

Designing the FUTURE -

Berlin Local Agenda 21 Agenda Draft Summary

Foreword

by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit

This booklet discusses the future, develops ideas and makes concrete suggestions for various areas of city policies. It gives hope and makes the point: In Berlin there is much creativity and many ideas and engaged citizens who have ideas about the future. There isn't any sustainable future on credit. We had to learn this with difficulty in the discussion about the Berlin state budget and this also applies to our environment in a special way. We cannot borrow the future from our grandchildren and we must not make it impossible for them to enjoy it. It is our duty to keep options open for the future and open for the long term. This requires changes in many areas and this booklet includes a number of suggestions worth considering.

Berlin has a future and it is a city of possibilities. Our city has incomparable riches of knowledge, ability and experience. Great possibilities for Berlin exist in the application of this knowledge.

I would be happy if it turned out well, if we profited from this wealth in the discussion about the sustainable development of the region.

Thinking about the future shouldn't be something for only a few. My hope is that this booklet will be seen by many interested readers and will inspire discussion about the future of Berlin.

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Berlin, April 2003

Introduction

Enough jobs, a healthy environment and social teamwork – since the summer of 2000, the Agenda Forum considered what must be done to ensure these goals are reached in Berlin and in the surrounding Brandenburg in the future and the long term. And this in a global situation of limited raw materials, a world that is “growing smaller”, worldwide competition and rising social tensions.

Within the idea of "sustainable development", a future was conceived under a truly simple concept: Use the earth's resources so that future generations still have the same opportunities for development and aren't burdened by ecological, social, financial and economic mistakes of the past.

The Agenda Forum is a combination of representatives from social groups and organizations who advise or formulate the "Local Agenda 21" for Berlin in dialog with government and City Administration.

Preparation for such a future cannot simply be a thing of politics, rather it is a challenge for us all. Women and men have come together in the Agenda Forum, as independent citizens gathered together from organizations and administrations. They first considered in which direction the City should be moving - to lead toward a sustainable, future-oriented development. The result of their careful considerations and the focal points of such a future program are listed as follows:

Action Areas

- > transport / mobility
- > climate protection
- > social urban development / social cohesion
- > participation of citizens
- > future of work, sustainable regional development potential
- > structural change toward an information society
- > education
- > Berlin, in One World
- > gender fairness

This much is certain: there are other areas that need attention in order to move toward this concept of sustainability. But we highlight these Action Areas because here the need for change is extremely urgent, while we have real local opportunities for action and also because people active with the Agenda Forum identify these priorities. Activities and initiatives suggested by these Action Areas are intended to steer Berlin in the direction of sustainability. This does not simply involve extra tasks, but rather fundamentally changing our current activities. We call this program Agenda 21. In the near future this Berlin Agenda 21 will have to be extended to include further Action Areas.

The concept for Agenda 21 goes back to 1992 at the UN Conference for Environment and Development in Rio: A program was approved there to make our globe fit for the 21st century. Agenda means: "What must be done", and this for the 21st century.

With this choice, we have taken the specific tasks of Berlin into account as a city and as a federal state. However, much is decided at the City District level and it is important to encourage the development of District sustainability groups to ensure that District agendas are realized and implemented. Correspondingly, the Federal Government has the national level "sustainability strategy" and the EU has a European sustainability strategy.

What you are reading here is an abstract; only a summary of the outline for a Berlin Agenda 21, for Berlin's future program of sustainable development. You can get the complete version through the contact addresses at the end of the booklet.

You, like all other citizens, are asked to contribute ideas, formulate wishes and participate in the discussion about this program. Contacts for this process are given at the end of every chapter. There are events scheduled to take place in May and June of 2003. Following these events and discussions, a Draft Berlin Agenda 21 will be presented to the Berlin Parliament, which had originally decided to support this project in 1999.

The Berlin Agenda 21 will include a sustainability plan developed from these Action Areas, involving concrete steps for implementation in Berlin.

Structure of the following individual chapters:

Each of the following chapters introduces an Action Area with a recurring structure: It starts with the Vision: this describes what we understand as a result of "sustainable" development, what it should be, how it could be achieved, or perhaps not achieved because it is partly utopian. But such Visions are important, even if they are utopian, since positive aims energize us and we can not live from negation or denial.

The goals for action are as follows: The Vision that we want and can reach, if we carry out our activities, is detailed and illustrated, and introduced here in concrete terms.

We can already develop indicators for a number of these goals. These characteristics are meant to help us more precisely examine if and how quickly we can move toward the goal.

Wishing and hoping is not enough; something must actually be done. Measures and projects help to achieve these aims. Under measures, we are identifying plans, and with projects we are listing actions that have already begun. You will not find complete listings here, but you will find clear examples that show how the goals could be achieved.

Arriving without stress

Vision

In Berlin the necessities for mobility and non-motorised transport must also consider senior citizens, handicapped persons and children. Public transport enjoys the right of way in the entire municipal area. A dense and mixed community structure contributes to this, avoiding long journeys and transport. Berlin is an internationally and regionally accessible metropolis that is also economically competitive: for this an environmentally-friendly railway is significant.

Action Goals

Transportation safety in the city will be increased. The municipal and global environment must be relieved from burdens of traffic conditions such as noise and exhaust fumes. The city and regional development planning are pursuing strategies for reducing traffic (e.g. city transit and avoiding urban sprawl of the city environs).

Significant shares of motorized individual transport shift the focus to the "environmental connection" (transit, bicycle transport, and on foot). Train connections to Eastern Europe must be improved, so it will be easier to reach Berlin from these countries and regions by rail.

Indicators

- trends in individual auto use (people x km)
- number of residents affected by traffic noise
- annual number of road casualties (injured or killed)
- air quality

Measures

The Urban Development Transport Plan (STEP Transport) has recently been published in its final version. It was worked out in dialog between the City Administration and various non-governmental organizations at a Round Table and contains a bundle of concrete suggestions. Various feasible plans show that it takes a strong support of non-motorised transport, parking space management and other measures to improve the quality of public transportation (ÖPNV), but these alone don't suffice to accomplish aims like "clean air" and "less noise". Other factors work more powerfully, encouraging a migration to the suburban areas and thus increasing travel distances. Urban sprawl increases the traffic problems with the number of journeys by private cars.

The Catalogue of Measures, as represented in the STEP Transport, must still be further developed with respect to sustainability. Here the question of regional planning plays a great role, as does discussion about lifestyles and housing preferences for the surrounding region.

Strategies and Measures must be created and carried out so that the Agenda 21 principles of Rio and the European Union can be achieved for Berlin as well.

Projects

- TELLUS project sponsored by the EU and the Berlin Senate ("Transport and Environment Alliance for Urban Sustainability") with 17 single projects.
- shopping by bike in Berlin-Mitte
- integrated concept for mobility and housing – example: Brunnen Neighborhood
- car-free living on the Panke
- transport management in conurbations, particularly for truck transport
- examination of the transmigration into the environs including the examination of counter-strategies

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Energetically Saving for a Peaceful Climate

Vision

An effective and economical handling of energy in the business and household sectors decreases energy consumption in Berlin. This is an important contribution for fighting global climate change. Through specific information campaigns, willingness is greatly strengthened for climate protection activities and motivation for related action by the populace. The positive economic effects of investments in energy conservation and efficient energy use are particularly noticeable in the construction and trade sectors and jobs are created as a result. Promoting such innovations and pilot projects increases attractiveness and strengthens the model character of Berlin.

Action Goals

A policy to prevent climate change works to consistently conserve energy and increase the share of renewable energies. Consumer behaviour and lifestyles are changed. Consequently, money is saved and workplaces are created.

The CO₂ emissions are lowered by 40% by 2020 and up to 25% by 2010. (Reference: 1990)

Indicators

- CO₂ emission per resident and year
- m² solar-thermal energy / 1000 residents
- use of photovoltaics / 1000 residents
- percentage of electricity derived from co-generation

Measures

Primary energy consumption in Berlin must be lowered through consistent environmental relief, resource conservation and a sustainable economy.

The social and economic actors will be encouraged, particularly in connection with specific information policies.

The positive economic effects of investments in energy conservation and efficient use of energy will particularly be realized in the sphere of construction and handwork. This would help to maintain and create jobs.

The attractiveness and model character of Berlin as a sustainable urban development will be increased by promoting innovations and pilot projects for energy conservation and use of renewable energies.

Projects

- Sun over Pankow / Mitte / Berlin – leasing public roof areas to private investors for solar energy production
- District heating system for the Winsstraße sport gymnasium, energy supply for new building including surrounding properties
- an information platform is established on the internet with various presentations about climate protection in construction under the title "Action Catalogue of Climate Protection":
<http://www.agenda-21.net/klima/intro.html>

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Strength from the Sum of the Differences

Vision

Berlin has room for many lifestyles at many levels and in all its parts. It is a liberal-minded, future-oriented, functional and socially mixed city, and it will so continue and further develop. Its residential areas may become even more socially mixed. An intact, community-oriented social structure in its living accommodations has great importance for solidarity and the social functioning of the city. This also influences economic development and environmental protection. It is a central task of this Vision to produce and strengthen sustainable policies.

Action Goals

To produce and ensure social cohesion in the city requires an integrated urban development strategy. For this, economic, ecological and social policies and Action Areas must be integrated with an active approach.

The strategy of "Social Urban Development – Social Cohesion" has several starting points:

The city: The city as community. Strategies of urban development include concepts such as a "policy of social compensation" according to the highest possible acceptance and development of social compatibility for the citizens.

Target Groups: Living conditions and quality of life are to be improved for citizens, especially considering the difficult social and economic conditions.

Social marginalisation processes are to be worked against.

Residential areas: By grouping programs, networking participants and developing integrated projects at the neighborhood level, the stabilization and enhancement of impoverished districts should be achieved.

The support: Citizen participation in the immediate neighbourhood can activate and support the self-help empowerment of the residents, and increase trust starting from their own abilities and strengths.

Indicators

The areas for which the main indicators will be described have been selected from the following list: demography, relocation, migration, social situation, occupation, income, health, education, youth, housing etc.

Measures

Continuing the district management programs.

Expansion of district and neighbourhood centres.

Improvement in city planning cooperation and process structures.

Creation of a comprehensive municipal urban development concept ("STEK 2020").

Continuing development of comprehensive municipal, social and spatial monitoring systems.

Regular reviewal and customisation of spatial and target group orientated instruments.

Projects

Sustainable and participatory urban development projects:

- District management, support of "areas with special development needs"

www.quartiersmanagement-berlin.de/

- RAW Project for sustainable development of a former German National Rail Yard

www.urban-project.org/project/external/rueckblick.php

- "Tempelhof Harbor" pilot project on water for a sustainable city and regional development

<http://www.hafenderkulturen.de/vu/>

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Participation

Cooperative Decision-Making

Vision

Berlin is becoming a city of sovereign citizens. As experts in their own areas, they decide on the comprehensive development of the community. Because they participate and cooperate regardless of gender, wherever they come from and which language they speak, they can manage the essential changes of society. Already, in the early stages of planning, there are methods for the common development of informed citizen opinion, policies and government. The results of this participation flow formally at all levels, and are legitimised in the decision processes.

Action Goals

Systematic expansion of opportunities for cooperation and participation in the neighbourhood, district and at the city-wide levels. New tools will stimulate desire for participation.

The possibilities for using forms of direct democracy, such as public petitions and the referendum, will be improved at the district and regional level. The existing participation standards will be improved and required. Early participation of young people in the organization of their residential environments is encouraged. Suitable forms of communication and sharing must be found that apply to their lives and encourage them to participate in city life.

A citizen-oriented government reform ensuring greater participation of citizens in policy and governmental decisions.

Indicators

Three representative indicators are listed here:

- number of attractive info-centers (participation offices) for citizens in the district or neighbourhood
- number of participatory processes per year and district as per type and target group
- instruments for an effective integration of involvement processes and administration structures

Measures

The central strategy of the Citizen Budget is a participatory model in which citizens play a substantial role in the design of local budgets.

Easily locatable and attractive info-centers must be set up in all districts in order for citizens to effectively participate in their districts and throughout the city. These Centers organize, accompany and support the different possible forms of participation, like "Future Workshops" and Citizens Panels, round tables, debates, etc.

A regional office dealing with citizen participation shall be established to train government employees to take questions from citizens, encourage participation, and for training others.

A "temporary-use agency" will be created for the purpose of innovative reuse of unused areas and spaces with the approval of public opinion.

Speech rights and the rights of citizens to introduce legislation should be included in all District Councils .

Youth parliaments are replaced or re-established by subject-related youth councils at the district level.

Official documents and papers concerning participation processes will be created to be understood in all relevant languages and by all ages.

Projects

"Revaler Viereck" project for the sustainable development of a former rail yard

"District detective" children discover "treasures and critiques" in their district and make political proposals (in Kreuzberg, Marzahn and Mitte)

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Future of work, sustainable regional development potential

The mixture makes it so...

Vision

People will pursue a variety of rewarding occupations in our city. However, not only those that have a stable and paid job are socially appreciated and socially protected. Volunteer, community, and social jobs are appreciated along with waged work.

Whoever supports his relatives, takes on volunteer efforts in the sports club or in the neighbourhood, those who combine part-time work with other jobs, who train themselves for a new profession – everyone is ensured a minimum income and support through public services.

Mixed and flexible work enables a more fair distribution of various jobs. On the one hand, social jobs are increased in value; on the other hand "work without end" is restricted. In the working world women, teenagers, elderly people, and foreigners have been systematically put at a disadvantage and their income has been diminished. Through mixed work their labour can be included in the production and development of the society according to their abilities and possibilities, and they can get enough pay to cover their basic physical and social needs.

Action Goals

The combination of paid and volunteer work, individual work and commitment to society will increase social safety and security, make for a more diverse life and decrease stress and physical loads upon individuals. Work is consequently more rewarding and less alienating.

People stay current and trained in their jobs, can determine more for themselves, and contribute to socially and ecologically meaningful products and services:

- 1) all forms of work and their combinations are socially appreciated and promoted
- 2) promotion of physical and emotional health as well as personal development
- 3) fair reimbursement for work is ensured and secured
- 4) work processes are structured according to social and ecological standards
- 5) people will be encouraged to make social innovations in the work sector
- 6) working conditions promote "lifelong learning"

Indicators

For these Action Goals the Topic Group discussed indicators for the percentage of jobs having the possibility for flexible or mixed-work; or the share of the businesses that perform sustainability audits.

Measures and Projects

The sustainable Action Goals and a new concept of "mixed work" could and should be tested in the following projects:

- 1) district alliances for business and work should be improved by innovative suggestions in the direction of sustainable work.
- 2) the EU program "Local social capital" should deal more with sustainable work prospects.
- 3) projects encouraging sustainable work like the "workstation" at the "Revaler Viereck" or the Harbor project of the ufafabrik should be supported and accompanied.
- 4) agreements included in the Berlin governmental coalition negotiations that deal with supporting neighbourhood and productive co-operative groups should be realized and expanded to integrate sustainable concepts
- 5) During the process of conversion: the so-called Hartz paper has to be examined as to whether the planned measures can provide a sustainable orientation.

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Structural change toward an information society

Technology for a more just society

Vision

Structural changes leading from the industrial society to the information society are far-reaching and substantial.

Modern information and communication techniques (ICT) offer various resource conservation opportunities for a socially just and more community oriented future. These are considerable opportunities to recognize, promote and actively use.

Action Goals

Information and communication technologies can be designed to result in resource conservation and less pollution. The energy consumption in production and utility sectors will be minimized and the amount of scrap from electronics will be reduced in the circulation economy of high-quality structures.

The basic availability for information for all members of society and free access to information and media sources will be ensured and promoted. Media competencies will be extended to encourage resource conservation and socially beneficial ICT applications, and intellectual property rights will be secured.

This specifically involves participative processes. An inexpensive, reliable and fast internet is very important for everyone in this regard.

Indicators

- number of research and development projects in the areas of "Sustainability and ICT"
- number of ICT educational and continuing education opportunities at universities and other educational centres, as well as the number of participants
- production of, reuse and recycling quota of disposed computer hardware
- share of computer hardware meeting ecological standards used in the governmental offices
- number of internet connections per 1000 residents / households
- level and kind of equipment in schools with ICT and internet access
- percentage of e-government events (ICT supported administration) for all governmental activities

Measures

Along with the already successful regional initiative "Project Future", Berlin has primarily the following options for action:

- organization of a local, revolving economy for ICT products with efficient systems for the prolongation of the utilization time, repurchase and high-quality recycling
- information about sustainable consumption and production for consumers and manufacturers about suitable portals, as well as structural adjustment in business and public purchasing
- improvement in the social infrastructure, primarily in the areas of transport, logistics, and health care, by actively using ICT potential
- active creation of new working worlds by using modern information techniques of high flexibility, mobility and lifelong learning
- consolidation of e-government with high transparency and easier access to the decision-making processes.

Projects

Project Future – Advancement of Information Technology and New Media in Berlin,

<http://www.berlin.de/senwiarbfrau/projektzukunft/index.html>

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Education

Lively and future-oriented

Vision

Education encourages people to develop their abilities and to trust themselves to shape, enrich and support life in other ways. With their knowledge and ability, they consciously play a part in the social, economic and ecological development of their particular area. This success is noticeable in the economy, science and society of the region.

Action Goals

The fundamentals for sustainable development are discussed in all areas of education: knowledge about ecological balance, about social justice locally and worldwide and about ecological and social health for the economy. This knowledge has an influence on everyday habits and leads to political action.

All people, girls and boys, men and women, find equal and fair access to all educational offers, regardless of their cultural background.

The linguistic competence of beginning students will be improved, particularly of young people without a German-speaking background.

The school will create a space for life and experiences that includes family and environment. The social value of education will be increased.

Indicators

- group size of no more than 15 children in day-care centres in 2006
- percentage of certified language education professionals in primary and elementary school (40% by the end of 2005, 80% to 2008)
- percentage of the whole-day schools (at least 50% in the year 2006)
- share of students leaving school without a degree will decrease to 7% in 2006 and be less than 5% in 2010
- number satisfied with admission applications for different types of schools

Measures

Sustainable development will be taken into account for guidelines of all educational areas and school levels by contents and components of education, re-weighted and made obligatory.

The requirements for studying are improved in day-care centres, particularly with the development of language, intensively promoting the linguistic competence of young people without German-speaking backgrounds.

The support of families will be required.

The extent of autonomous planning and decision-making will be expanded for schools.

Performance comparisons will be regulated, and indicators will be developed to control essential educational goals.

Forms of democratic participation by the pupils and various conflict-resolution methods will be supported and organized in all educational facilities.

The availability of all-day institutions and services will be expanded. Proven concepts and assistance programs for young people with deficits and difficulties in school will be developed and built up. Individual support will be improved for young people with special talents.

Projects

- BLK 21: Federal-State-Program of education for sustainable development in schools (involving 21 schools in Berlin)
- Berlin's Agenda 21 Network for schools – school projects, courses and circulars for Agenda 21
- sensitivity to Berlin's Turkish people in environmental workshops, information and activities
- ecological footprint project of Berlin residents: "Show Your Feet Here"
- sustainability films – videos with sustainable messages for youth
- availability of organic products in day-care centre kitchens

Contact: Topic Group Education, via the Agenda Forum office, Tel. 030/390 01 265

Shaping global justice together

Vision

Berlin is aware of its global responsibility and is active at the international level.

Solutions will be discussed together in dialog with worldwide partners; strategies will be compared and learned from. As the north/south and east/west centre, the open metropolis of Berlin has access to unique requirements and knowledge as well as institutions that support the vision of One World.

Action Goals

Berlin works with a variety of international development initiatives, organizations (NGOs), networks, immigrant organizations, embassies, consulates and political foundations, as well as national and international institutes and business associations. Coordinated development policies are promoted and adopted through government and parliament according to developmental policy guidelines.

Berlin foreign trade and business is reviewed for how extensively it and its promotional programs have positive effects on southern countries (development compatibility as a feature of Berlin regional policies).

Developmental and environmental political interrelations ("global learning") are established in Berlin educational policies and integrated into the lessons, instruction plans and continuing faculty training.

The City partnerships of Berlin will be strengthened and also citizens, organizations and associations will get involved. Primarily, city and school partnerships will help "developing countries".

The variety of cultures in Berlin will be strengthened.

Indicators

- number of bilingual kindergartens and schools
- number of public staff trainings in inter-cultural communication and anti-racism
- number and locations of merchandisers of fair-trade stores, sales volume of fair-trade products
- number of school partnerships and projects, also the civil society in the context of official partnerships with communities in "developing countries"
- means available for international community aid and development (aim: 0.25 - 0.50 € per resident)

Measures

The Berlin Senate supports engagement of the civil society financially and organizationally in international aid and development work. A Berlin foundation for development and a "house of international cooperation" will be founded to ensure this task over the long run.

Racism will be fought with initiatives against right extremism and hostility to foreigners, with support of immigrant organisations and policy development work in educational sectors.

Internationally-oriented networks with development policy aims will be strengthened.

Governmental contracting gives preference to purchasing products that are traded fairly.

Projects

- Eco-Fair Friedrichshain: fair-traded coffee in restaurants and workshops for studying global fair trade
- Eco-School partnership with Kenya: networking of ecologically oriented schools between Germany and Kenya
- Shopping and Education in 5 Continents: sustainable consumption and fair-trade educational programs ("studying globally") for students and adults
- Technical network "sustainable city and regional development for Latin America"
- Future Detectives – on the way to Japan: virtual exchange for children and youth in Berlin-Mitte and its three twin cities in Japan

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Gender fairness

Only differences make equal

Vision

Future-oriented, sustainable development refers to the realities of life and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys in the same way. Reducing discrimination and violent situations between men and women is just part of the goal of sustainable development just as a fair distribution of resources and opportunities for social influence between the genders. The interests and viewpoints of women and men will be equally respected and appreciated.

Action Goals

- creation of gender equality as an inter-sectoral task in all policy areas
- differing living conditions of women and men are understood as a starting point for political action
- equality of laws, duties and opportunities of women and men in all social areas
- equality of male and female positions and required qualifications
- awarding public funds from the viewpoint of gender equality
- gender equality on committees and boards
- gender fairness as a sustainability indicator

Indicators

- LA 21 committee participants should be at least 50% women

Other indicators are derived by reviewing all other Action Areas with respect to gender

Measures

Gender-specific development and analyses of all Agenda 21 Action Areas

Evaluation of gender-specific aspects of Action Areas and gender-differentiated data recording

Fair participation of women and men as standard criteria for all Agenda 21 reports and presentations

Implementation of the local government decision "Gender Mainstreaming as a strategy to realize equal opportunity of women and men"

Initiation of pilot schemes for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Agenda 21 Action Areas

Projects

- workshop and documentation for integrating gender perspectives: "Gender in the Agenda"
- support of family-friendliness in businesses and conferences and information provided to businesses and employers
- "pilot project for work-time flexibility" of DGB, ver.di (projects in Berlin)
- Gender Mainstreaming / female advancement in the Berlin region

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Agenda 21 – What does this have to do with us?

Asked in another way: The future – does this have anything to do with you? Of course! Agenda 21 is important to you as well. Just as one cares for his or her personal future, one should also consider our common future. Anyone who would like to collaborate in the Berlin Agenda groups is always welcome, and there are many opportunities to promote a sustainable development of our city: we have listed projects and measures that come from the government; but most are from private initiatives or organizations. Partners and supporters are always welcome.

But new initiatives can and must be created if we want to achieve our aims. Whether in your neighbourhood, at your workplace, in your school, in your residential building - wherever you come from: all of you can contribute to help develop our city in a sustainable way.

The Berlin Agenda 21 wants to emphasise particularly urgent Action Areas, but not to limit your freedom to act. Only through your action can anything be achieved. We know texts like this do not change anything by themselves; they are only meaningful and useful if they help to inspire positive action.

Willingness is a prerequisite for implementing projects, and funds usually another. In Berlin we have the "Sustainable Development Project Agency", financed by the Lottery Foundation for projects to support area sustainable development. Initiatives and associations can apply here for financial aid for their projects.

You're invited to participate! Join in!

Important addresses for the Berlin Agenda 21

Agenda Forum Office

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Through this contact you can also reach the Topic Groups that worked on the Action Areas.

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Responsible for coordination of the Local Agenda 21 in the government

Project Center Local Agenda 21 in the GRÜNEN LIGA

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Consultation and information about Local Agenda 21

Publishing of Berliner Briefe "Berlin Letters – News about Local Agenda 21" and contact with district groups

Project Agency "Sustainable Berlin"

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Financing of LA21 projects