries

Secondary goals:

SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Inclusion is a key concept for a society that recognizes and accepts diversity and aims at consensus based on shared values. In an inclusive school system, students with and without disabilities live and learn together. In the 2016/2017 school year, proportion of pupils with special educational needs at general schools in relation to all pupils with special educational needs (integration ratio) was 41.1% at primary level, 39.9% at lower secondary level and 42.6% at upper secondary level. In the school year 2000/01, the integration ratio had been 16.3% at primary level, 3.5% at lower secondary level and 14.4% at upper secondary level. Thus the integration ratio has increased by more than 24 percentage points across all levels of education. As part of the concept of school inclusion, the integration ratio shall continuously be increased until 2030.

www.nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren.nrw.de/integrationsquote-von-schuelerinnen-mit-sonderpaedagogischem-foerderbedarf

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.

• Inclusion, integration and qualification EUR 184.8m

Model projects for a social labor market in NRW

Budget item # 11 029 title group 90

20.0m

The funds are provided to develop and implement projects that enhance existing initiatives for the permanent employment of the long-term unemployed.

Start in education and work

Budget item # 11 029 title group 85

50.0m

The aim of this initiative is to pave the way for young people to achieve a school degree or vocational qualification and to provide them with training or employment. The programme is targeted at people with individual need for support — especially young refugees of full age, irrespective of their refugee status. According to current plans, up to 13,700 people will benefit from the funding.

European Social Fund 2014-2020 (State's share) / Programmes "No dead-end qualification" / "No dead-end qualification (compact)"

Budget items # 11 032 title group 71 and # 11 029 title group 80

39.0m

The European Social Fund (<u>Europäischer Sozialfonds</u>) 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 2007-2013 stage of the programme, 1.1m 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.mags.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/esf operationelles programm durchfuehrungsbericht.pdf).

The current programme for North-Rhine Westphalia (<u>Operationelles Programm 2014-2020</u>) also aims at social inclusion and reduction of poverty.

Projects include <u>expert advice on the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad</u>, the programme "<u>TalentCompass NRW</u>" for support in career orientation and development as well as the programme "No dead-end qualification".

The initiative "No dead-end qualification" supports pupils in North Rhine-Westphalia in the context of transition from school to work. A central element is early vocational orientation as well as advice with regard to career choices and entry into vocational training or university studies. The aim is to provide all young people finishing school with a follow-on perspective as soon as possible and to use effective coordination to avoid unnecessary waiting loops. This includes, among other things, an analysis of the student's potential as a basis for planning the individual learning process, documentation of vocational orientation and study selection as well as practical courses to deepen work experience and develop individual decisions.

At the beginning of the school year 2016/17, the programme was supplemented by a compact version of that course. The compact programme enables students who have not yet received initial vocational orientation to catch up with key elements of the regular programme. The target group of the compact course are newly arrived students with a migratory background attending 10th grade at general education schools or international classes at vocational colleges. Pupils from 10th grade who missed out on the regular programme due to a change of residence can also participate.

Fight against poverty and social exclusion

Budget item # 11 042 title group 95

9.3m

Despite a fundamentally sound 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 will remain an important task for politics and the society in general.

The State's initiative to reduce poverty (<u>Handlungskonzept gegen Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung</u>) provides funds for various projects focusing on children from low-income families or disadvantaged local communities.

The State's initiative to prevent homelessness (<u>Aktionsprogramm Hilfen in Wohnungsnotfällen</u>) supports appropriate projects at the municipal level, with a focus on knowledge transfer, consulting, evaluation and reporting.

Detailed information on the social situation in North Rhine-Westphalia including demographics, education, the labour market and income levels is set out in the latest social report for North Rhine-Westphalia (Sozialbericht 2016). The most recent figures are reported on a dedicated website (Sozialindikatoren Nordrhein-Westfalen).

Social inclusion of persons with disabilities

Budget item # 11 050 title group 80

3.7m

More than 2,600 people with disabilities live in North Rhine-Westphalia. With a wide range of social assistance schemes, the State is committed to provide opportunities for equal participation in work, employment and society for them.

The programme "NRW – One society for all" (<u>Eine Gesellschaft für alle – NRW inklusiv</u>) is a comprehensive set of measures adopted by the State to implement the UN Convention on the rights of persons with <u>disabilities</u>. The projects and initiatives create opportunities for participation 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).

Occupational integration of people with disabilities

Budget item # 11 050 title group 86

7.7m

The State government is continuing to expand workplaces in workshops for disabled people as needed. The funding of the workshop projects is provided jointly by the Land, the inclusion offices of the two regional associations, the Regional Directorate of North Rhine-Westphalia of the Federal Employment Agency as well as funds provided by the owners. Currently, 104 workshops for disabled people in North Rhine-Westphalia employ around 80,000 people.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia provides funds for investment in newly created jobs in integration companies / inclusion companies for severely disabled people. The two regional associations participate in the programme with their own funding and implement it in coordination with the State.

Approximately 300 inclusion companies in North Rhine-Westphalia currently provide a total of around regular 7,500 jobs, with full access to social security, including around 4,100 jobs for people of the target group.

www.mags.nrw/integration-unternehmen

Promoting integration of migrants living together in diversity

Budget items # 07 080 title group 68 and # 07 080 547 12

55.1m

The State supports a wide variety of efforts at the municipal level to help integrate migrants into society. There are 54 municipal integration centers North Rhine-Westphalia. These centres primarily work with migrants who have been living in North Rhine-Westphalia for a longer period of time.

Intercultural centers should be places of encounter and communication for people of different backgrounds and cultures. Funding is provided for training opportunities, low-threshold projects to support integration and the self-organization of migrants.

kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de

Language skills in early childhood, family centres and non-contributory day care EUR 324.4m

Language courses at child care facilities

Budget item # 07 040 633 15

25.0m

Language skills belong to the most important skills for successful education and integration into the labour market. To provide a good foundation for all children, language education should begin as early as possible. Against that background, 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 / promotion of cooperation of family formation and counseling centers with family centres

Budget items # 07 040 633 16 and # 07 030 684 10

42.1m

The purpose of the family centres (<u>Familienzentren</u>) is to provide information and counseling services to help parents support their children, as well as to bundle counseling and support services for parents and families and to link them with one another. Especially in areas characterized by poverty or inadequate infrastructure, family centers can help promote the social participation of disadvantaged families. In doing so, they make a contribution to more equal opportunities. Day care centers which have been approved as family centers receive special support from the State. One funding priority is family centres in social hotspots.

www.familienzentrum.nrw.de/zertifizierung/checkliste-guetesiegel

Assignments to municipalities for child care in special cases

Budget item # 07 040 633 13

18.2m

Among the refugees in North Rhine-Westphalia are also numerous children who are entitled to receive child care and who should benefit from early childhood education in day care centers. Since not all

affected children immediately attend a regular child care center, there is a need for particular services at an early point in time. The funds are provided for low-threshold day care services beyond the benefits of the Child Education Act, in order to facilitate the transition to institutional day care for children and their parents. In addition, counseling services for staff are supported.

plusKITA

Budget item # 07 040 633 14

45.0m

Children from low-income families, with a migration background or from a relatively uneducated social environment have worse educational opportunities than other children. The reason is not a lack of abilities, but worse starting conditions and a lack of support. In order to provide fair educational opportunities for all children from the beginning, day care facilities with a high proportion of families in difficult conditions receive additional support. Since the kindergarten year 2014/2015, these plusKITAs receive at least 25,000 Euros additionally per calendar year. There are currently around 1,700 plusKITAs in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The most important objective of plusKITAS is to improve educational opportunities for children right from the start by targeting educational disadvantages. This is done through individual strengthening of the children's potential. Support focuses on the everyday life of the families: educational concepts and forms of treatment appropriate under the prevailing conditions, cooperation with and empowerment of parents, a reliable contact person in local network structures and special training measures are among plusKITAS' tasks, which go further than in the case of regular day care facilities.

Exemption to contribution for parents for the last year of day care

Budget item # 07 040 633 20

194.1m

Day care centers are educational institutions and must therefore be accessible to all children. The last year of day care before enrolment at school is free of charge in North Rhine-Westphalia. Thus, preschool education, which is not compulsory in Germany, does not depend on the parents' income.

• School social work EUR 47.7m

Budget item # 11 029 633 20

47.7m

The initiative for school social work (<u>Soziale Arbeit an Schulen</u>) promotes education and participation for disadvantaged children and teenagers. Supported projects aim at regular school attendance, improved school performance, a reduction of the number of school drop-outs and a broader participation of students in sports and cultural activities. The goal is to strengthen the students' personal development and living environment as well as their employability.

Evaluation des Programms Soziale Arbeit an Schulen in Nordrhein-Westfalen

C Public Transportation and Local Mobility EUR 214.2m

Principal goals:

SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Secondary goals:

SDG 10 – Reduce income inequality within and among countries

SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Public transportation for low-income citizens EUR 40.0m

Budget item # 09 110 title group 60

40.0m

The State supports transport associations and municipalities who offer season tickets at reduced fares for low-income citizens. Most regions of North Rhine-Westphalia now offer such tickets, covering approximately 85% of all potential beneficiaries.

Social tickets enhance the participation of all citizens in a life which is increasingly determined by mobility. At the same time, the system of public transport is being strengthened. According to a survey carried out in 2015, approximately 2m people are eligible for social tickets and more than 300,000 people use it. More than 50% of respondents use public transport more frequently now.

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

Public transportation for pupils and students EUR 135.0m

Budget item # 09 110 title group 74

135.0m

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 (<u>Ausbildungsverkehr</u>).

Transportation infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians EUR 39.2m

Local mobility

Budget item # 09 160 title group 61

26.8m

Improvement and expansion of bicycle lanes

Budget item # 09 150 777 14

12.4m

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 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

- Radroutenplaner NRW (Bicycle Route Planner),
- Wanderroutenplaner NRW (Hiking Route Planner),
- Radverkehrsnetz NRW (Bicycle Route Network).

D Climate protection and energy transition EUR 96.1m

Principal goals:

SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Secondary goal:

SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

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. The State government of North Rhine-Westphalia stands by the climate protection agreement of Paris and supports the goal that the world should operate greenhouse gas-neutral from 2050 onwards. North Rhine-Westphalia will make an appropriate contribution to this target. The goal is to turn North Rhine-Westphalia into the most up-to-date and environmentally friendly location for industries in Europe. The State law concerning Climate protection (Klimaschutzgesetz NRW) provides binding targets in this regard. Specific measures to achieve these targets are set 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 (compared to levels of 1990). By 2025, more than 30% of all electricity consumption in the State should be obtained from renewable sources. By 2050, this ratio should be 80%. In order to achieve these goals and to reduce environmental damage associated with raw material consumption, it is important to enlarge the capacity for the generation of renewable energies, to enhance networks and grids as well as storage facilities and to increase energy efficiency and resource efficiency in general. Adaptation to unavoidable consequences of climate change will also become an increasingly relevant topic.

www.klimaschutz.nrw.de

• Climate protection and renewable energies EUR 90.2m

Energy systems of the future, system transformation, innovation, e-mobility and energy efficiency

Budget item # 14 300 title group 63

59.0m

On the way to a largely greenhouse gas-neutral energy system of the future, the structure of North Rhine-Westphalia as a hub for energy production will change. Today's energy system will evolve into an international, intelligent and integrated system linking electricity, heating / cooling and mobility. A prospective cross-sectoral energy system will be shaped by renewable energies, energy efficiency, digitalization and decentralized structures.

Funds provided primarily support projects of "progres.nrw", a programme for rational use of energy, renewable energies and energy saving with the central modules "product launch", "low-emission mobility" and "innovation". With the module "innovation", the State supports projects ranging from industrial research and experimental development to prototypes in the field of energy systems of the future, system transformation, e-mobility and energy efficiency. The aim of the module "market introduction" is to accelerate the use of new energy efficiency technologies and renewable energies. Its purpose is to accelerate widespread adoption of many applicable technologies for the use of inexhaustible energy sources and the rational use of energy in order to make a significant contribution to climate protection, reduction of CO₂ emissions and strengthening of the general economy. The focus is on marketable products which only need temporary support in order to reach widespread application. The initiative also includes efficient use of heat potentials and innovative projects for the expansion of local and district heating supply. A new project relates to "low-emission mobility". As a follow-up to previous e-mobility initiatives, this programme integrates incentives for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises and municipalities. Consulting services are provided for municipalities, landlords and real estate managers as well as fleet operators. The promotion of private and publicly

accessible charging infrastructure as well as municipal vehicles will continue in order to further increase the willingness to purchase electric vehicles and accelerate the market upturn.

In addition, cities and municipalities are supported in the context of implementation of the European Energy Award and in the preparation of a carbon footprint documentation.

Environmental economy, sustainable economy

Budget item # 10 060 title group 63

1.9m

The State's strategy for an environmental economy systematically targets positive effects of climate protection and environmental policy on the overall economy and employment. True to the motto "environmental protection pays off", the strategy for an environmental economy reveals that projects in this area, in addition to reducing the environmental impact of operations, also contribute to reducing costs. The aim is to strengthen the competitiveness of companies while at the same time helping to protect the climate and the environment. The three most important fields of action within the strategy are promotion of innovation, market development and internationalization.

The State government supports brand development for North Rhine-Westphalia as a future-oriented location for manufacturing and services. The strategy for an environmental economy contributes to further expanding the strong position of environmental industries located in North Rhine-Westphalia, increasing its competitiveness, and making local companies pioneers in resource-efficient, energy-efficient and climate-friendly business.

Umweltwirtschaftsbericht 2017

Funding programme for pumped storage power plants

Budget item # 14 300 title group 67

4.0m

Pumped storage power plants allow for energy storage with high capacity, high efficiency and fast availability. They form an important basis for ensuring energy supply with a high share of renewable energies. Planning and conception of such units occur over periods of more than 10 years and must start now.

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

Budget item # 10 090 title 82

24.5m

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

Climate Action / Regional Climate Adaptation Measures (LIFE)

Budget item # 10 060 title group 65 and 10 060 title group 67

0.8m

Funds are provided to finance instruments and measures to achieve the State's climate goals and for public relations in the field of climate protection and adaptation.

LIFE is an EU programme that financially supports environmental and conservation projects. The LIFE programme aims to contribute to implementation, revision and further development of environmental policy and environmental legislation, and to sustainable development in the European Union.

Resource efficiency EUR 5.9m

Budget item # 10 060 title group 68

5.9m

Funds are provided for the State's efficiency agency (<u>Effizienz-Agentur NRW</u>), projects relating to environmental protection at the company level, and the State's strategy for an environmental economy. The main focus is on resource efficiency and energy efficiency.

In all programmes in category D, projects relating to nuclear, tobacco, armaments, crude oil and coal are not being sponsored.

E Protection of natural resources EUR 153.4m

Principal goals:

SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

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

Secondary goals:

SDG 6 – Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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. A share of 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 are 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.

Protection of nature, landscape and biodiversity EUR 40.6m

Soil protection

Budget item # 10 050 883 00

4.7m

Funds provided finance measures to prevent deterioration of soil functions, to improve areas with adverse conditions and to enhance establishment of soil protection as well as to document damaging soil changes and contaminated sites and to further develop records of contaminated parcels of land.

Protection of nature

Budget item # 10 030 title group 82

35.9m

An import pillar of the State's conservation policy is the Biodiversity Strategy of 2015 (<u>Biodiversitätsstrategie</u>). 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 also provides financial support for private environmental protection facilities ("<u>Biologische Stationen</u>") and for land acquisitions for conservation purposes.

"Biologische Stationen" 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 66.7m

Budget item # 10 050 title group 66

66.7m

Early and environment-friendly flood control is essential in the densely populated and highly industrialized State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 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.

www.umwelt.nrw.de/umwelt/umwelt-und-wasser/gewaesser/hochwasser

Responsible agriculture and rural development EUR 46.1m

Responsible agriculture

Budget items # 10 080 683 11 and 683 31

6.8m

In the context of the national task to improve the agricultural structure and to 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 growing demand for ecologically produced groceries.

The positive trend in organic farming is clearly reflected in the development of the share of organic farms and ecologically managed land. While there were only 450 organic farms in Germany in 1980, there were already 25,000 organic farms in 2017 working an area of 1.1m hectares. In North Rhine-Westphalia alone, more than 1,800 organic farms manage an area of almost 70,000 hectare.

www.oekolandbau.nrw.de

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD (State's share)

Budget item # 10 090 title group 60

39.3m

The State's plan of campaign for rural areas (<u>NRW-Programm Ländlicher Raum</u>) implements the European Union's support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in North Rhine-Westphalia. The funding aims to preserve and develop liveable rural areas and to develop sustainable, rural agriculture. The funding policy adresses the challenges faced by the rural regions of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Agricultural structural change requires adaptation of the agricultural sector. It is also important to reduce the impact of intensive agriculture on the environment and to promote environmentally friendly and resource-efficient practices. In addition, the increase of animal welfare in livestock farming and the marketing of regional food are becoming more and more important. The programme puts special emphasis on support programs dedicated to the European priority for the restoration, conservation and improvement of biodiversity, land management with high nature value and improvement of the state of European landscapes.

F Sustainable Urban Development 430.4m

Principal goals:

SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Secondary goals:

SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 10 – Reduce income inequality within and among countries

SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

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 modernisation of the social infrastructure and barrier-free access to public spaces and buildings.

For the Sustainability Bond, the sub-programmes "Urban Reconstruction in the West" (<u>Stadtumbau West</u>) and "Social City" (<u>Soziale Stadt</u>) were selected. Under both programmes, 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.

List of all sponsored projects in 2018

Urban Reconstruction in the West EUR 50.1m

Budget item # 08 500 883 11 (partly)

50.1m

The programme "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 programme. 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.

Social City EUR 55.2m

Budget item # 08 500 Titel 883 11 (partly)

55.2m

The programme "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 playgrounds, schoolyards and parks.

• Geriatric care and demographic change EUR 16.3m

Development plan geriatric care

Budget items # 11 090 title group 90 and 11 010 547 17

16.3m

The State's Development plan geriatric care is based on the consensus that demographic development places considerable demands on the social infrastructure of the State and, in particular, on the quantity and quality of care and support services for elderly and people in need of care.

As part of the State's Development plan geriatric care (<u>Landesförderplan Alter und Pflege</u>), the State supports projects that can be assigned to the following five superordinate goals:

- Support structures
- Promote knowledge / disseminate knowledge
- Promote quality and transparency of advice
- Support with (digital) technology / Enable access to (digital) technology
- Promote participation

• Broadband expansion / Digitalization EUR 308.9m

Budget items # 14 500 title groups 62, 64, 73 and 74 and 06 100 title group 77

308.9m

The funds are used to co-finance the federal programme "Funding for Broadband Expansion".

The expansion of the broadband network is a basic requirement for digital learning, working and living. North Rhine-Westphalia strives to implement statewide convergent gigabit-capable networks by 2025. Schools and business parks will be connected to gigabit networks by the end of 2022 already. In North Rhine-Westphalia, 96% of households have access to internet services with a bandwidth of 50 Mbit/s. Services of 400 Mbit/s or more are available for 71% of households. Gigabit bandwidths are currently available for only 14%.

In the course of the State's digitization strategy, business parks and schools are to be connected to the gigabit network as quickly as possible. At the universities, measures for digitalization are to be financed in the areas of study and teaching, administration and infrastructure. One focus is on cross-university measures to achieve significant and long-term progress in digitalization in higher education.

In order to achieve this, the State sponsors the development of regional broadband concepts and the expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure in cases where market-based expansion is not taking place due to a lack of cost-effectiveness. The statewide digitalization initiative therefore includes the promotion of Wi-Fi network initiatives, citizens' broadband projects, broadband connections in schools and municipal Wi-Fi hotspots as well as measures for universities.

G Modernisation of educational and public health facilities EUR 478.1m

Principal Goals:

SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Secondary goals:

SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Resource-efficient and cost-effective management of public buildings are important contributions to sustainable development. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the management of state-owned real estate has been transferred to the State's Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb Nordrhein-Westfalen (BLB NRW). BLB NRW has an integrated environmental and quality management system, is certified according to ISO 9001 (quality management), ISO 14001 (environmental management) and the eco-management audit scheme regulation of the EU (EMAS III) and submitted a sustainability report for the first time in 2017. Important environmental goals are the optimization of energy consumption and emissions, the reduction of pollutant levels in the properties and the strengthening of sustainability in the case of new buildings and renovations (energy efficiency, use of renewable energies).

BLB EMAS environmental statement

An important goal of the State's climate protection plan is a climate-neutral State 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.

Modernisation of university buildings EUR 164.2m

Modernisation of university buildings

Budget items # 06 110 685 20, 06 110 894 20, 06 100 89120

164.2m

The State has launched comprehensive programmes for the modernisation of university buildings (Hochschulmodernisierungsprogramm and Hochschulbau-Konsolidierungsprogramm) in order to provide renovation and technical upgrades for various university facilities. In case of renovations, current legal standards for energy efficiency and accessibility applicable for new builds are fulfilled.

Modernisation of university medical clinics EUR 313.9m

Conservation and remediation of existing facilities

Budget items # 06 102 title group 63, title 891 20 of chapters # 06 103-108, respectively 131.5m

The State plans to modernize all existing university medical clinics by 2020 in order to provide stateof-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 modernization of sewage systems. On a limited scale, small new buildings as well as conversions and extensions for existing facilities are included.

Enlargement and other investments

Budget items title 891 30 of chapters # 06 103-108, respectively

182.4m

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 (<u>Haushaltsstellen</u>).