



IN

INGOLSTADT SUSTAINABLE

SHAPING
THE FUTURE
TOGETHER

EDUCATION & CULTURE
SUSTAINABILITY IN
THE CLASSROOM

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT
& ENERGY
GREEN PLANS FOR
THE CITY

SUSTAINABLE LIVING
IDEAS FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD



SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER – LET'S GET IT DONE!



Christian Scharpf,
Lord Mayor of the City of Ingolstadt

Dear Ingolstadt residents,
Together, we have already achieved a great deal in recent years to make Ingolstadt a place worth living in:

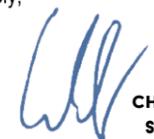
We have pushed ahead with the use of renewable energies, created more green spaces in Ingolstadt, and raised awareness of the importance of living a lifestyle that conserves resources. In this way, we are pursuing the requests and goals that residents and the city formulated as part of a dialogue process on the Sustainability Agenda adopted in 2019.

The city's first sustainability report provides information on the progress made to date and planned projects. In this magazine, we present a selection of initiatives and the people behind them: Students and teachers report on how sustainability is practiced at their school. We find out how a student sustainability association has made the Zuchering forest a little greener with the help of a Steps Challenge – and we visit one of three Ingolstadt district meeting places where citizens can get support, learn together and spend time together. We also give you practical tips on how to make your everyday life more sustainable.

Would you like to learn more about individual sustainability initiatives or get involved yourself? We have compiled the relevant information for you. I would like to thank you for your interest and your commitment to our city so far and wish you an inspiring read. I would be delighted if you could give us feedback afterwards: Would you like to read this magazine regularly? Which topics are of particular interest to you? You can access our questionnaire digitally via the QR code on the cover of the magazine or request it by mail from the Sustainability Office.

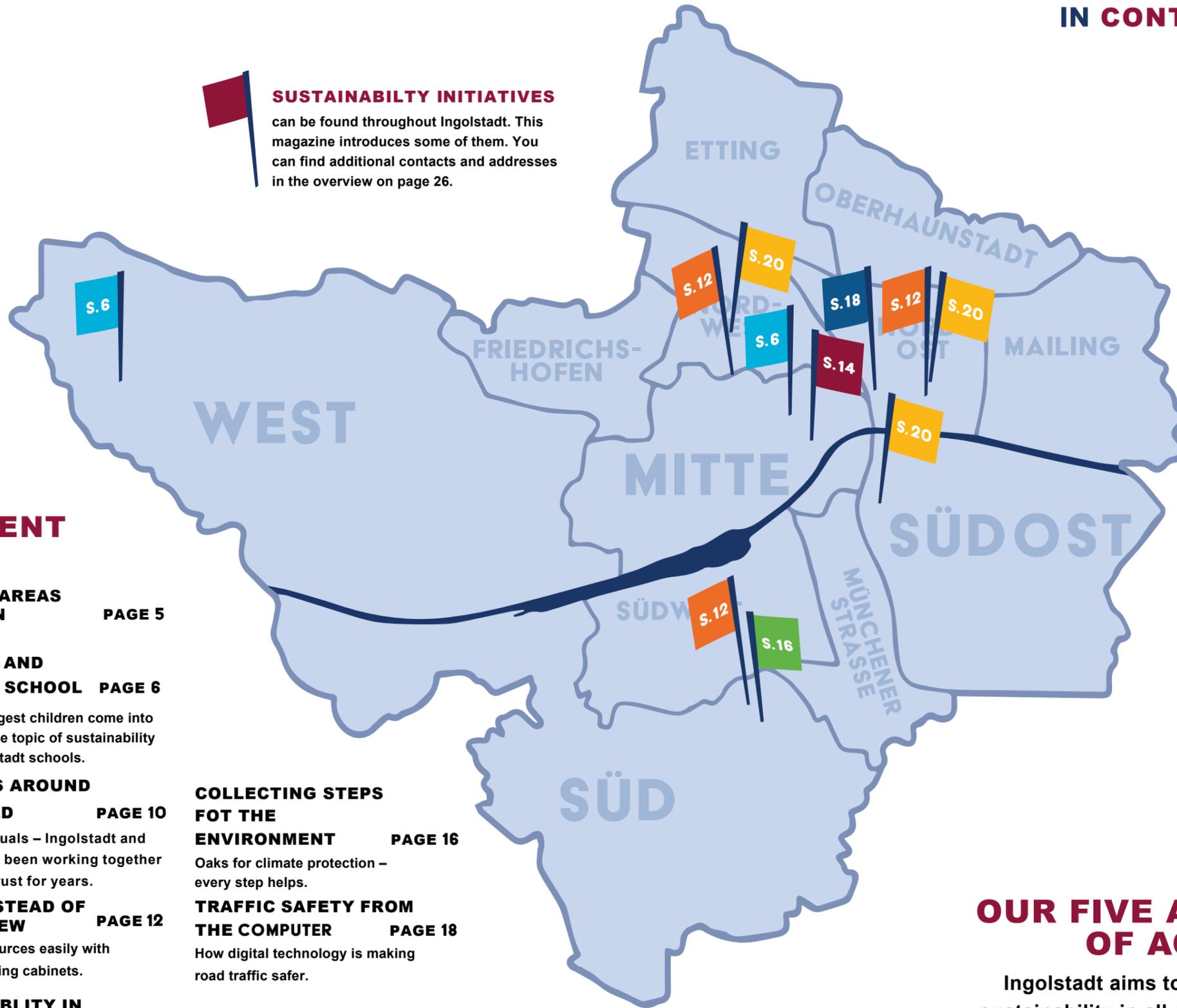
Let's continue to tackle Ingolstadt's future as energetically as before.

Sincerely,


**CHRISTIAN
SCHARPF**



SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES
 can be found throughout Ingolstadt. This magazine introduces some of them. You can find additional contacts and addresses in the overview on page 26.



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EDUCATION & CULTURE

Education is the basis for everything, including a sustainable life. For a city in which diverse cultures are lived.



DIVERSITY & INVOLVEMENT

Ingolstadt stands for a sense of community, diversity and cohesion. The needs and potential of all are taken into account



CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Sustainable living requires the protection of the environment. Ingolstadt is committed to this in all areas of life.



ECONOMY & INNOVATION

On the path to sustainable business: Nature takes precedence over economic profit.



SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN EVERYDAY LIFE

A sustainable lifestyle has many facets. Ingolstadt discusses possibilities, thinks ahead, and gets involved.

OUR FIVE AREAS OF ACTION

Ingolstadt aims to strengthen sustainability in all areas of life. Based on the 17 sustainability goals from the United Nations Agenda 2030, the city has defined visions for five areas of action in exchange with its residents.



LEARN MORE

At the Reuchlin-Gymnasium concerts are held by the music study group regularly. All dates can be found at dpaq.de/M4J27



The group "JAZZletics" from the Reuchlin-Gymnasium regularly rehearses for their performances. The result can be heard not only at school festivals, but also at the Ingolstadt Jazz Days or the Ingolstadt Civic Festival.

CREATIVE AND GREEN AT SCHOOL

At the Reuchlin Gymnasium and the Irgertsheim elementary school, students learn in harmony with nature, which makes them want to learn.

FLORIAN MÄNDL is a high school graduate at the Reuchlin-Gymnasium and a member of the group "JAZZletics".



THE ATMOSPHERE IS COMPLETELY RELAXED. THIS GIVES THE CHILDREN MORE CONFIDENCE TO PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN IDEAS.

Music teacher, coach and mentor Robert Aichner gives young people space to learn.

The gong echoes loudly through the empty hallways. At the Reuchlin Gymnasium in Ingolstadt, classes are over for the day. The classroom doors fly open and countless students of all ages rush for the exit. The hallway is now buzzing like a beehive. It's Friday, 1 PM. Now the weekend starts. At least for most. For a few, it's up the stairs to the second floor of the old building. In the room directly by the stairs, music teacher Robert Aichner has pushed the tables against the walls. A long string stretches across the room. Hanging from it are portraits of famous musicians from past eras, from Antonio Vivaldi to Clara Schumann to John Lennon.

Aichner is leaning against one of the tables. His saxophone lies next to him, ready for band practice. Four bands meet every Friday afternoon to rehearse old pieces and work on new ones. The plan is one hour per band, but it usually takes much longer. "Sometimes we sit there until the evening because the students suggest so much that they want to know and learn. These are often really difficult and complicated pieces that go far beyond the curriculum – but I like to involve them in what we're doing and not just dictate everything," Aichner says. "Most of the time, I have to ask them to go home at the end

so they don't stay at school all night, too," he adds, laughing.

Slowly the music room fills up. Larger and smaller instrument cases lie on the tables against the wall. The band members are sitting next to them, talking about the school day, laughing and tuning or polishing their brass instruments. Sheet music rustles in the background. The piece the band "JAZZletics" wants to start today was suggested by a student. Before they can play, the basic musical structure of the song must be clarified. "It's especially important to me that we work out the difficult passages together in a practical way – and that I don't just write down how it should be, and they copy it," Aichner emphasizes. "I want to teach them musical knowledge in the long term so that they can recognize such passages in other pieces and know how to deal with them."

LEARNING INDEPENDENCE

In other respects, too, the music teacher pursues a very sustainable teaching style: "I'm absolutely not a fan of cramming as much knowledge as possible into my students so that they can then reproduce it in unrehearsed performance tests and forget it again when it's no longer assessed." His goal is to give the children and young people as much as possible that will help them, giving them above all, appreciation, independence, and confidence.



JULIA MENIG is a member of the big band and the school garden group at Reuchlin-Gymnasium.



WHEN WE HARVEST OUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, WE SEE WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. THIS GIVES US SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM.

"I want to encourage them to try things out for themselves and work on something, to get to know their own strengths and to contribute. But I also want to give them room to make mistakes so that they can learn from them without this having direct consequences in the form of bad grades. We are so much more productive and perform better with motivation and personal engagement than with pressure and fear." The focus for him is not on absolute performance, but on individual progress.

This concept has been well received by the students of the Reuchlin-Gymnasium. Many are involved in several groups and study groups – like Florian Mändl from the "JAZZletics" band. The 17-year-old is in 12th grade and preparing for his Abitur: "I'm going to miss it here so much. I love going to school, especially to Mr. Aichner's classes and courses. EHe gives us room to express ourselves. The atmosphere is completely relaxed. That makes you more confident to put forward your own ideas.

Especially because they are wanted and heard by him." That's why the talented pianist wants to continue playing after graduation, even though he won't be able to be part of "JAZZletics" anymore.

In addition to music, Florian Mändl is especially committed to an environmentally conscious school life. He organizes environmental project days and educates others about FairTrade products and the economical use of resources. These issues are also important to his classmate Julia Menig. The 13-year-old plays trumpet in the big band and is a member of the school gardening group, which has, for example, planted greenery on sections of the gray concrete in the schoolyard. "We learn to take responsibility for our plants and take care of them," the ninth-grader explains. "Once the flowers are in bloom and we can harvest our fruits and vegetables, we see what we've accomplished with all the hard work. It gives us confidence and self-esteem."

BIG THINGS START SMALL

Even the youngest children come into contact with the topics of the environment and sustainability at the Irgertsheim Elementary and Nature Park School. "We try to get the students excited about nature and the creatures and plants that live in it at an early age and to make them aware of how to protect it," says principal Dagmar Spenger. "At that young age, it works

At Irgertsheim Elementary School, students often go out into nature and explore, for example, the creatures in the bodies of water near the school.



Apart from Reuchlin-Gymnasium and Irgertsheim Elementary School many other schools in Ingolstadt focus on sustainability. Included in this are for example Fairtrade-Schools and "Eco-schools in Europe". A list of all schools in Ingolstadt can be found at dpaq.de/sK2zr



well because the children are more open-minded about it than they are during puberty, and we make room for it within the elementary school curriculum. We can discuss the forest in our local history and science lessons, for example, by not only watching a film and filling out worksheets, but also by simply going outside and with all our senses. That way, the kids also remember what they've learned much better."

POTENTIAL IN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Campaigns such as the Everyday Skills Week teach children how to behave sustainably. There are also small competitions: packing lunches so that there is no waste, or making the trip to school on foot, by bike or by bus without a parental chauffeur service. In the bean contest, each child sows and tends a bean plant. The largest plant gets a prize at the end. "The children are very motivated and eager to do everything right and take good care of the plants in the school beds. Many now even have their own bed in the garden at home. At the end, everyone always proudly shares their harvest," says principal Spenger.

A lot has changed in schools over the past decade, he said. Elementary schools in particular attach great importance to the environment and sustainability. The fact that they are able to implement their concept as it is, he says, is also due to their proximity to the Altmühl Valley. "We have a clear advantage over schools in the city because of our location. There, everything would be a bit more difficult to implement, because there is usually no forest around the corner like here."

However, it's not just the surroundings that need to become greener, but also the schools themselves, says student Julia Menig. "There's too much concrete everywhere. That makes it difficult to plant anything once the ground is sealed. That could be improved in future building projects," she says. Until then, both schools are trying to improvise, because a lot can be achieved even with pots and a little creativity.



School gardens teach students early on how to properly sow and care for plants.



LEARN MORE
Irgertsheim Elementary School is a nature park school. Current campaigns: dpaq.de/3bIVF



QUICK AND EASY: GROWING MUSHROOMS IN COFFEE GROUNDS

Mushrooms are not only tasty, healthy, and versatile, they are also very easy to grow yourself without having your own

garden. You can even make use of kitchen waste. Many popular edible mushrooms, for example, grow excellently in a nutrient substrate made from coffee grounds. The hardy oyster mushrooms are particularly suitable for beginners. Here's how to grow your own mushrooms:

Before starting, rinse all containers and utensils with hot water to prevent mold from contamination.

Then pour moist coffee grounds, no more than two days old, into a plastic container and mix with so-called mushroom spawn. This seed for mushrooms, also called mycelium, can be made from the remains of purchased edible mushrooms. However, especially as a beginner, the best results are achieved with ready-prepared mushroom spawn from specialized stores.

Do not press the substrate made of coffee grounds and mushroom spawn too tightly and only position the container lid loosely or provide it with air holes to ensure sufficient oxygen supply.

Then store the seed in the dark at an ambient temperature of about 20 degrees Celsius for about three weeks. During this colonization phase, ensure sufficient moisture in the cultivation vessel. If necessary, moisten the substrate slightly with clean tap water – a mister is ideal for this. Waterlogging should be avoided at all costs.

When the substrate is completely overgrown and covered with white mushroom tissue, move the growing container to a cooler place, such as the basement, for the growth phase. The edible mushroom bodies thrive best at about 12 to 20 degrees Celsius.

After another two to three weeks, the first mushrooms should be ready for harvesting. Then nothing can stand in the way of using them in your favorite dish. Enjoy your meal!

IN The official project partnership between Ingolstadt, the French city of Grasse, and Legmoin has existed for ten years. Informal joint projects had already been implemented several years earlier. What is your preliminary conclusion of the cooperation to date?

CARINE NGUEGNIA A very positive one. I find the partnership very pleasant. We work together as equals. Over the years, a lot of trust has developed, in some cases even close friendships. We are a well-coordinated team and have been able to implement many projects, also thanks to the support of "Engagement Global". Representatives from Ingolstadt have been to Legmoin and vice versa. Young people from Legmoin were able to start an apprenticeship through a newly built youth education center.

DARI SOMÉ We were able to improve educational opportunities in Legmoin in cooperation with the communities. We have built schools and installed a solar power system in Legmoin's marketplace. Since then, students have been able to do their homework there in the evenings. We also got a car to drive to places outside the community in urgent cases. This helps us, among other things, with the removal of garbage. The people of Legmoin will not forget what the people of Ingolstadt have done.

IN What do you remember most about the collaboration?

DARI SOMÉ My personal highlight was our first meeting. The trip to Legmoin was extremely exhausting for the Ingolstadt delegation. The participants had to sleep in the car, we could hardly understand each other. Nevertheless, everyone was full of passion and motivation for the partnership.

CARINE NGUEGNIA My first visit in 2020 left a particular impression on me, in both positive and negative ways. It was great to see with my own eyes what our work has achieved on the ground. The training center, the women's education center – neither would exist without our project partnership.



Together, the project participants built new wells and schools in Legmoin.

LEARN MORE

Ingolstadt maintains partnerships worldwide. You can find more information about this here at dpaq.de/qw1qz

PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

Ingolstadt and Grasse in France have been project partners of Legmoin in Burkina Faso since 2013. The three towns are united by mutual trust.



CARINE NGUEGNIA Responsible for projects in Legmoin in the Ingolstadt city administration.



DARI SOMÉ Project Manager and Site Manager in Legmoin and first point of contact for Ingolstadt.

At the same time, I had never seen so much poverty before. At the beginning I only cried, Dari will still remember. The visit made me appreciate quite differently what we have here. In Germany, we often complain at a very high level.

IN To what extent have the impressions changed your everyday life in Germany, Ms. Nguégna?

CARINE NGUEGNIA I am more aware of how I use resources. Sometimes I have a guilty conscience about washing my car. That so much clean water that is just "lost". The people in Legmoin have so much less than we do, and yet they always have a smile on their face.

IN What did you take away from the project work, Mr. Somé?

DARI SOMÉ Many people in the world do not know how lucky they are. In Legmoin we don't have much, but we share everything. The people of Ingolstadt are very willing to help. When our country was in particularly bad shape due to a famine that started in 2021, they donated money so that we could buy grain.

IN What would you like to see in the next few years of collaboration?

DARI SOMÉ We must continue to support each other in the future. Good friends do not let each other down. I hope that we will continue to work together in the same spirit of trust and at eye level. For my country, I wish for peace. Peace so that we no longer have to flee across the sea, can lead a calmer life, and stay in Legmoin.

CARINE NGUEGNIA We need political and economic stability in both countries so that we can continue our cooperation. We are just starting a new project: To get to the youth education center and women's education center, people in Legmoin often have to travel many kilometers. We want to build a welcome center where they can get a meal and spend the night.

LEGMOIN AND INGOLSTADT: SUCCESSFUL TOGETHER

The municipality of Legmoin is located in the West African country of Burkina Faso. Around 15,000 people live with only limited infrastructure, some 650 kilometers from the capital Ouagadougou. Aid such as that provided by the project partnership with Ingolstadt and Grasse can bring some improvement to the often-difficult living situation of the local people. If you have any questions about the project partnership, please contact: legmoin@ingolstadt.de.

Donation account: City of Ingolstadt, IBAN: DE48 7215 0000 0000 0009 27, BIC: BYLADEM1ING, Reference: Legmoin-Hilfe.

2006

Ingolstadt and its French twin city Grasse build six drinking water wells in Legmoin, which go into operation in 2010.

2012

Six more drinking water wells are built. With donations from Ingolstadt companies, a photovoltaic system is also built to establish a power supply.

2012/2013

As a UNICEF Children's City, Ingolstadt collects donations amounting to almost 500,000 euros, which are used, among other things, to build two schools in Legmoin.

2014

With the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the youth training center "Centre de Formation des Jeunes (CFJ)" is established, offering training in woodworking, sewing / leatherworking and bicycle mechanics/metalworking.

2016

Four future instructors from Legmoin are trained in Ingolstadt to teach.

2018

Three workshop buildings are added to the CFJ. In the fall of 2019, 80 girls begin training in sewing.

2020

The Women's Arts and Crafts Center MFF opens as an employment and training center primarily for widows, unwed and/or young mothers, and rejected or abused women.

2022

Due to a famine and the large influx of refugees from other parts of the country, Legmoin faces a humanitarian catastrophe. The city of Ingolstadt and its population, as well as various institutions and groups, such as UNICEF and the Bürgerstiftung, donate more than 57,000 euros.



The walk-in recycling cabinet at the Spitalhof offers space for all kinds of everyday items that are still in working order. Other recycling cabinets are located at the Caritas workshops, the parish of St. Lukas, and at the Viktualienmarkt

Using objects for as long as possible and thereby conserving resources is the purpose of recycling cabinets. These come in

different shapes and types. They can be shelves, display cases, or walk-in wooden huts like the one in Ingolstadt.

Ingolstadt residents can bring used, functional everyday objects that they no longer use themselves to the recycling cabinets. Other people can then take them and reuse them.

By using the recycling cabinets, you too can make an important contribution to sustainability. After all, many everyday items have a poor environmental footprint.

SMARTPHONES & CO

- Around 1.35 billion brand-new smartphones were sold in 2021, of which around 20 million were sold in Germany.
- On average, digital devices are replaced with new ones every two years in Germany.
- Behind the display of an average smartphone are 53 different metals, including gold, platinum, copper, and rare earth metals. Their extraction is mostly carried out in so-called small-scale mining, often under poor working and safety conditions.
- Incidentally, laptops, game consoles, smartwatches, and other digital devices also have similarly poor environmental and social footprints.

REUSE INSTEAD OF BUYING NEW

So-called recycling cabinets are located at various corners in Ingolstadt. Used items find new application via the walk-in wooden huts.

JOIN IN

Would you like to be involved as a sponsor or provide a hut? Then write an email to: info@in-zukunft.de

MEDIA

- The use of second-hand CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Rays reduces the environmental impact of both newly manufactured physical data media and online streaming. Video streaming from the web alone generated almost 300 million tons of CO2 in 2018 – around one percent of global emissions.
- Optical storage media are made of polycarbonate, a high-quality plastic that, if properly recycled, can be reused in medical and computer technology.

CLOTHING

- The production of conventional clothing consumes about 170 bathtubs of water per kilogram of cotton.
- Textiles account for around 14 percent of the global insecticide market and around five percent of the pesticide market.
- For every kilogram of material produced, up to one kilogram of chemicals are produced that are difficult to degrade and often end up in wastewater and, depending on the location, in rivers and oceans with little or no prior treatment.
- Man-made fibers such as polyester or elastane result in microplastics when washed.
- The purchase of clothing and textiles in Germany generates CO2 emissions of around 135 kilograms per person, per year.
- Working conditions and wages in production countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh are often unacceptable.

Items such as furniture, sports equipment, or bicycles that do not fit in the recycling cabinets due to their size can be offered for drop-off or exchange via a notice posted on the outside.

There is no room in a recycling cabinet for items that are broken. Food also does not belong in the cabinets. There are other collection points for this, for example, the so-called "Fair-Teiler" or social welfare organizations. The right place for discarded textiles is the used clothing container.

Volunteer patrons make sure that the recycling cabinets in Ingolstadt remain in good condition. Several times a week, they sift through all the items, tidy up, and decorate. "A resource-conserving lifestyle is important to us," says cabinet patron Michael Zinsmeister. "And we like the fact that we can support each other through the cabinets – for example, with donations of clothes." Together with his wife, Zinsmeister takes care of the recycling cabinet at Spitalhof. The two like that the recycling cabinets have also become a social meeting place. "Sometimes we stand there and guess together what an item even is," says Bärbel Zinsmeister.

From kitchen appliances to musical instruments to wooden doll kitchens, she says the recycling cabinets have it all. "My personal highlight was when I discovered an almost brand-new rice cooker in one of the cabinets," she says. "I gave that to our daughter as a gift."

THE QUIZ FOR THIS ARTICLE: dpaq.de/V87qo

SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The path to greater sustainability on the whole begins with everyday small things. We can all contribute to making the world a more ecological and social place, one step at a time. Often it is enough to change old habits a little. And even if they are seemingly insignificant in themselves – with the following tips, we can all ensure more sustainability in our everyday lives.

EAT AND DRINK BETTER

- Eat vegetarian/vegan more often, cook yourself with organic ingredients
- Buy regional and seasonal fruits and vegetables, avoid imported foods
- Produce food yourself (for example, through urban gardening)
- Drink tap water instead of buying plastic bottles
- Save drinking water, for example, by using well water for the garden or flushing toilets. Both are subsidized by the city (dpaq.de/jbYJc)

CHANGE YOUR PATTERNS OF CONSUMPTION

- Buy durable products; keep existing products longer
- Use second-hand items, for example, from flea markets or recycling cabinets
- Buy more organically produced, fair trade, and regionally produced products
- Borrow everyday items (drill, lawn mower, barbecue) instead of buying them

AVOID PRODUCING TRASH

- Buy unpackaged goods; use your own containers and cloth bags
- Avoid disposable products (to-go coffee cups, kitchen paper, straws).

Families with babies can benefit from a subsidy for reusable diapers in Ingolstadt (dpaq.de/GO3v1)

- Avoid using plastic
- Separate waste correctly, for example with the help of the Waste ABC (dpaq.de/gBC0J)
- Sell products that are no longer needed, take them to a recycling cabinet, or donate them, for example old laptops to the initiative "Hey Alter!" (dpaq.de/vMaby)

RETHINK MOBILITY

- Make more trips on foot, by bike, or by bus and train
- Share a car with other people (pooling and/or sharing)
- When driving, maintain a constant speed as much as possible and don't race
- Travel by train instead of plane

OPTIMIZE YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION

- Turn off power guzzlers in your household instead of leaving them on standby
- Heat and ventilate intelligently, for example, with smart thermostats
- Choose green suppliers for electricity and gas
- Look for energy labels on new appliances
- Replace light bulbs: LEDs instead of incandescent lamps

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE: INGOLSTADT IN THE YEAR 2045

Regenerative management, active inclusion, a self-sufficient supply of renewable energies, and a city center without cars: The path to a sustainable future for Ingolstadt requires a wide range of major and minor changes. Today, some of these have already been decided politically; others are still requests residents have expressed, for example, as part of the 2022 Bürgerbeteiligung, or civic participation process. These are currently being discussed by the city and could be implemented from 2023 onwards.

The most important of these milestones and requests are listed in the map "Visions of the Future: Ingolstadt in the Year 2045".

LET'S GET IT DONE

RESIDENTS' DESIRED CHANGES

2023

FAIR I

The city administration begins implementing a strategy for fair and sustainable procurement – for example, of building materials, workwear, or office supplies.

FAIR II

A permanent exhibition on the subject of fair trade opens at the Viktualienmarkt.

URBAN GARDENING

A model project for urban gardening, the community cultivation of fruit and vegetables on public land for personal use, opens on Jahnstrasse.

CULTURE SUSTAINABLE

The city publishes a guide that cultural venues can use to plan and implement sustainable events.

DIVERS

Publication of a diversity strategy for Ingolstadt. The basis is the Diversity Charter, which stipulates diversity in terms of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical and mental abilities. This is to be signed in 2023.

LOCAL

The concept of "Sustainable Neighborhoods" of residents as a complement to set goals of the city appears.

NETWORKS

Establishment of the "Operational Sustainability Network", where domestic companies exchange information and offers of support for the expansion of sustainability are announced.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

All public transportation runs on renewable energy.

PHOTOVOLTAICS

New buildings are equipped with photovoltaics by default. Existing public buildings are to be gradually equipped with photovoltaic systems via a general invitation to tender, and existing private buildings – where possible – are also to be equipped with photovoltaic systems.

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL

Ingolstadt is climate neutral – as much CO2 is saved as is emitted.

INCLUSION

Each district follows a customized inclusion plan.

CURRICULUM PLANS

Sustainability and democracy are an integral part of the curricula in all schools.

ELECTRIC

The fleets of all businesses now contain only electric vehicles.

NO CARS

The city center is car-free

SELF SUFFICIENCY!

Ingolstadt is self-sufficient in terms of energy – all energy, such as for electricity and heat, is generated locally.

**Participation
SUBMIT YOUR REQUESTS**



Residents can continue to submit their requests for a sustainable future in Ingolstadt. The city has hung mailboxes on the recycling cabinets for this purpose.

All locations can be found at: dpaq.de/iDybc

More information about the recycling cabinets can be found on the previous two-page spread.



JOIN IN

The student association "DenkNachhaltig!" campaigns for more sustainability in everyday life. The website: dpaq.de/CANnG

100 trees were planted by students together with employees of the forestry office and the city during a planting campaign in the Zuchering forest.

COLLECTING STEPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of a step challenge, Ingolstadt residents recorded their steps via an app for a month. For every 100 kilometers walked, the city gave them a tree. 100 new trees for the Zuchering forest were collected.



Zuchering forest THE TREE POPULATION

More than 19 million steps and 14,430 kilometers is the result of a step challenge which almost 100 Ingolstadt residents took part in the summer of 2022.

"On most days, I was out for at least two hours," says Sophie Damme. She is studying for a master's degree in entrepreneurship and innovation at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and helped organize the challenge. In her free time, she is involved in the association "DenkNachhaltig!" As an event coordinator, she is always looking for ideas for campaigns that promote a sustainable lifestyle and a conscious approach to nature.

NEW TREE MIX FOR THE ZUCHERING FOREST

"I got the idea from an app to link a step challenge with a tree planting campaign," she says. We suggested it to the city, and they were immediately on board. 95 Ingolstadt residents took part and each collected steps as a group of five for their health account and the tree population in the Zuchering forest," Damme says.

She then planted the 100 oak trees sponsored by the city, along with other students and employees of the forestry department and the city, in the fall of 2022 – the best time to plant trees, Damme has learned. "I was also surprised that in about 100 years, only two or three trees will have survived in the area we planted," she says.

The head of the Ingolstadt forestry office, Hubert Krenzler, explained to her why this is the case.

The Zuchering forest is about 70 hectares in size. It consists largely of deciduous trees. These cope better with warm temperatures and drought than conifers. They are also more resistant to storms and pests. Nevertheless, for a long time conifers were the main species on the site. This was for economic reasons: they grow faster than deciduous trees and provide more wood. Climate change is forcing us humans to think differently. The forest is therefore returning to its natural origins – the mixed deciduous forest.

"A race starts between the trees from the moment they are planted," says the forester. "The faster the trees grow, the better they come into light amid other trees, the better they can grow bigger roots, and the better they prevail over other trees." Still, he says, it pays to plant as many trees as possible in one area.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOREST

"Trees make an important contribution to air quality and biodiversity. During their lifetime, they store carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. As deadwood, they are then decomposed by fungi and microorganisms into humus and form a valuable fertilizer for other trees." Even as construction or furniture wood, they still contribute to better air quality and climate protection. Behind the felling, however, are above all the economic interests in the forest. Krenzler says he also has to keep these in mind: "For me as a forester, sustainability means ensuring that all of society's demands on the forest can also be met in the long term."

Krenzler and his team planted 20,000 trees over a total of 40,000 square meters in 2022. For the coming years, the city has set itself a target of a total of one million new trees. To achieve this, it needs the necessary space and support from the city and community. "To raise awareness of the processes and importance of the forest, I welcome campaigns like the Steps Challenge, which we at the forestry office are happy to participate in," he says. The "ThinkSustainable!" team is already brainstorming for a follow-up project to the steps challenge.



The head of Ingolstadt's forestry office, Hubert Krenzler, welcomes campaigns like the steps challenge. They raise awareness of the importance of the forest, he says.

TRAFFIC SAFETY FROM THE COMPUTER

More sustainability through artificial intelligence is possible in road traffic, among other things. The feasibility of this is being tested in Ingolstadt.

Individual mobility is a fundamental requirement for the everyday lives of many people and also for the economy. It is therefore no wonder that the volume of traffic in Germany is continuing to increase – passenger and freight traffic have quadrupled and tripled respectively in the past 60 years.

As a result, air pollution, climate change, and noise pollution are increasing, and traffic jams are becoming more frequent. When more vehicles are on the road, the risk of accidents also increases. In order to better control road traffic, minimize pollutant emissions, and, last but not least, increase safety for all road users, digital technology is increasingly being used in Ingolstadt.

As part of the KIVI project (Artificial Intelligence in the Ingolstadt Traffic System), three busy intersections in the northeast of the city are currently being equipped with digital technology. It records all road users within this so-called high-definition test area in real time, evaluates the resulting data, and thereby increases traffic safety. If necessary, an acoustic or visual warning signal is triggered at the intersections to defuse dangerous situations.

In the future, KIVI will also help ease the traffic situation throughout the city. After all, the more detailed information and forecasts are available about how many vehicles are on the road in which parts of the city, the more efficiently traffic flows can be directed and heavily congested intersections relieved. Our infographic explains how KIVI works.

1 Laser scanners mounted on high masts record in real time all the movement data of everyone traveling by car, public transport, on foot, or on a bicycle.

2 Complementing the laser scanners, thermal cameras detect all those who emit heat on their way through road traffic. In this way, people are reliably detected in addition to motor vehicles – whether on foot or on bicycles and e-scooters. Neither the thermal cameras nor the laser scanners record personal data, so data protection is guaranteed.

3 All data from the sensors converge in a central computer located directly at the intersection. This means that the information does not have to travel long distances and can be immediately analyzed digitally – with the help of artificial intelligence (AI), an algorithm continuously calculates predictions about any safety-critical situations that may arise.

4 With the help of acoustic or visual signals - such as LED strips embedded in the asphalt - the AI can issue targeted warnings when it calculates dangerous situations

between vehicles and particularly vulnerable road users.

5 In future stages of expansion, the infrastructure sensor technology could support the on-board sensors of automatic or autonomous vehicles. For example, the sensors on the poles can provide a bird's-eye view of the location and speed of vehicles that another approaching vehicle has not yet detected. In this way, the sensors installed in the infrastructure make transit safer and more comfortable.

6 The information already provided by existing sensors and computers in the rest of the road network can be supplemented in the future by highly accurate data from



As part of the KIVI project (Artificial Intelligence in the Ingolstadt Traffic System), scientists are testing how artificial intelligence can make traffic in Ingolstadt better and safer.

HOW INGOLSTADT'S TRAFFIC IS TO BECOME FIT FOR THE FUTURE

It takes time to put sustainable transport concepts into practice. Society, science, and politics must pull together and contentious issues must be overcome. Ulrich Schäpe, Head of the Office for Traffic Management and Geoinformation, explains what is needed.

IN What is your vision for road transport in 20 years' time?

ULRICH SCHÄPE Society and the working world have changed significantly in recent years. Ten years ago, who would have believed that a large part of the workforce would be able to work from home and that this would create space in the streetscape for bicycle traffic or for outdoor gastronomy? I can imagine that in 20 years, the benefits and added value of reorganizing the streetscape will have reached the population and the streetscape will be greener. Not to mention: the vision of climate neutrality.

IN What opportunities does this present for sustainable transport in Ingolstadt?

ULRICH SCHÄPE The transport sector generates around one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions in Germany, and the trend is rising. Politicians have also recognized this and are taking action to counteract it. This is a great opportunity to drive forward intelligent and integrated mobility solutions.

IN What challenges do you face in doing so?

ULRICH SCHÄPE The car still represents a status symbol in society. Changing this way of thinking about values, implementing the changes in mobility behavior by gentle means, and presenting the advantages will be a major challenge. The infrastructure for electromobility must also grow at the right speed.

IN Under what conditions can you implement your goals?

ULRICH SCHÄPE We need an open society that is ready for change, as well as a political system that supports and trusts the administration in its projects. And, of course, we need research, for example, for the further development of renewable energies.



ULRICH SCHÄPE and his team in the city administration are developing new traffic concepts for Ingolstadt.

SOLIDARITY IN THE DISTRICT MEETING PLACE

There is always something going on in Ingolstadt's district meeting places. This is where people come together, receive support, and make friends for life.



LEARN MORE:

Ingolstadt's district meeting places are part of the "Socially Integrative City" program: dpaq.de/3Zkdl

Neighborhood Manager Sabine Engert takes time for the concerns of visitors to the district meeting place.



A gust of icy wind travels through the hallway as the large front door opens. Feet big and small stomp firmly on the rubber mat in front of the door to loosen the snow from their winter boots and keep the cold out. Inside, it's pleasantly warm. On a table in the room behind the entrance are bowls of apples, tangerines, and cookies. There is a smell of fruit tea and freshly brewed coffee. The coffee machine hums away in the corner. On the floor, building blocks, stuffed animals, and a doll lie on a colorful carpet, waiting to be played with. Everything is ready for the family café at the district meeting place in the Pius district on this winter day in December.

LEARNING GERMAN AND ENGAGING IN CONVERSATION

One room away, the large white board is ready for today's German class. Four women are already there, each with a folder with notes and worksheets in front of them. Quietly and somewhat shyly, they talk about the weather. Nilüfer Kosar and her little daughter quickly join them, because the lesson will begin in a few moments. On this day, however, neither vocabulary nor grammar rules are being learned. Although the district meeting place in the Pius district also offers such courses, on Thursdays the focus is on providing an opportunity to converse:

to talk and exchange ideas. As always, the hour begins with each of the women talking about their weekend.

Their roots are in Turkey, in Syria, in Greece, and in Canada. They migrated to Germany for different reasons, for different lengths of time, and their command of the German language varies. They are of different ages, are at different points in life, belong to different religions – and they are all here to learn from and with each other in conversation.

"We want to help people here get in touch with other people, especially from the neighborhood, practice German, and get support with bureaucratic obstacles that they don't know from their home country," explains neighborhood manager Sabine Engert. "The goal is for them to be able to integrate in Germany, in our society, and, of course, in the long term – in other words, sustainably."

A POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL

The three district meeting places in Ingolstadt do not have a specific target group. "We are open to everyone and look at what is currently needed and desired," says Engert. "We organize the events ourselves or we make the rooms available to cooperation partners."

Many different people meet in the district meeting places. One of them is Fatma Abdullah. She comes here to exchange ideas with others and to find a connection.



STRANGERS BECOMING FRIENDS

Mostly women and mothers take advantage of the services offered at the district meeting place in the Pius district. The family café at the family support center, which usually takes place three times a week, is particularly popular among them. Participants can come without registration, with or without a child, when and how often they want. In the room with the cookies, chairs are moved back and forth, coffee is poured into large cups, and a bouquet of flowers is placed on the table. The large window facade is hung with colorful, self-painted pictures. One of the women in the group today is Channy Eksi. "Especially in winter, when you can't go to the playground, I love coming to the district meeting place with my little daughter," she says. "I'm on maternity leave right now and as a mom



Ingolstadt's district meeting places OFFERS

Ingolstadt's district meeting places can be found in the Piusviertel, the Konradviertel and the Augustinviertel. Visitors can make use of targeted assistance, such as debt or pregnancy counselling.



You can find language and sports classes as well as various opportunities for personal exchange in family, senior or parent cafés. The contact information of the district meeting places and upcoming dates are available at dpaq.de/ZEXQ2



Many of the visitors to the district meeting place in the Pius district have a migrant background. German courses (above) facilitate integration. Channy Eksi particularly enjoys coming to the family café with her daughter (bottom).



I'm home a lot then. That's why I'm happy that my daughter can play with other kids here and I can talk to other women." The other women nod in agreement.

GETTING TO KNOW CULTURES AND LANGUAGES

Fatma Abdullah's children are already grown up, but she still comes regularly to the family café: "I want to integrate and improve my German. I've also signed up for a computer course. It's a lot of fun and expands my professional skills," she says. "I feel very welcome and comfortable at the district meeting place." She told a friend the same thing. Like Abdullah, she comes from Syria and is currently pregnant.

At the district meeting place, she receives advice and support before the upcoming birth of her child in Germany.

Many come here through personal contacts: "I heard about the family café from my neighbor. I knew many of the women here before just from seeing them around, as the neighborhood isn't that big," says Eksi. "We might have said 'hello' while shopping or something like that. Now we also meet outside the district meeting place sometimes. Especially in the summer at the playground. Some friendships have really developed here – between us women and our children."

In the meantime, it has become more crowded, more chairs have to be brought in. The language course is also over and the participants change rooms to join the family café as well. Nilüfer Kosar sits down at the table with the other women, her little daughter runs to the colorful carpet with the toys, where Eksi's daughter is already sitting and playing with a doll. The two girls know each other; they often play together here. "I think it's great that us and the children get to know many new cultures and customs through the district meeting place that would otherwise have remained foreign to us," says Kosar. "Christmas and Easter are celebrated here, and Santa Claus visits. But we also celebrate Ramadan with Eid and the Feast of Sacrifice, or Yom Kippur and Passover. Everyone finds something for themselves."

Different languages are also taken into consideration: "The other day we had a fairy tale lesson in which we read a short fairy tale in different languages. "Everyone then translated from their native language into German," adds the head of the family café, Nadia Ben Amor. "It was super interesting to see that the exact same fairy tale is sometimes completely different in different languages. Names are adapted to the country traditions and even if the ending is actually always the same, the way to get there is often a bit different."

Ingolstadt's district meeting places thrive on personal encounters. "The Corona pandemic was of course a very big challenge for us," recalls neighborhood manager Engert. "We tried online, but somehow that didn't really work. Almost everything we had built up in terms of structures over the past few years fell away. Many volunteers and employees have changed or quit, we had to and are still haing to completely reorganize that again. But we are on a good path."

Currently, the war in Ukraine is also a major topic at the district meeting place. In the beginning, the district meeting place was just a bureaucratic contact point. Many refugees came to get help with applications, forms, and documents. "Since then, a German-Ukrainian family café has even been set up, this always has a lot of visitors," says Engert.

Nilüfer Kosar is happy to take advantage of the services offered by the district meeting place. She comes with her daughter almost every day.



WITH EACH OTHER AND FOR EACH OTHER

NIIt's not just the staff who look after people at the district meeting place in the Pius district. Here, everyone supports each other – for example, with language partner schemes in which native speakers meet privately with learners, or with telephone services to be there for each other at a time like the Corona pandemic or during prolonged illnesses, and to offer each other some time or a home-baked cake.

"People take away so much for themselves that many want to give back. Depending on what they can and want to provide," Engert reports. "Visitors give their time, support, and friendship to those who need it. That, to me, is sustainability."

SUSTAINABILITY WITH A PLAN

The landscape plan is supposed to reconcile climate and nature protection with issues such as agriculture and housing – that’s not always easy.



Participation

A DIALOGUE ABOUT THE FUTURE

New bike paths, the expansion of parks and green spaces or the repair of playgrounds - as part of a so-called map dialogue, citizens were also able to participate in the design of the new landscape plan in Ingolstadt. Among other things, participants were able to name their favorite places for recreation and relaxation or report problem areas online. Suggestions for improvement were submitted in this way for more than 50 particularly attractive or problematic places from the categories of nature and species conservation, resources, sports and recreation, and water. These are now to be incorporated into the new landscape plan. The results can be found at

dpaq.de/Fuhtm



Which areas in the city are suitable for building new houses and apartments? Where can renewable energies and regional and organic food be produced? How can more greenery be integrated into the city center to better adapt it to the consequences of climate change? And where is nature left entirely to its own devices?

Cities have to decide on all these and many other questions as they deal with their future spatial, economic, and ecological development at the political level – increasingly from the perspective of sustainability. This is precisely where the landscape plan comes into play.

DIVERSE KEY OBJECTIVES

The landscape plan is one of the most important tools available to municipalities like Ingolstadt for sustainable urban planning. Among other things, it designates nature and landscape conservation areas and defines which biotopes, bodies of water, or orchards must be created or maintained. In this way, the flora and fauna are to be protected and their habitats preserved. All cities and municipalities in Bavaria must integrate a landscape plan into their land use plans – this is required by the Bavarian Nature Conservation Act.

Ingolstadt’s current land use plan - and thus also the associated landscape plan – has been in effect since 1996. It is currently being updated. In addition to climate protection, which must be taken into account according to the German Building Code, sustainability plays a central role.

As a starting point for the planning, the city planning office, in cooperation with all specialist departments, has formulated ten guiding objectives that reflect a diverse range of topics. The following applies: None of the guiding goals has priority over another.

CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS

In addition to nature conservation and species protection, climate impact adaptation and the careful use of resources such as water and soil, the goals also give equal priority to sports, leisure and local recreation. The same priority is also given to local agriculture, the energy industry, and infrastructure. Nevertheless, the different goals do not necessarily have to contradict each other. One example is the construction of the new Etting-Steinbuckl residential quarter in the north of Ingolstadt. In the immediate vicinity of the open countryside, compact and energy-efficient residential units were developed there, whose flat roofs can be covered with greenery and used to generate solar energy.



LEARN MORE

The guiding objectives of the landscape plan can be found in detail at dpaq.de/LnwTg

In this way, the plots of land are optimally utilized while saving as much space as possible.

WORTHWHILE DEBATE

Constructive solutions are not always so close together though. This is demonstrated, for example, by Ingolstadt’s second green belt, which plays a central role in supplying the city center with fresh air, among other things. The historic open space was reduced in the recent past and is now to be restored to at least its original size.

The second green belt near Haunwöhr: The new landscape plan is intended to bring together spatial, ecological, and economic interests in Ingolstadt.

This is a classic topic for the landscape plan, in which suitable areas are depicted. When redesigning them, it is important to bring together the viewpoints of the various stakeholders in Ingolstadt in the best possible way.

A landscape plan is more than just dry bureaucracy – it affects the lives of all citizens. This is one of the reasons why the political and social debate about it is worthwhile: A landscape plan plays a key role in determining how people can live together sustainably in one place.

SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER!

In Ingolstadt, there are numerous places to go to learn about sustainability initiatives and get involved. On this page you will find a selection of them.

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The Bürgerhaus is the multi-generation house of the city of Ingolstadt and consists of two buildings.

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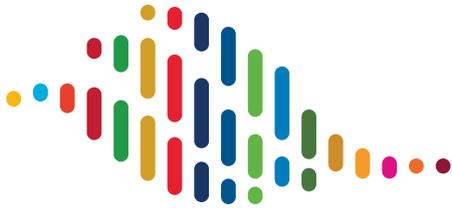
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