

Magdeburg Protocol

Preamble

People have a basic right to use existing resources to optimize their quality of life; the impact of such actions on the life of future generations must, however, be the decisive criterion in carrying them out.

Resulting from the international conference "Green Cities – Green Industries. Magdeburg 2013", the "Magdeburg Protocol" unites the intentions of city councils to integrate ecological, climate-related aspects into all areas of future urban planning.

Cities are agglomerations of human coexistence and bear considerable responsibility for achieving global climate protection goals.

Already now, one in two people live in cities and 75% of the world's energy needs are accounted for by cities; the process of increasing urbanization is irreversible.

In many areas of urban development, cities constitute entities that are autonomous in their actions; they are planners, designers, living test laboratories, attractive employer and a visible result of the intelligence of human activity.

Cities are fundamental components of and contributors to global climate problems. The signatories of the Magdeburg Protocol are aware of their responsibility and are going to actively shape the solutions to these problems.

Principles

The "Magdeburg Protocol" is a voluntary, binding declaration of intent for international city councils to exchange information about their planning, experience and the latest findings in the field of ecological urban planning in an ongoing process.

The signatories express their responsibility towards future generations through their endeavour:

- to use proven procedures and methods in the interests of climate protection
- in their capacity as contracting authorities, to promote the development of new technologies and approaches to solutions
- to accelerate and support human resources and qualified employees
- to closely involve the regional economy and social stakeholders in future urban planning.

In the future, the cities that have signed will actively participate in national and international processes in order for realistic climate protection goals to be achieved.

Here they follow the principle that intelligent urban planning must be shaped in close connection with regional economic policy since global success can only be achieved through regional solutions.

Aims and Outlook

The "Magdeburg Protocol" is the basis for the cooperation of a transnational network with the goal of initiating a global exchange of experience between cities, regardless of political interests, religious views or ethnic background.

The results of this exchange of experience will be collected in an ongoing process and made accessible to the public on a joint platform on the internet. The intention is for an international database – "*Database for green cities projects*" – to be established for decision-makers at city councils. Here successful projects and their implementers will be presented for reuse.

The "Magdeburg Protocol" will be updated jointly by the signatories, under the leadership of Magdeburg, capital of the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt, and will highlight experiences and developments in intelligent urban planning and development as annual documentation. In addition, it will give recommendations for action for national policy and formulate tasks for business, teaching and training.

Besides the active, ongoing exchange of information in suitable form, the signatories commit to inform one another once a year about the latest methods and possibilities at the conference "*Green Cities – Green Industries. Magdeburg*".

In the long term, the "Magdeburg Protocol" will express an internationally recognized, standardized and verifiable determination of a "green city of the 21st century".