



## Application as Cities and Local Authorities of the UN Decade

Criteria to be met

The city or local authority

1. made a decision at a political level (e.g. city council, district council) to make Education for Sustainable Development part of the municipality's mission
2. has established activities in the framework of the four strategic objectives of the National Plan of Action for Education for Sustainable Development
3. formulates objectives and measures with reference to Education for Sustainable Development for the next two to five years according to the existing educational structures
4. describes a focus area where Education for Sustainable Development is of particular importance
5. provides an evaluation of the positive effects on sustainable development resulting from educational activities, e.g. raising public awareness, changes in mobility behaviour, saving resources, international cooperation etc.)
6. formulates a progress report with reference to Education for Sustainable Development in case of a reapplication after two years

For recognition as a City of Local Authority of the World Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the activities of the city with reference to the aforementioned criteria must be far above the average compared to other cities.

For further information on the programme please contact:

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### Cities and Local Authorities of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

World Decade of the United Nations (2005–2014)



## World Decade of the United Nations

Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Assembly General of the United Nations proclaimed the years 2005 – 2014 as the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In Germany, the German Commission for UNESCO coordinates the implementation.

Across the globe there is agreement that there is an urgent need for sustainable thinking and actions to become reality. Sustainable development is a process of social change that affects and must be actively practiced by everyone in his/her respective environment. This applies to individual citizens just as much as it does to social institutions and democratically legitimated organs of our state.

The path to sustainability takes in education, social communication processes and the corresponding democratic decisions. Education for Sustainable Development is aimed at society, the business community, politicians and the environment. It encompasses to an equal degree learning in child daycare facilities, schools, universities, vocational and continuing training, extracurricular educational and cultural institutions as well as research institutes, companies and public administrations.



## Cities and Local Authorities as members of the »Alliance for Learning Sustainability«

Since the official launch of the UN Decade Education for Sustainable Development in 2005, outstanding projects can be recognised within the framework of the UN Decade, rendered visible throughout Germany and included as official initiatives in the »Alliance for Learning Sustainability«.

Since 2007 German cities and local authorities also have the opportunity to point the way on sustainability and can apply for recognition as a city, municipality and district of the UN Decade. So far the cities of Bonn, Erfurt, Frankfurt/Main, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Heidelberg and Neumarkt i.d. Oberpfalz have been recognised as Official Cities of the UN Decade; Alheim and Hellenthal as Official Municipalities. Your city, municipality or district can do the same.

## »Official German Cities of the World Decade«

For example:

The town of **Bonn** takes up Education for Sustainable Development as a future topic in the areas of environment, development and international affairs. The UN agencies with offices in Bonn have all placed their work under a common slogan: »United Nations in Bonn for Sustainable Development around the Globe«. The 150 non-governmental organisations based in Bonn are also focussing their work on sustainable development. In 2006 the town of Bonn published its first sustainability report.

In **Hamburg** the Senate launched the initiative »Hamburg learns sustainability« in May 2005. It promotes the integration of the sustainable development model into all areas of education. Every year a Hamburg Action Plan with a comprehensive catalogue of actions is drawn up. Hamburg is a committed member of the »North German Partnership to Support the UN Decade«.

**Heidelberg** is committed to energy savings, environmentally friendly public transport, One World Work and further training for teachers and pupils in the field of sustainable development. Networking between stakeholders and the bundling of activities are important goals of the project work. This leads to the emergence of new stimulus for education in the town. The projects are designed to set a precedent. By means of comprehensive public relations activities, the town communicates them to its population at large.

In 2002 the Agenda 21 process was launched as a Bavarian pilot project in **Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz**. Committed citizens and local stakeholders from associations and the business community are involved in elaborating and implementing a town model. 50 percent of the projects mentioned in the town model have already been implemented or are in the planning stage. The Bürgerhaus Neumarkt (community centre) is a forum for active citizen participation.