



The partnership contract “proKlima” as a model for cooperative climate protection



The partnership contract

Together with the capital of Lower Saxony, Hanover, the Stadtwerke Hannover AG have initiated a climate protection fund which was founded in June 1998 when the *proKlima* partnership contract was signed with additional partners. This fund is unique in Germany and Europe.

Together with all local municipal fund members, the Stadtwerke Hannover AG provides up to 5.1 million Euros annually to assist its customers and members of the public in their efforts to actively support climate protection measures.

The major part of the fund is derived from the Stadtwerke Hannover AG's profits from the previous year and a gas price component. In this way, the Stadtwerke Hannover AG's customers also participate in this fund as consumers and are thus involved in the climate protection offensive in Hanover. Hanover ranks first among all municipal fund partners.

This is what makes *proKlima* so special: As Dr. Erich Deppe, Chief Executive Officer, emphasized some years ago while the climate protection fund was in preparation, “We're all in the same boat.”

The inclusion of the cities of Ronnenberg and Hemmingen as new members in the *proKlima* partnership contract in 1999 as well as the rising demand for energy-saving programs in particular confirms that all foundation members are right in thinking that *proKlima* is a great success and its implementation really pays off.

Together with the City of Hanover and its suburbs, Langenhagen, Laatzen, Seelze, Hemmingen und Ronnenberg, the Stadtwerke Hannover AG has managed to raise the volume of funds to 5.1 million Euros annually, and at the same time provides assistance to its customers and members of the public in active climate protection.

Impulses for the Hanover region



From Rio ...



... to Hanover

proKlima is supported non-materially and with know-how by the following partners: Trade Corporation of Hanover, National Association of Energy Consumers, Consumer Advice Center of Lower Saxony, Citizens Action Group for Environmental Protection, Ruhrgas AG and Thüga AG.

The partnership contract constitutes a model for cooperative climate protection (global thinking) through the combination of management interests, consumer needs and local activities (local action). All shareholders of the Stadtwerke Hannover AG, the license-granting municipalities and lobbies for clients' interests have agreed to the founding and aims of the *proKlima* climate protection fund:

The conclusion of a nationwide unique partnership contract “for the promotion and progress monitoring of measures and third party projects (...) for climate protection, (...) which otherwise would not have been realized or only realized to a limited extent due to a lack of economic efficiency ...”

For Stadtwerke Hannover AG this implies:

- efficiency and a guarantee of its voluntary commitment to environmental protection,
- better positioning ahead of all competitors in a deregulated energy market,
- implementation of the self-commitment declaration of the German economy in the follow-up conference of signatory nations 1995 (COP 1, Berlin) of the Climate Protection Convention of Rio 1992.

Efficiency and innovation

The following criteria will form the basis for supporting individual projects or establishing programs:

- CO₂-efficiency (Euros/ metric tons of avoided CO₂),
- absolute amount of avoided CO₂,
- multiplier effect,
- level of innovation

proKlima supports the following with financial aid:

- additional measures which could not have been implemented without financial aid and for which the applicants are not financially committed,
- economically unacceptable costs which are not offset by reduced energy costs,
- generally speaking, only measures which are realized in the supported area.

Among these are major individual projects, such as the “Solar-Wochen” (promotion event for solar energy) in Hanover, the environmentally-friendly Kronsberghof bio-gas plants or the passive residential development area, Lummerlund, on Kronsberg as well as the Herrenhausen hydroelectric power station, whose turbines generate ecological electricity referred to as “enercity® Strom & care”.

Furthermore, *proKlima* supports building structure improvements with the help of public support programs (see below) by issuing low energy consumption certificates and resulting follow-up measures, (e.g. better insulation, optimized windows, gas heaters with efficient calorific ratings or the use of cogeneration), innovative standards for new buildings (such as the method of passive house construction), solar panels for water heating and the use of solar energy in schools, organizations, and public institutions.

The following five public support programs are currently implemented:

- ⚙ energy modernization of existing residential (“older”) buildings
- ⚙ energy modernization of club houses
- ⚙ heat energy conservation in new apartment complexes
- ⚙ solar water heating
- ⚙ solar energy & climate protection in schools, organizations and public institutions.

proKlima committees

The Board of Trustees and advisory council decide on individual projects and the setting-up of support programs. Manfred Müller, councillor of the city of Hanover, is chairman of the board whereas the advisory council is headed by Jans-Paul Ernsting, Managing Director of the Trade Corporation of Hanover.

proKlima office

proKlima is headquartered in the Stadtwerke Hannover AG building. The office decides on projects within the framework of the public support program measures and is responsible for the management and progress monitoring of the climate protection fund. In addition, it cooperates with reputable institutions with regard to studies, impulse programs and innovative projects. The office also takes part in local climate protection activities via “networking” with the City of Hanover or the Hanover Region e.g.:

The old building campaign “Bärenstarke Dämmung” (“Mammoth insulation”) is canvassing for optimally insulated buildings and the “Solarenergie kommt!” (“Solar energy is on the march!”) campaign aims at stimulating the demand solar energy utilization.



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