



CLIMATE ALLIANCE
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NEWSLETTER E 2007/2

Local Governments Climate Partnership

Cities in Germany, Japan and the USA join forces to combat climate change

Learning from each other and undertaking joint action in mitigating climate change are at the centre of the Local Governments Climate Partnerships initiative. Germany, the USA and Japan belong to the mightiest industrial nations of the G8 and are responsible for about 30 per cent of the worldwide CO₂ emissions. The per capita emissions range from 9.9 tons of CO₂ in Japan, 11.6 tons of CO₂ in Germany to 23.5 tons of CO₂ in the US. So exceptionally effective climate protection measures are needed to achieve the necessary emission reductions. The local level plays an essential role in this context.

An active exchange on local climate change policies among German municipalities and their sister cities in Japan and the US is therefore the aim of a research and development project on behalf of the German Federal Environment Agency. Climate Alliance and the Heidelberg Ifeu Institute develop a benchmarking system for local climate protection that helps to evaluate the feasibility and the outcome of local climate change policies and to reveal the most successful and efficient measures.

Local Climate Protection goes transnational!

The LGCP initiative aims at supporting the elaboration and further development of town twinning in the field of climate protection. Representatives of the German cities participating in the project expressed that they expect a substantial expansion of their existing town twinning and socialising with cities in Japan and the USA. Furthermore benchmarking is seen as a chance for more commitment in climate protection of the own city and as an opportunity of the exchange among the participating German cities.



**USA – GERMANY – JAPAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CLIMATE
PARTNERSHIP**

02

**The LGCP Benchmark
at a glance**

03

**Opportunities for Exchange
of Experience**

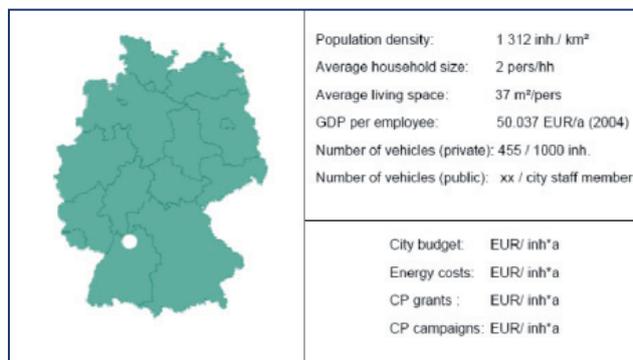
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Pioneering Local Action

The LGCP Benchmark at a glance

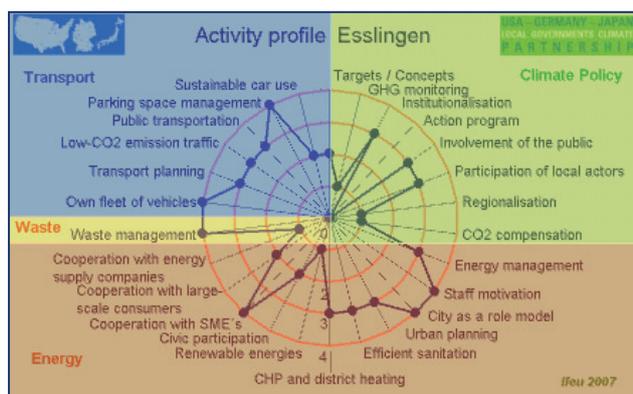
A new benchmarking system helps to assess local climate protection strategies under the different national framework conditions in Germany, Japan and the USA and reveals the most successful and efficient measures. As a result a list with prior fields of action and instruments to initiate new and as many as possible joint climate change activities will be set up. The benchmarking is therefore definitively not meant to rank the cities, but to enhance exchange of experience and to initiate joint action.

Step 1: City Fact Sheets



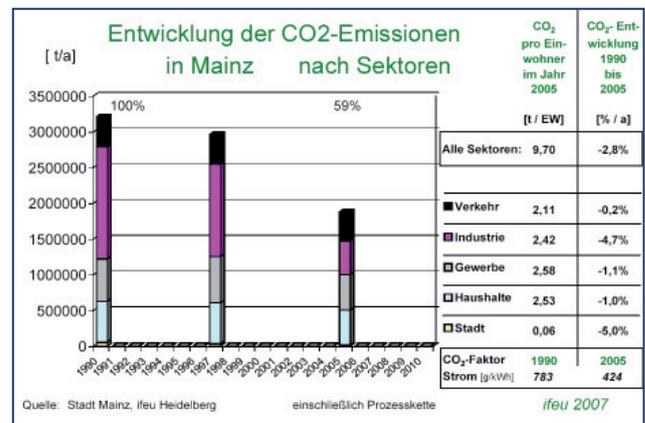
A brief overview of city characteristics states the conditions defining the cities' basis for activities. The evaluation of the city profiles in terms of achievements in climate protection has to be carried out in reference to this background.

Step 2: Activity Profiles



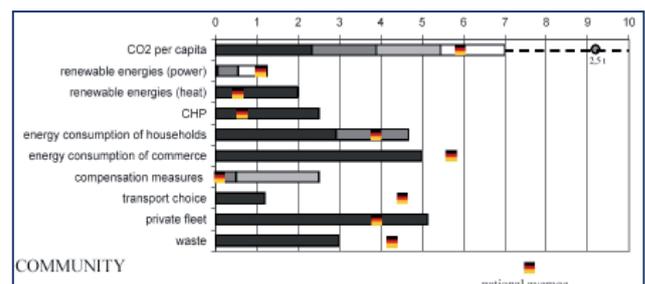
Activity profiles are used to scan the present state of the city's climate protection activities. The underlying matrix of activities includes 26 action fields in the categories "climate policy", "energy", "transport" and "waste". Each activity has been divided into four ambition levels from beginners to climate leaders.

Step 3: CO₂ Emission Display



The historic development of city wide emissions is a major indicator concerning climate issues. The cities report data according to the main sectors industry, commerce, households, transport and waste. They are analysed important changes and corresponding reasons for a significant in- or decrease in CO₂ emissions. By also reporting energy consumption, major variations in CO₂ emission can be traced back to fluctuating industrial or commercial activities, a change in energy carriers or an effective increase in energy efficiency. The main challenge here will be the comparison of different results in spite of different balancing approaches in Germany, Japan and the U.S.

Step 4: Set of Indicators



A set of 17 indicators completes the benchmarking system, gathering hard facts about the city's climate impact and revealing in which fields the city has achieved significant progress and which actions fields should be enforced. The result is given by a point scale from 0-10.

Opportunities for Exchange of Experience

Cities in Germany, Japan and the US can be involved in the LGCP initiative as follows:

- All municipalities that want to participate in the benchmarking will provide their reports and concepts with data and activities.
- German municipalities which have twin towns in the USA and Japan and would like to deepen their partnership in the area of protecting the environment can contact them and invite them to participate in this venture.
- All municipalities that are or want to be dedicated to climate protection and want to work with a city in one of these countries, the benchmarking helps to find an adequate partner.

Cities with “common climate protection experiences” like Heidelberg and Kumamoto or Munich and Sapporo already have good connection factors. Among most partner cities there are already activities which could be used as a basis - like business development in the field of environmental studies, ecological exhibitions and fairs or co-operation at universities.

Several workshops focus on the question how local authorities can benefit from mutual assistance and motivate each other in strengthening local action. A kick-off workshop united central actors in Germany, collected expectations and proposals from individual local governments and decided on further procedures how to contact twin cities overseas.

Two intermediate workshops in Japan and the USA will be organised to present and discuss the benchmarking of cities and measures with representatives



of local authorities in both countries. The principle aim is to work out recommendations to local (resp. regional or national) governments in order to strengthen climate change policies on the local level. Results will contribute to a better understanding of requirements and difficulties in each of the countries.

Highlight and conclusion of this project but at the same time starting point for – hopefully – many joint climate protection activities of the partner cities is the final conference with a following round trip through advanced cities in climate change policies in June 2008 in Germany.

**First announcement: Workshop
Local Governments Climate Partnership
17 & 18 March 2008 in Nagoya, Japan**

Pioneering Local Action

Until today, 46 cities have joined the Local Governments Climate Partnership initiative:

Germany

Augsburg, Bonn, Dresden, Frankfurt am Main, Freiburg im Breisgau, Friedrichshafen, Esslingen am Neckar, Hamburg, Hannover, Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Köln, Lübeck, Mainz, München, Münster, Offenbach am Main, Stuttgart

USA

Boston, Davenport, Denver, Madison, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle

Japan

Hiroshima, Iwata, Kawasaki, Kitakyushu, Kobe, Kumamoto, Kyoto, Matsumoto, Matsuyama, Nagahama, Nagoya, Sapporo, Shizuoka, Tajimi, Tsuchiura, Tsumshima, Ube, Yokohama, Yokosuka and the Prefectures of Aichi, Fukui and Ishikawa

**Come and join the
Local Governments Climate Partnership!**





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Nagoya University

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The Climate Alliance supports its member cities and municipalities in the development and implementation as well as in the evaluation and monitoring of measures to mitigate climate change. Established instruments are for instance the "10 Steps", providing a structured orientation for political and institutional implementation of climate protection in the municipality, or the CLIMATE COMPASS as a road-map for the development of local climate action plans. An internet based CO₂ monitoring tool for all 400 German member municipalities is currently in the pilot phase.

The Ifeu Institute elaborates energy and climate plans for local authorities for the last 25 years. Among others, Ifeu has developed Germany's first local energy efficiency plan for the city of Aachen.

More information:

www.climatealliance.org

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Presently (November 2007) 1365 cities, municipalities and districts as well as 63 provinces, NGOs and further organizations are member of the Climate Alliance. The members are in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.



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The "Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples / Alianza del Clima" is Europe's largest city network dedicated to climate protection. The member municipalities have entered into a partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples to protect the world's climate. The city network was founded in 1990 with the mission to elaborate and implement local climate protection measures especially in the fields of energy and mobility and to cooperate with indigenous peoples to protect the tropical rainforests. Cooperation partner is COICA, the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin. The Climate Alliance represents 50 million citizens in Europe.