

City of Saarbrücken Voluntary Local Review 2025

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the
Global Sustainable Development Goals at
the local level



Imprint

Publisher

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External advice and support

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Foreword by the Lord Mayor

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow citizens,

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a direct contribution by Saarbrücken to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and reaffirms its responsibility as a European metropolis in a global alliance for sustainable development. The VLR not only shows what Saarbrücken has already achieved, but also that we are meeting international standards and enabling reporting within the scope of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This forum carries out regular inspections of how countries and local authorities present their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their reviews.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Ecological, social and economic sustainability is a guiding principle for our municipal activities. Saarbrücken sees itself as a city in which today's decisions shape the future responsibly rather than burdening it. This VLR is an opportunity to present our current position transparently and measurably, and to point out where we need to become stronger and how we can work together with partners at the municipal, national, and international level.

I would like to thank everyone who made this report possible through their commitment, expertise and energy – whether in politics, administration, civil society or the business world. Let us continue resolutely along the path we have begun, in the interests of Saarbrücken and its residents and in the spirit of global responsibility.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Uwe Conradt'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Uwe Conradt

Lord Mayor of the City of Saarbrücken

Foreword by the Mayor

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow citizens,

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is more than just a report – it is a promise: a promise that we are aware of our position with regard to the 2030 Agenda and that we are actively working to create sustainability at the local level.

Why is it so important to know about what we are achieving? Because local authorities are crucial: around 65 per cent of the sub-objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be achieved if cities and municipalities are directly and consistently involved in their implementation.



Image source: Wolfgang Klauke

That is why we have selected six SDGs in Saarbrücken, including Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) and Climate Action (SDG 13). Rather than just celebrating successes, the report sets priorities in areas where the city has a particular responsibility and specific opportunities for action. We can therefore highlight our progress so far but also identify areas where further action is needed.

I would like to thank everyone who works in administration, politics, civil society, education, private initiatives and business to ensure that Saarbrücken fulfils its responsibilities and that sustainability becomes an essential component of our actions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Meyer'.

Barbara Meyer

Mayor of the City of Saarbrücken

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1. Introduction

Voluntary Local Reviews in the context of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda

The United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in 2015. It has since served as a global framework for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda aims to find collective solutions to global challenges and enable all people worldwide to live in dignity. It is unprecedented in its scope and significance. The universal goals and targets apply to all countries in the world. Industrialised nations, emerging countries and countries of the Global South are all required to contribute to its implementation. It addresses policy-makers, the private sector, academia and civil society, all of whom bear responsibility for global sustainable development.

The 17 goals strengthen all dimensions of sustainable development and place everyone's actions in a global context.

In Germany, progress on the German Sustainable Development Strategy is presented at the federal level in the Voluntary National Review (VNR). The current 2025 report highlights measures and challenges from the 2021–2025 period. The German Sustainable Development Strategy was most recently reaffirmed in January 2025 and forms the basis for the German VNR and for German sustainability policy in general.

By signing the model resolution on the 2030 Agenda, the city of Saarbrücken committed itself to the 17 SDGs in 2017 and pledged to implement the goals locally. It has reaffirmed this

commitment by adopting the sustainability strategy of the city of Saarbrücken¹.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

¹ See: Sustainability strategy of the city of Saarbrücken: <https://www.saarbruecken.de/media/download-66b089b64d8f4> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Voluntary Local Review

The German VNR particularly emphasises the role of municipalities and their interaction with the federal states and the federal government. Implementing the 2030 Agenda requires commitment at the local level, in particular. Cities and municipalities play a key role in this, as it is here that both the causes of global challenges and the scope for effective solutions become apparent. A large proportion of the SDG sub-objectives can be directly influenced through local action. The 2030 Agenda stipulates regular reporting in order to highlight progress. In addition to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) format has become established at the local level.

A VLR is a voluntary local sustainability report which documents a municipality's contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. It creates transparency, strengthens accountability and comparability, promotes cross-departmental cooperation within administrations and with external stakeholders, and supports a continuous process of learning and improvement. VLRs offer a twofold benefit: they feed relevant sustainability information into national and international reporting systems while also supporting the strategic development and evaluation of local sustainability policy.

Context, methods and structure of the report

This VLR has been prepared as part of the "Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) for globally sustainable municipalities" project run by Engagement Global's Communities in One World Service Agency on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Service Agency Communities in One World supports municipalities, cities and rural districts in their efforts to actively promote global sustainability in line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. In 2025, the city of

Saarbrücken, the city of Augsburg, the Hanseatic city of Buxtehude, the city of Pirmasens and the municipality of Lamspringe were selected to prepare Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in German and English.

This (VLR) for the city of Saarbrücken was compiled in 2025 as part of municipal sustainability reporting. It supplements the sustainability strategy published in 2024 and documents the current status of sustainable development in Saarbrücken. The report aims to present the city's diverse activities and strategies in the context of the 2030 Agenda, to enable international comparison and, at the same time, to lay the foundation for future monitoring and the continuous development of local sustainability activities.

Sustainable development is firmly anchored in politics and administration in the city of Saarbrücken. Its central decision-making body is the Committee for Environment, Climate and Sustainability. Within the administration, sustainability is deemed to be a cross-sectoral task and is coordinated by several interdepartmental groups. The "E-Team", founded in 2006, serves as a platform for the exchange and coordination of strategies for integrated urban and district development. The "Core Team for Sustainable Development", created as part of the sustainability strategy, is responsible for updating and monitoring the strategy. In addition, an external advisory steering committee consisting of stakeholders from the urban community was established in 2023. Together with Trier, Metz and Luxembourg, Saarbrücken is also part of the QuattroPole network of cities, which contains a working group on sustainability to promote cross-border dialogue. Responsibility for sustainability lies with the Department for Finance and Sustainability and the Office for Climate and Environmental Protection, supported by contacts in the individual departments.

Data collection was based on existing concepts, strategies and technical planning, and on the evaluation of qualitative and quantitative indicators. In addition to statistical indicators, the report presents selected projects and measures that highlight Saarbrücken's contribution to the implementation of global sustainability goals. First, the SDGs most relevant to the city of Saarbrücken were identified for the VLR. Decisive factors in the selection process were the areas in which the city of Saarbrücken is already active, where it has local scope for action, or which are very significant for the quality of life in Saarbrücken. The thematic classification is based on the principle of strongest relevance, while highlighting connections between the SDGs in order to emphasise synergies and interrelations.

The second chapter begins by describing the local context. A brief profile of the city of Saarbrücken provides key facts and figures, followed by a short introduction to the city's sustainability work. The chapter concludes by summarising a selection of key figures and indicators. The third chapter forms the core of the VLR and covers the six SDGs selected from a total of 17. Each SDG is presented according to a standard structure that highlights the connections between the global, national and local levels. Each section presents municipal development in the area of the respective SDG, followed by a list of the relevant strategic and operational goals derived from the sustainability strategy. We then present activities, projects and strategies from administration, urban policy, civil society, science and business. Each chapter concludes with quantitative indicators for local developments, as well as an outlook on opportunities and challenges relating to the respective SDG. This standardised structure enables transparent and comparable presentation of how the 2030 Agenda is being implemented locally.

Thus, the VLR serves as a tool for control, communication and transparency. It is aimed at the administration and the public alike and is intended to help embed sustainability permanently as a cross-sectoral task in municipal practice. At the same time, it provides the public with important information about the city's activities in the area of the respective SDGs. Saarbrücken set the stage for continuous and measurable sustainability reporting by publishing its first VLR and its first Sustainability Report in 2024.

2. Saarbrücken in the context of sustainable development

Brief profile of the city of Saarbrücken

The city of Saarbrücken is the only district capital in Germany. Today's Saarbrücken Regional Association has around 330,000 inhabitants, 187,000 of whom live in the city. The special nature of the administrative structure means that the city is responsible for municipal tasks, but also for some of the state tasks transferred from the rural districts. However, this structure also means that the city has limited powers in some areas of urban development, such as youth, health and social policy.

Saarbrücken has a river location and a high proportion of parks and green spaces, which are linked to form an extensive green belt. 85% of the city consists of undeveloped land. With a high proportion of forest cover at 44%, it is one of the most densely wooded cities in Germany. Another advantage lies in the short distances, with numerous local recreation facilities and other essential amenities within walking distance, from the city centre to the surrounding countryside; this increases the city's attractiveness and quality of life. Together with architecturally interesting buildings such as Saarbrücken Castle and the Baroque Ludwigskirche church, Saarbrücken's cityscape offers a wide range of attractions for locals and tourists alike. Due to its proximity to France and Luxembourg in the Saarland border region, international relations, particularly with a French flair, influence the culture and politics of

citizens and the administration. As a European metropolis, Saarbrücken plays an exemplary role in European integration and cross-border cooperation through its participation in initiatives such as QuattroPole² and the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict³. The city provides a cultural centre for the greater region and attracts enthusiasts from far beyond the border triangle with music

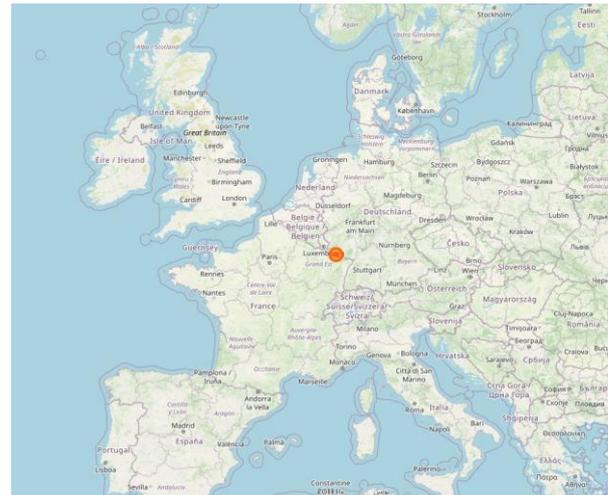


Image source: *OpenStreetMap*

festivals such as the Saar Music Festival, the renowned Max Ophüls Prize film festival for young film-makers, and the only Franco-German cultural festival, Perspectives. Supra-regional mobility is easy thanks to the high-speed rail connection to Frankfurt and Paris, and is used in various ways. The entire district surrounding Saarbrücken Central Station has been upgraded and now offers space for commerce and culture as the Eurobahnhof district.

A former mining town, Saarbrücken now has around 63% of its workforce employed in the service sector and has thus largely coped with structural change. In the industrial sector, metal construction and the automotive supply industry have established themselves and are of great importance to economic performance. Unemployment has fallen in recent years, but is

² The QuattroPole city network was established in 2000 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the cities of Luxembourg, Metz, Saarbrücken and Trier. The aim of the cooperation is to develop joint political strategies and establish regular dialogue between the administrations in order to promote the further development of the four cities by pooling their potential.

³ The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) "Eurodistrict SaarMoselle" was officially established in Saarbrücken in spring 2010. This cross-border special purpose association aims to deepen cooperation between partners in the border region.

still higher than the national average. Demographic change led to a temporary decline in population. However, this trend has been reversed in recent years: the population of Saarbrücken has grown again as a result of people moving here from abroad. The city promotes migration through innovative strength. This includes continuing to develop the service sector and investing in education, research and culture. The rise of what is known as the “creative class” in knowledge-based and technological fields is particularly significant here. Excellent courses of study in information technology and a renowned research landscape mean that Saarbrücken is not only a university city with over 23,000 students, but also a centre of excellence recognised throughout Europe. Unfortunately, like many other municipalities, Saarbrücken suffers from chronic financial difficulties. The city is dependent on cooperation and financial

support from the state and federal government in order to upgrade the city further and permanently secure its consolidation process.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Sustainability and the 2030 Agenda in the city of Saarbrücken

In Saarbrücken, sustainable development is widely recognised as being a collective responsibility. The central political decision-making body for sustainability issues is the Committee for Environment, Climate and Sustainability. Several interdisciplinary committees within the administration are working on the implementation and enhancement of sustainable strategies. The “E-Team”, which has been in existence since 2006, acts as an interdepartmental platform to coordinate concepts for integrated city and district development. Development of the sustainability strategy also included the creation of the “Core Team for Sustainable Development”.

In addition, an external advisory steering committee comprising representatives from the urban community provided advice throughout the process, contributing perspectives from civil society, business and academia. Saarbrücken is also active at the international level: within the QuattroPole city network, the city works together with Trier, Metz and Luxembourg in a joint sustainability working group and in other ways. Responsibility for the implementation of sustainability lies with the Department of Finance and Sustainability and the Office for Climate and Environmental Protection. In addition, contacts have been appointed in the individual departments to anchor sustainability issues in their respective areas of work.

The sustainability strategy of the city of Saarbrücken forms the central framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. It comprises five action areas with strategic and operational objectives that combine specific measures for sustainable urban development. The focus is on exemplary and responsible

administration, climate protection and energy efficiency, sustainable urban planning and mobility, social participation, and a sustainable economy. Saarbrücken’s goal is therefore to systematically embed ecological, social and economic aspects in all areas of administration and residential life and further develop the city’s sustainability and resilience by 2030.

The sustainability strategy is embedded in a municipal sustainability management system for its implementation and consolidation. This has meant defining clear responsibilities and forming working committees. A coordination team is responsible for regularly monitoring sustainability activities, and a Sustainability Report was published for the first time in 2024/25. These instruments make the city’s contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda measurable and visible. The strategy is continuously evaluated and adapted to changing conditions as necessary.

The first Voluntary Local Review of the city of Saarbrücken, together with the 2024 Sustainability Report⁴, marked the starting point for continuous sustainability reporting. This is designed to be an ongoing process: the findings in the present report will serve as the basis for future updates. At the same time, Saarbrücken aims to encourage other municipalities to report on their own sustainability activities and indicators in the form of the Local Sustainability Reporting Framework (BNK).

The latest progress reports from the United Nations clearly show that there is a considerable need for action in order to achieve the global sustainability goals in the “Decade of Action” proclaimed by the UN (2020–2030). Local authorities have a special responsibility here, as they play a key role in shaping implementation at the local level. Saarbrücken is explicitly committed to the 2030 Agenda and has set out a

⁴ See: <https://www.saarbruecken.de/media/download-685bb9bc763b6> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

clear roadmap for the coming years in its sustainability strategy.

The following measures are of particular importance in the short and medium term:

- Making public procurement more sustainable: adaptation of procurement practices to give greater weight to environmental and social standards, for example by favouring regional, Fair Trade or environmentally friendly products.
- Drawing up a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in accordance with the new EU requirements (TEN-T Regulation 2024). As an urban hub of the trans-European transport network, the city is obliged to submit a SUMP by the end of 2027 at the latest. EU guidelines provide the basis for this by setting out clear methodologies, participation procedures, implementation and monitoring processes, and numerous practical examples. The plan also builds on the experience gained from the transport development plan Saarbrücken 2030. Renovation roadmap for the urban building stock: preparation of a comprehensive action plan for the energy optimisation of municipal buildings as part of the climate protection concept.
- Amendment to the Saarland State Building Regulations: amendments which transfer to the city extra responsibility for sustainable building projects – such as for parking spaces or solar panels – thus further strengthening local control.

Through integrated sustainability management and ongoing reporting, Saarbrücken is laying the foundation for measuring progress, ensuring transparency and effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda locally and permanently.

As a general rule, the city of Saarbrücken offers citizens various formats for participation on different topics and refers to existing offers in several places on its website. For example, the sustainability strategy was developed in a participatory process. Since 2009, there has also been a Fair Trade Town Steering Committee, in which various stakeholders from civil society, business, universities and the city administration participate in the planning and implementation of Fair Trade activities in Saarbrücken.

Key milestones for the city of Saarbrücken in the area of sustainability:

1992: Commitment to sustainable urban development

1995: Signing of the Aalborg Charter

1998: Establishment of the administrative department for sustainable and healthy urban development

2009: Adoption of the urban development concept by the city council

2009: Saarbrücken becomes Germany's first Fair Trade Town

2015: Saarbrücken honoured as "Capital of Fair Trade"

2017: City council adopts the model resolution "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" – one of the first municipalities in Germany to do so

2017: Coordination of municipal development policy (Kepol) starts

2018: Mentioned in the European Commission's EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade Award

2018: Participation in the Municipalities for Global Sustainability (GNK) project

2023 /2024: Development and publication of a holistic sustainability strategy

2024: Sustainability Report 2024 (in accordance with the Local Sustainability Reporting Framework (BNK))

The city of Saarbrücken in figures



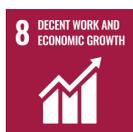
3. Local implementation of the 17 Global Sustainability Goals

Main messages



Quality education

Education is a key factor for social participation, integration and sustainable development in Saarbrücken. The city's goal is to provide everyone with access to high-quality education and to promote educational equality. The city encourages lifelong learning from early childhood to old age, as well as cultural participation and education on sustainable development. Through accessible learning venues, digital formats and cooperation with cultural and scientific institutions, Saarbrücken is strengthening educational equality and making an important contribution to an open, sustainable urban society.



Decent work and economic growth

Saarbrücken combines economic tradition with innovation. Following its transformation from an industrial to a service-oriented city, the city is now developing into a modern research, IT and creative hub of supra-regional importance. Through a strong network of education, science and business, Saarbrücken encourages sustainable business processes, thereby enhancing its competitiveness. Thus, the city is increasingly positioning itself as a sustainable tourist destination that combines nature with culture. The city administration itself is an attractive and responsible employer which encourages a balance between work and family life.



Sustainable cities and communities

Urban development in Saarbrücken is approached from a social, ecological and economic perspective. The city is committed to sustainable land use, affordable housing and climate-resilient neighbourhoods. With this in mind, the city's planning conditions create the basis for conveniently located education, work, leisure and care services. Similarly, targeted transport and infrastructure planning promotes a wide range of mobility options, facilitating safe and environmentally friendly everyday travel.



Responsible consumption and production

The city of Saarbrücken is committed to the responsible use of resources and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. It supports regional economic cycles, starting with its own contracting and procurement. When it comes to disposal, waste prevention and recycling are given special priority. Citizens, businesses and educational institutions are made aware of conscious consumption and sustainable behaviour in everyday life.



Climate action

The city of Saarbrücken actively takes responsibility for climate protection and aligns its municipal actions with the long-term goal of greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045 at the latest, as well as specific interim steps. Climate protection is anchored in the administration as a cross-sectoral task and is implemented through targeted measures and participation formats. Particular focus is placed on strengthening resilience to extreme weather events, improving the urban climate, and integrating climate protection into all relevant municipal processes.



Partnerships for the goals

As Germany's first Fair Trade Town, Saarbrücken embraces international cooperation on several levels: through long-term sustainability projects in the Global South and its cross-border local commitment in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict and the QuattroPole city network. The city is working together with civil society to implement the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the areas of education, mobility, urban development and tourism. Building and maintaining long-term, mutually beneficial relationships creates important synergies and strengthens social cohesion.



SDG 4 Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Background



Global

Education is crucial for sustainable development, but progress remains well behind the targets set. A low education level is not only a problem for the people affected but for the country as a whole. If a country lacks educated and qualified skilled workers, it will struggle to develop and achieve sustainable economic growth on its own. Although school enrolment and graduation rates have improved since 2015, the trend has nevertheless slowed. 272 million children and young people worldwide still have no access to adequate education. Despite slight improvements in literacy, 754 million people remain without basic reading and writing skills; women are disproportionately affected, accounting for 63 per cent of this figure.⁵



National

With its compulsory education, free educational institutions and internationally recognised dual training system, Germany has a well-developed education system, but structural challenges remain. According to the latest National Education Report, the school drop-out rate in 2022 was 6.9 per cent. Individual educational opportunities continue to depend heavily on social background, educational background and the family's socio-economic situation. For example, significantly fewer young people with a migrant background achieve the upper secondary school-leaving certificate.⁶ There is also some catching up to do in terms of digital equipment and further training for low-skilled workers. The German Sustainability Strategy 2025 therefore places greater emphasis on improving equal opportunities, lifelong learning and digital skills. It aims to make the education system more inclusive, improve transitions into training and employment, and promote further training opportunities.⁷



Saarbrücken

The city of Saarbrücken is the only district capital in Germany. Its special administrative structure gives rise to the responsibilities of a municipality, but also to some of the state responsibilities transferred to the rural districts. For example, some responsibilities in the areas of social affairs, health, youth welfare and education are assigned to the regional association rather than to the municipal administration. The school drop-out rate in Saarbrücken was most recently 4.39 per cent (2022). In Saarbrücken, as elsewhere, young people with a migrant background are shown to be more likely than young people with German citizenship to leave school without a secondary school leaving certificate, partly due to specific challenges in the

⁵ See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/Goal-04/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

⁶ See: <https://deutsches-schulportal.de/schule-im-umfeld/nationaler-bildungsbericht-mehr-schulabbrecher-und-fachkraeftemangel/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

⁷ See: <https://www.publikationen-bundesregierung.de/pp-de/publikationssuche/nachhaltigkeitsstrategie-2025-2344672> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

education system (e.g. because of uncertain residence status). In 2021, approximately 3.2 times as many school drop-outs in the city of Saarbrücken were pupils without German citizenship (in a nationwide comparison, the figure for the same year is in fact 3.6 times as many).

Specifically, the city of Saarbrücken is pursuing the following objectives relevant to SDG 4 in its sustainability strategy:

- **Strategic objective 21:** The city administration is committed to ensuring that all people have access to a solid education, and works towards educational equality.
- **Strategic objective 22:** Open access to educational and cultural opportunities for all, promotion of lifelong learning and education for sustainable development.
- **Operational goal 8.5:** Expansion of cultural and educational offerings on environmental protection and resource conservation; support for private and voluntary activities.

Our commitment

Kirchberg Educational Workshop in Malstatt

The city of Saarbrücken opened the Kirchberg Educational facility in Malstatt in May 2024. Malstatt is a diverse district traditionally characterised by migration, and also one of the socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the city. The Educational Workshop is a neighbourhood education centre supporting schools, nurseries and social institutions in Malstatt in their educational work. It is sponsored by the city of Saarbrücken and is establishing a new, innovative educational programme. Its motto is “Openness, transparency, participation and innovation”, and it is aimed at children, young people and adults alike. The background to the project is the diversity of social and cultural environments and educational experiences of the families. The facility’s services take into account the current challenges and needs of urban society.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

“With the Kirchberg Education Workshop, we are launching a flagship education policy project in Saarbrücken.”

Uwe Conradt, Lord Mayor



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Environmental and nature education in the municipal wildlife park

One example of an educational programme in the field of sustainable development is the environmental and nature education offered at the municipal wildlife park. The approximately 17-hectare wildlife park in the St. Johann district of Saarbrücken is home to around 120 native and naturalised European wild and domestic animals in species-appropriate enclosures. Admission to the wildlife park is free of charge. Environmental and nature education enables visitors to learn about native and naturalised European wild and domestic animals in species-appropriate enclosures and specially designed learning areas, such as the forest classroom. A wildlife park academy is attached to the municipal wildlife park.

A wide range of services and events offered by the city library

Saarbrücken city library is a central place of learning which offers a diverse, accessible and extensive range of analogue and digital media. In addition, the city library regularly hosts collaborative events on sustainability topics. There has been close cooperation for a number of years with the university’s Infolab, particularly in formats such as “Coder Girls”. Since 2022, there have been cooperation formats with CISPA and the weekly Alpha-Treff programme in cooperation with the adult education centre to teach basic literacy

skills. A reading on a climate protection topic was held in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation in 2023. In addition, the city library regularly participates in municipal event series such as Intercultural Week and Women's Issues Month. Other highlights include themed "fair breakfasts" and events on Fair Trade in cooperation with the Fair Trade initiative.

Cultural & reading club

The cultural and reading clubs are socio-cultural centres and educational institutions in the city districts. They primarily reach children, young people, people with a migrant background and senior citizens. The facilities make an important contribution to integration, while at the same time counteracting the isolation of older people. In addition to lending books and other media, the culture and reading clubs offer a wide range of activities: language and reading support for children, readings for adults, and spaces for meetings and dialogue. The staff organise guided tours for nursery schools and school classes, educational trips and creative activities for all age groups throughout the year, such as music courses, theatre groups and craft afternoons. Events about sustainability for children, women and senior citizens have been held in Malstatt, Sankt Annual and Dudweiler since 2021.

The cross-border mobile library for reading for pleasure and language development

The city of Saarbrücken operates the fully electric BI-BUS mobile library together with the neighbouring French municipal associations Forbach Porte de France, Saint-Avold Synergie and Sarreguemines Confluences, as well as the Grand Est academic region. The city library's book bus has been visiting primary schools in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict since



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

2022, offering children lots of interesting activities such as borrowing media from a bilingual collection, picture book cinema, reading aloud, tablet rallies, games and much more. The interior of the bus is equipped with cosy reading corners decorated with nature motifs, a large activity area, multimedia equipment and modern technology. Professionally qualified staff will assist you in your search for suitable titles. Teachers can borrow media for lessons and project weeks. The aim of the BI-BUS mobile library is to get children at German and French primary schools excited about the neighbouring language in a playful way and to strengthen pupils' reading and media skills.

Cultural offerings in the areas of film and art

Saarbrücken offers a variety of film-related activities, including the "Cinema for Future" film series (with school cinema screenings, academic lectures and lecture series), the "Filmreif" cinema club for senior citizens at a reduced price, film series and discussions on gender issues, and the free programme for nurseries "Zum ersten Mal im Kino" (First Time at the Cinema). To mark the 40th anniversary of the Saarländisches Künstlerhaus gallery in 2025, Filmhaus Saarbrücken, in collaboration with the "Klima XL" exhibition, organised the film series "Apocalyptic Film Evenings", which presented dystopian, environmentally critical feature film classics. The municipal cinema was awarded second prize in the category "Cinema that educates" at the cinema awards organised by the Kinematheksverbund (Cinematheque Association) in 2025. The Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken art gallery also offers various art

education programmes on the topics of climate change and sustainability as part of its free cultural and educational offerings (for example: 17 Global Sustainability Goals, “Our house is on fire” exhibition⁸, etc.).

Public awareness campaign: “Be the change you want to see in Saarbrücken.”

This campaign aims to raise awareness of the sustainability-related activities of the city of Saarbrücken and at the same time provide simple everyday tips for citizens. Specifically, this involves publicising the first Local Sustainability Reporting Framework (BNK) and the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) through a broad-based public awareness campaign. This uses digital and analogue media as well as the city’s infrastructure to present information about sustainability in a comprehensible and practical way. The campaign includes an interactive quiz that can be played with cards and a specially developed application. Citizens and schoolchildren are given an overview of the global significance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their local implementation in Saarbrücken, and topics such as Fair Trade and sustainable behaviour in everyday life. The quiz also contains questions and learning content specifically tailored to children in order to promote awareness of sustainability at an early age.

Municipal children’s (holiday) programmes

For many years, the city of Saarbrücken has been offering children’s holiday programmes which are far more than just leisure activities. They provide children with learning opportunities, encounters and creative experiences, and enable guardians to balance family and professional life better.

The city of Saarbrücken provides information on its website about (holiday) offers for children and young people. Through the “Kinderkakadu” event calendar⁹ and the KidS annual programme, Saarbrücken offers a wide range of mostly free activities, from sports and art to nature education. Kinderkakadu has been published exclusively in digital form since summer 2025, making it more modern, environmentally friendly and more easily accessible.

⁸ See:

https://stadtgalerie.saarbruecken.de/ausstellungen/archiv/our_house_is_on_fire_kuratiert_von_kindern_und_jugendlichen (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

⁹ See:

https://www.saarbruecken.de/leben_in_saarbruecken/familie_und_soziales/kinder_und_jugendliche/kinderkakadu (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Local developments



Childcare places (number)

	2014	2024
Crèche places	233	451
Nursery places	1,255	1,885

Number of crèche and nursery places in municipal facilities (source: City of Saarbrücken, Office for Children and Education)

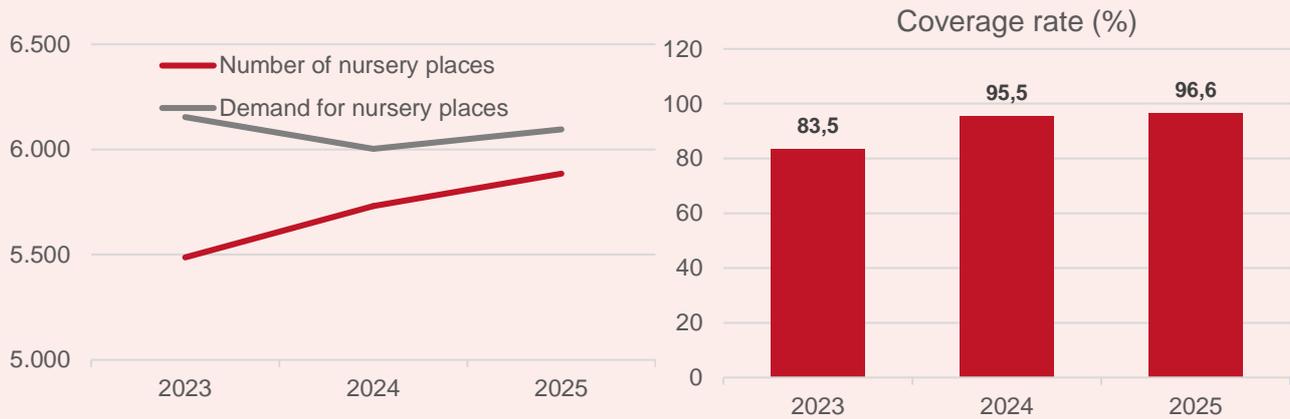




Ratio of number of children (over 3) to childcare provision (%)

	2023	2024	2025
Number of nursery places	5,487	5,731	5,885
Demand for nursery places	6,154	6,003	6,095
Coverage rate (%)	83.5	95.5	96.6

The indicator compares the total number of nursery places in Saarbrücken with the respective demand for childcare places in this age group (over 3s). (Source: Pre-school development plan, Youth Welfare Committee Regional Association Saarbrücken¹⁰).



Access to basic services: primary school travel distance (m)

Year	Distance (m)
2018	659.0
2021	659.0

Population-weighted linear distance to the nearest primary school (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



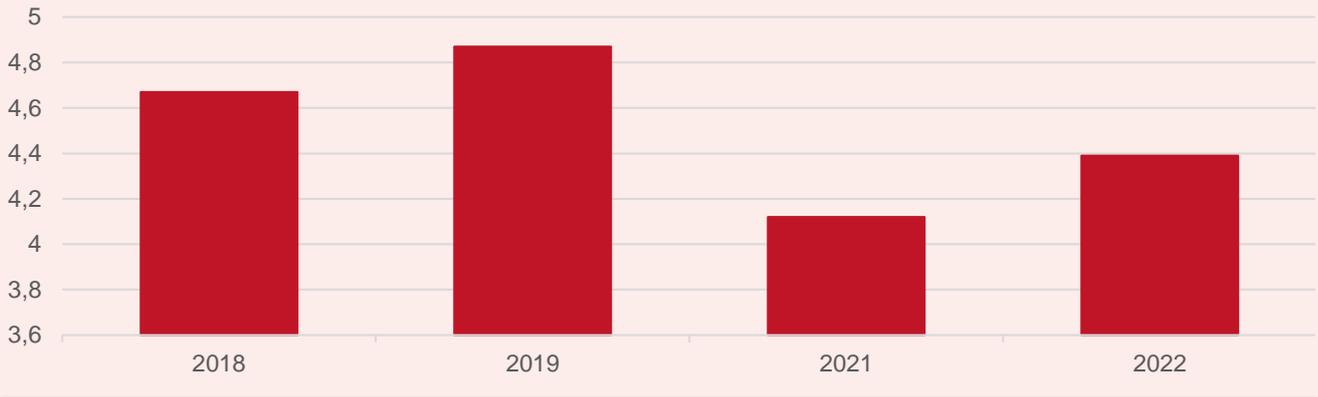
¹⁰ See also: SessionNet | Pre-school Development Plan 2024–2026 (last accessed 17/12/2025).



School leavers without a secondary school leaving certificate (%)

2018	2019	2021	2022
4.67	4.87	4.12	4.39

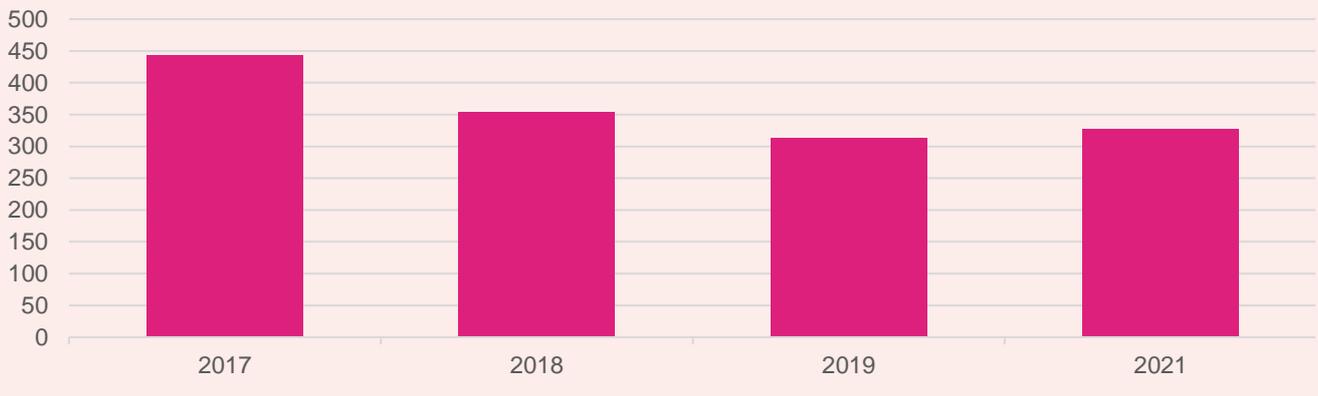
Proportion of pupils without a secondary school leaving certificate out of all pupils (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



School leavers without a secondary school leaving certificate – foreign nationals (%)

2017	2018	2019	2021
443.41	353.48	313.42	327.06

The indicator compares the school drop-out rate among foreign nationals with the school drop-out rate among the total population. This means that approximately 3.2 times as many school drop-outs were pupils without German citizenship in the city of Saarbrücken in 2021 (source: SDG portal / Community Roadmap)

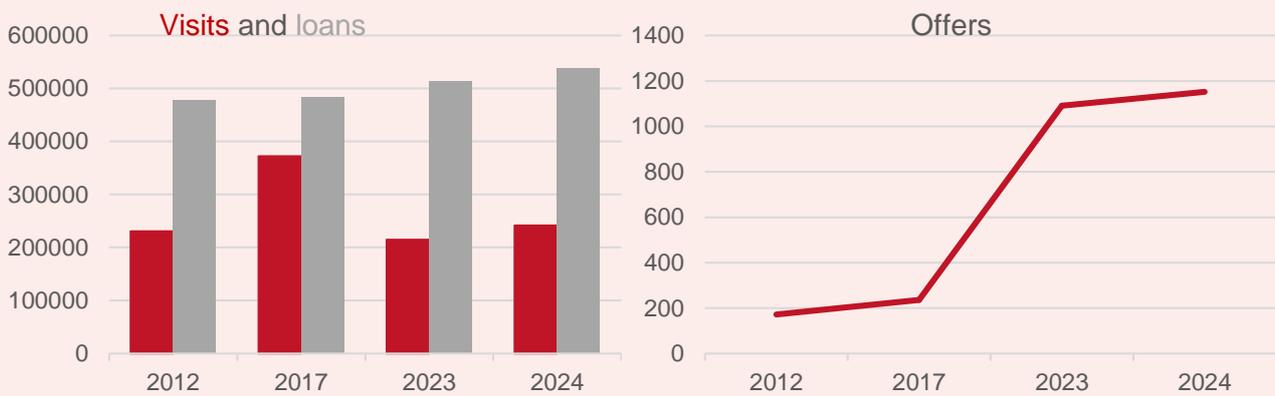




City library – visits, loans, programme

	2012	2017	2023	2024
Visits	230,639	372,237	214,744	241,615
Loans	477,158	483,877	514,562	538,314
Offers	172	236	1,091	1,152

Visits to the city library / Loans from the city library / Events, guided tours and exhibitions at the city library (Source: City of Saarbrücken, German Library Statistics (DBS)).



Internal administrative training courses (number)

	2017	2023
Seminars	83	86
Participants	1,011	1,217

Number of seminars offered and number of seminar participants (source: City of Saarbrücken).



Opportunities and challenges

In Saarbrücken, as elsewhere, education is not only a personal asset but also the foundation for integration, innovation and social participation. The city has a dynamic educational landscape, ranging from schools, libraries and cultural meeting places to universities. This diversity opens up potential, but at the same time, equal opportunities remain a crucial challenge. Social inequalities continue to be reflected in discrepancies in access to education, for example in language support or the facilities available to socially disadvantaged schools. Young people from migrant backgrounds are also disproportionately affected by dropping out of school. Digital transformation presents a great opportunity. Saarland has created a binding framework for the systematic integration of digital skills into teaching in the form of the recently passed Digital Education Act (DiBiG). The city of Saarbrücken is able to use its special role as an IT and research hub here: through its university, renowned institutes such as the August-Wilhelm Scheer Institute and a strong start-up scene, the city offers ideal conditions for shaping digital education in a practical and innovative way. This combination of legal framework and local expertise opens up new avenues for inclusive and modern learning opportunities. With a broad educational network and in close cooperation with the Regional Association of Saarbrücken, its strength as an IT location and innovative initiatives such as the Saarland Digital Education Act, Saarbrücken is well positioned to tackle educational inequalities and implement SDG 4 locally and visibly – for a society that is more sustainable, inclusive and future-proof.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Background



Global

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, rising living costs, tensions in the global trading system and increasing government debt worldwide are all factors that significantly hamper economic growth. Although the global unemployment rate fell to a record low of less than 5 per cent in 2024, nearly 58 per cent of all people worldwide continue to work in informal employment.¹¹ In the G20 area, growth fell marginally to 3.2 per cent in 2024 (2023: 3.4 per cent), with Germany being the only G20 nation to experience further contraction (-0.2 per cent).¹² In its autumn forecast, the European Commission anticipates slight economic growth of 0.2 per cent in Germany for 2025.¹³



National

With its social market economy, comprehensive rights for employees and a minimum wage that is high by international standards, Germany has a framework that is designed to ensure decent work and economic stability. With a gross domestic product of around 4.66 billion US dollars in 2024, Germany is the world's third biggest economy after the USA and China. However, the consequences of global crises are having a particularly strong impact here. High energy and raw material costs, declining investment, demographic change and the costs of the transition to a climate-neutral industry are placing additional strain on Germany as a business location. These factors have led to a slight recession in recent years. Added to this is persistently high inflation, which, although it has fallen since its peak, continues to put pressure on private households and businesses.¹⁴ The Supply Chain Act came into force in 2023 to protect human rights standards along global supply chains. All companies are expected to fulfil their human rights due diligence obligations, both in Germany and in their global business activities. Employment is of great importance to society in Germany, as the social security systems are financed by contributions from the working population. The number of people in employment in Germany has risen almost continuously since 2006, with the exception of the years marked by the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. In 2024, the employment rate for 15- to 65-year-olds was 77.5 per cent.¹⁵

¹¹ See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/Goal-08/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

¹² See: <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/statistical-releases/2025/03/g20-gdp-growth-fourth-quarter-2024> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

¹³ See: <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/wirtschaft-in-deutschland-waechst-aber-langsam-als-eu-durchschnitt-a-c5fdff91-5cc7-4662-a06f-bb5e537f33bc> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

¹⁴ See: https://www.destatis.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2025/01/PD25_019_811.html (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

¹⁵ See: <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Arbeit/Arbeitsmarkt/Erwerbstaetigkeit/Tabellen/erwerbstaetigenquoten-gebietsstand-geschlecht-altergruppe-mikrozensus.html> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).



Saarbrücken has largely coped with the structural change from the coal and steel industry to a modern service economy: around 63 per cent of employees now work in the service sector, while metal construction and automotive suppliers remain important industrial pillars. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate remains above the national average at 11.1 per cent¹⁶. As a university and IT location with around 23,000 students, Saarbrücken also has great potential for innovation. The combination of education, research and the creative industries strengthens the city's competitiveness and opens up prospects for sustainable economic activity. Saarbrücken also plays an important role in tourism in Saarland. As the state capital and as a European metropolis, it is a cultural centre with festivals, museums and diverse gastronomy, and also augments the state's nature and outdoor offerings, for example in the "primeval forest at the city gates".

The city of Saarbrücken pursues the following objectives relevant to SDG 8 in its sustainability strategy:

- **Strategic objective 2:** By 2030, Saarbrücken City Council will offer its employees an attractive, modern and sustainable working environment.
- **Strategic objective 23:** The city administration is strengthening the labour and training market in order to reduce the unemployment rate and the shortage of skilled workers and labour.
- **Operational goal 23.1:** Through attractive location marketing, the city administration will contribute to securing jobs and increasing employment levels by 2030.
- **Operational goal 24.2:** The city administration is helping to ensure that Saarbrücken will be a sustainable and supra-regionally strong economic location with intensive cross-border cooperation and a strong infrastructure in 2030.
- **Operational goal 24.3:** The city administration promotes start-ups and (especially sustainability-oriented) business succession across all sectors to ensure a diversified economic structure.
- **Operational goal 24.4:** The city administration will continue to implement the tourism strategy for the Saarbrücken region and city until 2030, thereby enhancing urban tourism in a sustainable manner.
- **Operational goal 25.1:** The city administration is strengthening knowledge of sustainable management and promoting sustainable business processes among Saarbrücken-based companies. The municipal corporation will have set an example for sustainable management by 2030.

¹⁶ See: <https://www.saarbruecken.de/media/download-565eb062d378d> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Our commitment

“FAIRnünftiges Unternehmen” competition

A key measure to promote sustainable business practices in Saarbrücken is the “FAIRnünftiges Unternehmen” (fair-minded business) competition, which was launched in 2019¹⁷. The city’s competition is an initiative to acknowledge companies for their sustainable and fair business practices. Its aim is to promote sustainable action, raise awareness of corporate responsibility, and recognise exemplary companies. Saarbrücken-based businesses and companies that are particularly committed to Fair Trade, social issues, the environment, sustainable digitalisation and local participation, or wish to become involved in these areas, can apply to become a “FAIRnünftiges Unternehmen”. Participating companies are assessed in the areas of environmental friendliness, social responsibility and economic sustainability. Companies from Saarbrücken can apply by presenting their sustainable measures. A jury reviews and evaluates the submissions, and the best companies are honoured at a formal ceremony. The competition aims to inspire other companies and raise the overall level of sustainability and fairness in the region.



Image source: Jennifer Weyland

¹⁷ See: <https://fares.saarbruecken.de/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

“It is impressive to see how much creativity and commitment the participating companies are putting into their sustainable concepts. They are shaping a sustainable economy for Saarbrücken based on responsibility and fairness.”

Barbara Meyer, Mayor



Image source: Wolfgang Klauke

Tourism strategy for the region and the city of Saarbrücken 2025

The tourism strategy for the “Region and the city of Saarbrücken 2025” was developed in a participatory process in the second half of 2019 and officially adopted in spring 2020. The tourism strategy aims to position Saarbrücken as an attractive and diverse travel destination and to market its unique selling points strategically and sustainably. The tourism strategy was developed according to the motto “Saarbrücken is the capital of good taste – nestled in one of Germany’s most beautiful creative regions!” Strategic objectives for 2025 include increasing added value and quality, raising the city’s profile, and optimising processes. Sustainable tourism and improving the digital presence are central components of the strategy. Cooperation and networks are to increase the scope, while high-quality tourist infrastructure and first-class service aim to ensure visitor satisfaction.

Another objective was the creation of themed routes. In the primeval forest just outside the city and in the Bliesgau Biosphere Reserve, such themed routes raise citizens’ awareness of nature conservation and sustainability issues. Local producers and manufacturers are also in the spotlight here.

The continuation of the tourism strategy oriented towards the target year 2030 is currently being planned and has already been approved by the city council. The existing cooperation with the Saarbrücken Regional Association will continue.

“Family-friendly business” seal of approval for the city of Saarbrücken

The city of Saarbrücken has already been awarded the “Family-friendly business” seal of approval several times (firstly in 2015). The award was conferred by the Saarland Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK). The seal of approval is awarded to companies, authorities and institutions that can demonstrate appropriate measures to promote family friendliness. The city creates conditions for all employees that enable individual working time models for their respective stages of life – for employees with families, single parents or employees who care for relatives. Through its commitment to improving work-life balance, the city also aims to set an example for the over 15,000 companies in Saarbrücken and promote family-friendly personnel policies beyond the boundaries of the city administration.

Klinikum Saarbrücken gGmbH

The Klinikum Group (Hospital group) is committed to its responsibility for environmental protection and the sustainability of its business decisions. Legal requirements and societal expectations are increasing.

The Klinikum Group's compliance policy describes sustainability as a key challenge of our time. All employees are obliged to consider the impact of their actions and decisions on the environment and to avoid harming the environment as far as possible.

The Klinikum Saarbrücken hospital is committed to the economical use of all energy resources and to the continuous improvement of its overall energy consumption, energy-related services and energy management.

Taking into account the purchase of green electricity, CO₂ emissions at the Winterberg site had fallen to 1,320 tonnes in 2022, representing 13.6 per cent of 2002 emissions (9,708 tonnes). If the purchase of green electricity is not taken into account, the reduction in emissions would still be 57 per cent. In addition to accounting effects, e.g. from the sale of the laundry and the change in emission factors for electricity and district heating, more than two-thirds of this result is attributable to the company's own measures. Examples of investment measures include converting the power station's steam supply from steam to natural gas-fired steam boilers and expanding LED lighting. Various organisational measures, such as the "Lights out" campaign, have also led to savings.

The above measures have also led to temporary cost reductions. Between 2013 and 2018, expenditure on energy and water fell from €3.65 million to €2.76 million. Energy costs have been rising again since 2019, but at €3.14 million in 2022, they are still well below the 2013 level.¹⁸

¹⁸ See also: Energy audit 2023 in accordance with DIN EN 16247-1. Dr Ingo Friedrich (05/12/2023).

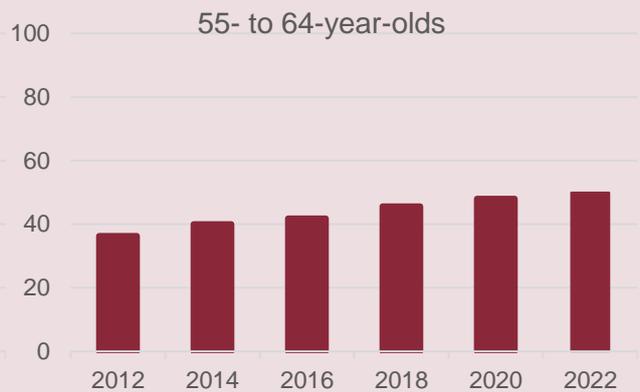
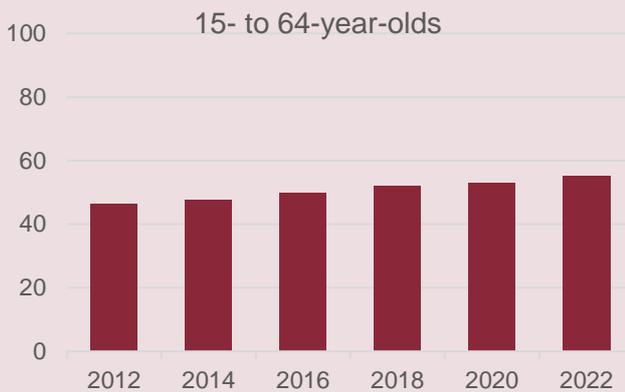
Local developments



Employment rates (%)

	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
15- to 64-year-olds	46.2	47.7	49.7	51.9	53.0	55.2
55- to 64-year-olds	36.3	40.0	41.8	45.6	48.0	49.9

The employment rates indicate the proportion of 15- to 64-year-olds and 55- to 64-year-olds in employment subject to social insurance contributions in relation to the total working-age population (civil servants, self-employed persons and persons in marginal employment are not included in the statistics). (Source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap)

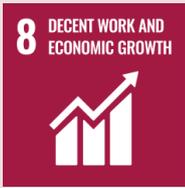


Guest arrivals and overnight stays (number)

	2019	2022	2023	2024
Guests	334,290	311,937	376,404	403,075
Overnight stays	561,754	555,722	659,622	706,510

Number of guests checking into a hotel or other accommodation facility within a specific period and number of overnight stays in accommodation per year (source: City of Saarbrücken).





52
FAIR-minded businesses

The competition has been recognising companies for their sustainable and fair business practices since 2019. Participating companies are assessed in the areas of environmental friendliness, social responsibility and economic sustainability. (Source: City of Saarbrücken)



9
Tourism companies meet international certification standards

Number of companies in the tourism industry in Saarbrücken with international certifications. (Source: Tourism 2030 DestiNet)



Ratio of employment rates of women and men (%)

2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023
88.1	92.7	90.1	91.6	89.9	90.39

Employment rates for women compared to employment rates for men (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap)



Opportunities and challenges

Saarbrücken's economy stands for diversity: modern services, creative industries, and a growing research and IT landscape combined with tradition-steeped industry. This combination opens up opportunities to secure employment and provide new impetus. In particular, the interaction between universities, research institutions and businesses offers potential for stabilising the employment rate in the long term and bringing innovation to the region.

Tourism is another important economic factor. Saarbrücken attracts visitors both for its cultural offerings and its proximity to unique natural surroundings. The number of guest arrivals and overnight stays shows that there is considerable potential for development here – particularly if sustainable concepts are consistently implemented, the positive development of recent years can be continued.

At the same time, it is clear that the city faces structural challenges. These include an unemployment rate above the national average, a shortage of skilled workers in certain sectors, and the need to balance tourism growth with environmental responsibility.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Background



Global

More than half of the world's population already lives in towns and cities – and this trend is set to continue. Cities are engines of economic development, but at the same time they cause around 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, consume more than three quarters of all resources and generate billions of tonnes of waste.¹⁹ This also makes them particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change: rising temperatures, flooding and the loss of green spaces are increasing the risks for billions of people. Only about one-fifth of cities worldwide have so far seen strong participation from civil society in urban planning – which jeopardises equitable participation and resilient infrastructure.²⁰ At the same time, the housing situation for many people remains precarious. In numerous countries in the Global South, over half of the urban population lives in slums; in Chad, for example, the figure is as high as 80 per cent. However, progress has also been made: for example, in Burkina Faso, the proportion has fallen from over 80 per cent to below 30 per cent since 2000.²¹



National

Almost 78 per cent of the population of Germany lives in cities and conurbations.²² Rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing affect the development of cities, as does the need to make cities climate-resistant. Added to this are challenges relating to air quality, traffic and adaptation to extreme weather events. The promotion of cycling and walking plays a key role in addition to expanding public transport. At the same time, rural areas must be more closely involved in order to balance quality of life, mobility and infrastructure between cities and rural areas, thereby counteracting demographic pressure on cities. The German Sustainability Strategy therefore highlights the creation of affordable housing, the reduction of land use and the promotion of sustainable mobility and green infrastructure as key areas for action.²³

¹⁹ See: <https://www.eskp.de/klimawandel/staedte-und-klimawandel-935813/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²⁰ See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/Goal-11/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²¹ See: <https://17ziele.de/ziele/11.html> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²² See: <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/662560/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-deutschland/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²³ See:

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/975274/2335292/c4471db32df421a65f13f9db3b5432ba/2025-02-17-dns-2025-data.pdf?download=1> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).



As the state capital, Saarbrücken faces particular challenges in terms of sustainable urban development. Current developments are shaped by increasing demand for affordable housing, the protection and expansion of green and open spaces, and the creation of climate-resilient neighbourhoods. The Saarbrücken regional association expects to see a population decline of 2.1 per cent by 2040 compared to 2020. Saarbrücken thus reflects the regional trend in a slightly less pronounced form – a decline of 5.3 per cent is expected for Saarland.²⁴ In addition, it is important to reduce land consumption and promote integrated urban development with a social balance. The mobility transition plays a central role: by expanding local public transport, encouraging cycling and walking, and implementing smart mobility solutions, Saarbrücken is pursuing the goal of ensuring environmentally and climate-friendly transport for all residents.

The city of Saarbrücken pursues the following objectives relevant to SDG 11 in its sustainability strategy (selection):

- **Strategic objective 7:** The amount of waste generated in Saarbrücken will have fallen significantly by 2030. The city administration supports the urban population, local businesses and local producers in avoiding waste and in producing and using products from circular value creation.
- **Operational objective 8.2:** By 2030, the city administration will have expanded and connected green spaces and open areas within the urban area.
- **Operational objective 8.3:** The city administration ensures that air pollution and noise pollution are reduced throughout the urban area, especially in residential areas.
- **Strategic objective 11:** The city administration is actively committed to protecting and improving the urban microclimate and adapting to the consequences of climate change at the local level.
- **Strategic objective 13:** By 2030, the city administration will provide all citizens with access to attractive, sustainable and affordable housing. Municipal housing development reduces vacancy rates and creates neighbourhoods with different types of housing and projects.
- **Strategic objective 14:** The city administration is working together with citizens to promote sustainable urban district development (climate-resilient and socially equitable). The city administration strives to achieve green space equity in every district by protecting and expanding green spaces.
- **Strategic objective 15:** By 2030, the city administration will enable environmentally friendly, climate-neutral transport by means of an attractive public transport system and an expanded network of cycle paths and footpaths.

²⁴ See:

https://www.sr.de/sr/home/nachrichten/politik_wirtschaft/bevoelkerungsprognose_saarland_bis_2045_100.html (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Our commitment

Transport Development Plan (in future, “Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan”)

The Transport Development Plan (VEP) 2030 was adopted by Saarbrücken city council at the end of 2016 and forms a crucial basis for the further development of mobility in the city of Saarbrücken. The VEP is a strategic plan that will influence mobility and transport development in Saarbrücken up to 2030. The VEP 2030 adopted a target concept with the key objective of “compatible and sustainable mobility design and development”, which is underpinned by a series of overall, sub- and secondary objectives. The six overall objectives of the VEP are: Increasing road safety, equal participation, promoting eco-friendly transport, ensuring accessibility, making road spaces liveable, and minimising negative environmental impacts. In order to achieve these goals, a comprehensive action plan was drawn up with a wide range of measures to be implemented step by step.

The measures concern the following areas of action, among others:

- A. Pedestrian traffic,
- B. Cycling,
- C. Public transport,
- D. Motor vehicle traffic

The promotion of eco-friendly transport is one of the six overall objectives of the VEP 2030 target concept. In the areas of a) pedestrian traffic, b) cycling and c) public transport in particular, a series of measures for the promotion of eco-friendly transport are outlined here, which will be implemented step by step. A number of important measures have already been implemented in recent years, particularly in the areas of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. These include the establishment of the first bicycle zone in Saarbrücken in the inner-city district of Nauwieser Viertel in 2021. This gives cycling priority over other modes of transport in the district and strengthens it in the long term. Another recent example is the Hohenzollernstraße bicycle road. Hohenzollernstraße, an important transport link between the city centre and the University of Applied Sciences (htw-saar), has been converted into a bicycle road. The first section from Neumarkt to Roonstraße was established back in 2021. The following section starting at Roonstraße was then structurally redesigned and completed in October 2024. A third example is the pilot project “30 km/h speed limit on main roads in the city centre”. Saarbrücken has been selected as one of three cities to participate in the pilot project as part of the Federal Ministry of Digital Affairs and Transport’s research project “Evidence of the effects of 30 km/h speed limits on main roads in built-up areas”. The Federal Ministry will conduct a before-and-after study as part of the research project.

The city intends to develop the VEP 2030 into a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in line with EU requirements over the next few years. The planning process for the SUMP, with a target year of 2040, will start in winter 2025 and is expected to last until mid-2027. The SUMP developed by the European Commission consider the ecological, economic and social aspects of all modes of transport in functional areas of cities and surrounding regions. SUMP can be used to develop both mission statements for sustainable mobility and specific measures for implementation. Drawing up a SUMP takes into account findings from the mobility plan analysis, as well as important changes in mobility behaviour in recent years, e.g. due to home office options, new mobility services or new fare offers such as the Deutschlandticket. A key feature of sustainable urban mobility plans is the involvement of stakeholders and broad public participation.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

“The opening of the bicycle zone is another step towards promoting bicycle traffic and enhancing our city centre. I am proud that this makes us in Saarbrücken national pioneers.”

Uwe Conradt, Lord Mayor



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

“Smart” zebra crossing for greater road safety

The city of Saarbrücken is trialling innovative technology to further improve road safety: a “smart” zebra crossing uses modern sensor technology to detect when people want to cross the road, and drivers are alerted by clear light signals. This is intended to prevent accidents and increase the visibility of pedestrians, especially in the dark or in poor visibility conditions in road traffic. Through this pilot project in Eschberg, the city administration is demonstrating that it is using new digital opportunities to reduce the number of traffic accidents in the long term and protect citizens more effectively.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Promoting sustainable mobility for municipal employees

To promote the use of public transport by municipal employees, the city council decided at a meeting in October 2023 that employees would be eligible for a subsidy for the Deutschlandticket, starting in

November 2023. As an employer, the state capital Saarbrücken subsidises the Deutschlandticket (gives a discount for public transport) as a job ticket by 25 per cent, whereupon the transport company grants a further 5 per cent discount on the ticket price.

From April 2024, employees will also be able to enjoy greater flexibility in their mobility thanks to the introduction of a company bicycle leasing scheme. As part of a deferred compensation scheme, the monthly leasing instalment is deducted directly from the employee's gross salary. Employees are thus provided with a bicycle or pedelec at attractive terms for 36 months. Around 90 city employees had signed a company bicycle leasing contract by October 2025.

An electric car, two pedelecs and a cargo pedelec are also available for use on business trips. The municipal cargo pedelec has already covered more than 16,000 kilometres since 2017 and is also loaned free of charge to associations connected with development policy.

Vacant lot register

By initiating the vacant lot register for the entire urban area in October 2023, the city aimed to mobilise further inner-city construction potential by making private owners aware of potential building developments. The vacant lot register records unused or underused plots of land on which housing can be built immediately or in the foreseeable future.

Dealing with the continuing demand for housing is one of the major urban planning challenges facing Germany and the city of Saarbrücken. There is great potential to be tapped in the development of inner-city brownfield sites. These vacant lots can usually be built on at short notice and without major development costs. This enables the efficient and sustainable use of existing infrastructure and reduces greenfield development and additional land sealing on the outskirts of settlements.

Integrated urban development concepts

Several integrated urban development concepts (ISEKs) help the city of Saarbrücken to plan the future-oriented development of urban spaces. ISEKs are urban open space planning concepts for particularly relevant parts of the city, which are always integrated into overall urban planning. Several ISEKs are currently being implemented. In *ISEK Osthafen*, existing urban structures are being redesigned so that modern commercial and service structures will provide space for the working environments of the future. In *ISEK Central City Centre*, the city of is focusing on the central areas around *Bahnhofsstraße* and responding to current developments in retail and in citizens' shopping behaviour, among other things. *ISEK Alt-Saarbrücken Tallage* will place particular emphasis on a climate-adapted urban landscape. The intended result is to involve local stakeholders intensively in future planning, connecting residential and open space development to create resilient neighbourhoods and building a secure framework for sustainable urban structures.

Building land model

A key urban planning measure is the promotion of social and affordable housing in the urban area by implementing the Saarbrücken building land model measures. The state capital has created the essential preconditions for an active land policy with the building land resolution of October 2018.

The resolution firstly stipulates a quota for social and affordable housing when granting building rights for residential properties. Secondly, it specifies the concept for the allocation of urban land, i.e. it is not allocated according to the highest price, but according to predefined (quality) criteria for urban planning (e.g. proportion of social housing, urban integration into the neighbourhood, etc.).

The building land model applies citywide and is used when creating planning rights. Specifically, this means that if additional planning rights (development plan) are created in favour of higher-value residential use, the project developer or property owner must provide 20 per cent social housing and 10 per cent affordable housing. The building land model applies to developments with 20 or more residential units.

Integrating climate protection into spatial planning

Municipal heat planning plays an important role in integrating climate protection into spatial planning. This involves strategic planning to identify cost-effective and efficient heat supply solutions for urban districts. With the help of municipal heat planning, transformation plans are used to determine the actual pipeline routes and thus the heat energy supply.

Strategic municipal heat planning for the city of Saarbrücken is one of the measures within the climate protection concept. Due to the current legal situation, the federal states are obliged to ensure that municipal heating plans are drawn up within their territory. For municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, these must be in place by 30 June 2026 at the latest.

The Saarland Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digital Affairs and Energy enacted a state law that legally implements the federal Heat Planning Act in Saarland in November 2024.

On the basis of this law, a position was created at the city of Saarbrücken for the planning and implementation of municipal heat planning. A tendering process resulted in the commissioning of a specialist firm to assist with the preparation of the heating plan.

In July 2025, the city officially launched the project with a kick-off event together with all the participating stakeholders.

The kick-off event marks the beginning of a multi-stage process that will culminate in the creation of a strategic heating plan for the city of Saarbrücken by the end of June 2026.

Retail and town centre concept

The updated retail and centre concept adopted by the city council in May 2024 forms the overall basis for assessing retail developments and provides the preconditions for corresponding changes and revisions to development plans. The concept is also intended to maintain and strengthen the central functions, centres and supply areas, as well as to supply consumers in the city of Saarbrücken near to their place of residence. The retail concept helps to prevent urban sprawl by promoting internal development. Redesignation, particularly of large-scale shopping centres outside central supply areas, must be justified by an expert compatibility analysis; the retail concept includes a sample layout for this. From an economic perspective, this also creates investment security in line with the objectives at the same time as providing an updated basis for assessing retail projects in planning law terms. In social terms, the retail concept clearly contributes to maintaining the local supply structure.

Cross-border civil protection and disaster management

A work group within the QuattroPole city network, comprising members of the fire services of the four cities of Luxembourg, Metz, Saarbrücken and Trier, maintains close and regular dialogue regarding practices and expertise in civil protection and disaster control. The fire stations are working together to come up with solutions to improve emergency services in the border area. The network exchanges information on e.g. best practice examples in biannual working meetings. Having focused largely on coronavirus crisis management in the past, the work group is currently concentrating more on civil protection, including at major events such as the celebrations for German Unity Day 2025 in Saarbrücken and the royal succession in Luxembourg. The fire stations in the network often support each other in crisis situations, and their close coordination means they can also benefit from each other in other ways.

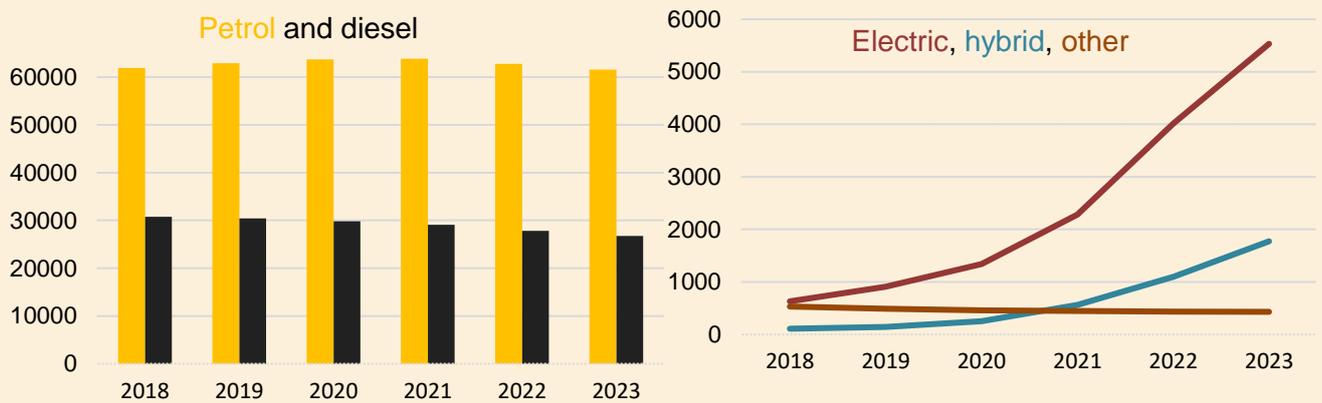
Local developments



Number of cars

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
93,884	94,883	95,538	96,265	96,167	96,041

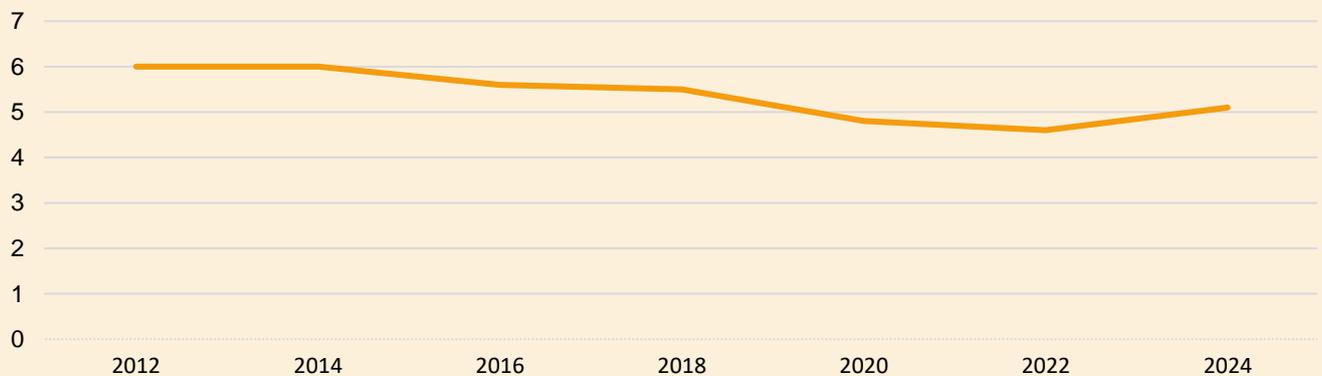
Number of cars (private and commercial) in the urban area by type of engine: petrol, electric, hybrid, diesel, other (source: City of Saarbrücken).



Traffic casualties (number)

2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
6.0	6.0	5.6	5.5	4.8	4.6	5.1

Number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap/state police department 13).





Electric vehicles owned by the city administration (number)

2019	2021	2023	2024	2025
2	8	18	32	32

Number of electric vehicles in the city administration of the city of Saarbrücken. The figures refer to a total fleet of around 430 vehicles. (Source: City of Saarbrücken, survey by the Central Municipal Waste Management Company (ZKE))



Land use and new land use (%)

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Percentage	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
Percentage change			0.01	0.02

Proportion of settlement and transport area and change in the settlement and transport area compared to the previous year based on the total area in per cent (Source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).





Land use intensity (m²)

2016	2018	2020	2022
240.9	333.1	336.0	331.6

Settlement and transport area (excluding “mining operations” and “open-cast mining, pits, quarries”) per person in square metres (Source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



Local recreation areas (m²)

2016	2018	2020	2022
23.87	24.18	24.48	24.29

Local recreation areas per person in square metres (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).





Living space (m²)

2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
45.2	45.7	44.8	44.9	45.7	45.3

Available living space per person in square metres (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



Completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy (%)

2013	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
52.7	45.2	35.4	24.7	36.6	49.3

Proportion of newly constructed residential buildings with renewable heating energy in all new constructions per year (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



Opportunities and challenges

By contributing to the implementation of the SDGs, the city administration of the city of Saarbrücken is helping to ensure a high quality of life in the city. Key challenges such as creating and maintaining sustainable neighbourhoods with affordable housing or sustainable mobility for all citizens are considered and implemented in a holistic way. The ISEKs (integrated urban development concepts) and the retail and centre concept address current developments to ensure that urban spaces are designed in a modern and future-oriented way. This is also reflected in the targeted continuing development of existing concepts, so that new factors can always be taken into account. The expected population decline in the Saarbrücken regional association underscores the need to maintain the city's appeal even under changing conditions in order to consolidate the city's position as a sought-after place to live and central orientation point for people in the region and beyond. In addressing this, the city is deliberately setting its own priorities and playing a pioneering role at the national level, for example by participating in model projects. Significant investment and close coordination between the city administration, regional partners and the population are necessary, particularly when it comes to expanding public transport or promoting cycling and walking. Furthermore, the creation of socially and ecologically sustainable neighbourhoods and the preservation, expansion and linking of green and open spaces are ambitious tasks. The challenge remains to reconcile limited land and financial resources with increasing social, environmental and economic demands.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Background



Global

The global consumption of resources has almost doubled over the last 20 years. Food waste, electronic waste and other types of waste are reaching new heights every year, while consumption continues to increase the material footprint.²⁵ Earth Overshoot Day fell on 25 July in 2025 – in 1987, it only came on 19 December.^{26,27} This increases pressure on the climate, resources and ecosystems worldwide. Although international agreements, corporate sustainability reports and political measures are on the increase, so far there has been little success in translating this institutional progress into an actual reduction in global consumption and resource use.

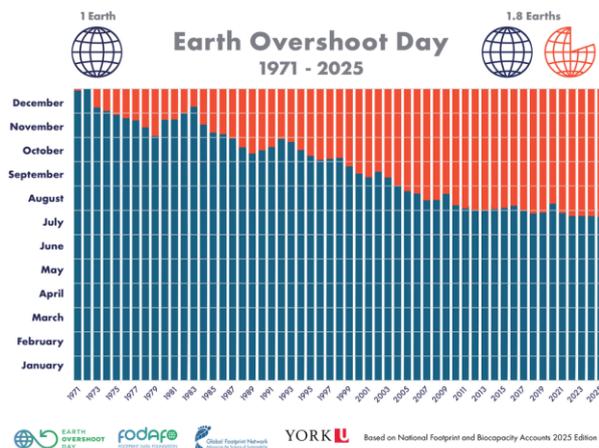


Image source: Global Footprint Network



National

With its highly developed solid waste management system, high recycling rates, established deposit system and the Closed Substance Cycle and Waste Management Act, Germany has underlying conditions that are far advanced by international standards. Nevertheless, per capita consumption of raw materials is above both the international and EU averages. In Germany, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 3 May in 2025.²⁸ According to the Federal Statistical Office, waste generation in Germany amounted to around 380 million tonnes in 2023.²⁹ If all people on earth were to live as we do in Germany, then three planets would be required in order to satisfy the demand for resources. The German Sustainability Strategy 2025 therefore

²⁵ See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/Goal-12/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²⁶ Image source: <https://overshoot.footprintnetwork.org/newsroom/press-release-june-2025-english/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²⁷ See: <https://overshoot.footprintnetwork.org/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²⁸ See: <https://www.welthungerhilfe.de/informieren/themen/klimawandel/earth-overshoot-day-welthungerhilfe> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

²⁹ See: https://www.destatis.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2025/06/PD25_190_321.html (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

identifies sustainable consumption, resource conservation and the circular economy as key areas for action.³⁰



Saarbrücken's advanced solid waste management system, which is ahead of the national average, and its high level of recycling culture form an important basis for the implementation of SDG 12. Due to its centralised solid waste management, public procurement and its role as an educational and administrative hub, the city commands effective levers to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and to set an example for urban society. However, Germany's above-average consumption of raw materials is noticeable at the local level too: with a high annual residual waste volume of around 163 kg per capita (2024), Saarbrücken is clearly in need of action to prevent waste and conserve resources. Furthermore, Saarbrücken's location in the border triangle means that resource flows and consumption patterns go beyond the city limits and over national borders. This European interlinking opens up opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, while at the same time compelling the city to consider sustainability goals in a supra-regional context. The national sustainability strategy defines consumption and the circular economy as key areas of action; in line with this, sustainable procurement, waste prevention and awareness raising are considered key issues for Saarbrücken's sustainable urban development.

The city of Saarbrücken pursues the following objectives relevant to SDG 12 in its sustainability strategy:

- **Strategic objective 5:** The city administration will have developed guidelines for sustainable and globally responsible procurement and contracting in accordance with public procurement law principles by 2030. Urban society is aware of its global responsibility with regard to its consumption behaviour, and the marketing of fairly produced products has significantly gained in importance.
- **Strategic objective 7:** The amount of waste generated in Saarbrücken will have fallen significantly by 2030. The city administration supports the urban population, local businesses and local producers in avoiding waste and in producing and using products from circular value creation.
- **Strategic objective 18:** By 2030, the city administration will have helped to increase knowledge and awareness of sustainable consumption among the urban population, particularly in the area of nutrition.

³⁰ See: <https://www.2030agenda.de/de/article/weiterentwicklung-der-deutschen-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie-veroeffentlicht> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Our commitment

“Saarbrücker Kohle” regional voucher system

The regional voucher system “Saarbrücker Kohle” (Saarbrücken coal) has helped strengthen local trade and the community in Saarbrücken since 2006. The voucher system supports the local economy and small businesses by creating incentives to shop at regional retailers and service providers, thus retaining purchasing power within the region. “Saarbrücken coal” can be purchased for euros at certain exchange points and used in participating shops. This creates a regional network to promote economic independence and sustainability in the region.

Activities of the Central Municipal Waste Management Company (ZKE)

In 2010, the city council decided to introduce residual and organic waste charges based on weight. This encourages waste prevention and waste separation, with organic waste bins (€0.19/kg) being cheaper than residual waste bins (€0.33/kg).³¹ The ZKE has been able to reduce the amount of residual waste by around 27 per cent in 12 years by implementing this model. Per capita revenue is to be reduced by a further 5 per cent by 2028 (base year 2019: 29,300 tonnes of residual waste, 162 kg per capita). Free paper and packaging bins have also increased recycling rates. Since 2023, there have been pilot bins for residual waste, paper and light packaging in public spaces.

The cooperation between the ZKE and the “Wertstatt”³² (Zentrum für Bildung und Beruf Saar gGmbH, ZBB) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024. This facility collects usable bulky waste items, repairs them and reprocesses them for sale. At the same time, the “Wertstatt” offers training and qualification programmes that enable young adults to gain practical work experience and become integrated into the working world.

The ZKE also supports the exchange and giveaway market to prevent waste. In addition, an initiative was launched in 2024 to improve organic waste separation in order to reduce contamination and increase the amount of sorted organic waste per inhabitant. The first clothing swap took place in September 2025 as part of World Cleanup Day.

The ZKE offers various courses on the topic of environmentally friendly waste disposal to educate the population on sustainable development. Information events for early childhood waste education have been held for many years. New additions in 2023 include collaborations with zoo educators and information events for adults through the regional association’s adult education centre.

³¹ See: https://www.zke-sb.de/abfall/gebuehren_und_satzungen/muellgebuehren_tabelle (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

³² See: <https://wertstatt.zbb-saar.de/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Participation in the “Papieratlas” competition

The city of Saarbrücken has participated annually in the “Papieratlas” competition since 2008 and uses 100 per cent recycled paper with the Blue Angel certificate in its administration. For these efforts, the city of achieved second place in the Papieratlas City Competition organised by the “Initiative Pro Recyclingpapier” (IPR).

The “Papieratlas” has been tracking paper consumption and recycled paper rates in German cities since 2008. Partners include the Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Federal Environment Agency, the Association of German Cities (“Deutscher Städtetag”), and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (“Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund”). The 93 cities and medium-sized towns participating this year achieved a new record, with an average recycled paper rate of 87.15 per cent.

Using paper with the Blue Angel label is a particularly simple and effective measure for protecting the climate and conserving resources. Its production saves around 70 per cent of water and 60 per cent of energy compared with fresh fibre paper. Saarbrücken saved more than 2.1 million litres of water and over 434,000 kilowatt hours of energy by using recycled paper last year.

Definition of sustainability criteria for municipal procurement

The city of Saarbrücken has been pursuing the goal of fair and sustainable procurement for many years. Numerous council resolutions, service instructions and practical implementations provide the structural framework for a constantly evolving culture of fair procurement. Important foundations include Service Directive No. 78 (“Consideration of sustainable procurement when awarding a contract”) and Service Directive No. 10 on work clothes and protective clothing, which came into force in May 2025 and stipulates the start of advisory involvement by the Environment Agency in the assessment of environmental and social aspects.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

The decision to use Fair Trade coffee in the town hall was made back in 2003. This was followed in 2008 by the council’s decision against products made using exploitative child labour, and in 2011 by the amendment to the cemetery regulations on the use of certified gravestones. Specific measures implemented included:

- Since 2022: approx. 1,200 Fair Wear-certified fair polo shirts (framework agreement for the fire brigade)
- Since 2024: tender with fair criteria for work clothing at the Central Municipal Waste Management Company (ZKE)
- Since 2024: 4,500 chocolate Easter bunnies (Fair Trade cocoa) at the Easter celebrations in the German-French Garden; Fair Trade food such as cashews from the “Fair Saarland” project at events such as World Cleanup Day, City Cycling, etc.
- Fair catering in childcare facilities: cocoa, bananas, sugar, coffee, etc.
- Ecological criteria for the procurement of school and nursery furniture: use of renewable raw materials and recycled materials; exclusion of tropical timber, CFCs, PVC, lead and solvents; ensuring environmentally friendly reuse or disposal; use of low-emission wood products in accordance with RAL-UZ 76 and RAL-UZ 38 (Blue Angel), etc.

- Recurring: giveaways such as “GUT FAIRPACKT” cotton bags, vegetable bags.

New sustainability criteria were also established for tenders for office supplies in October 2025.



Image source: Jennifer Weyland

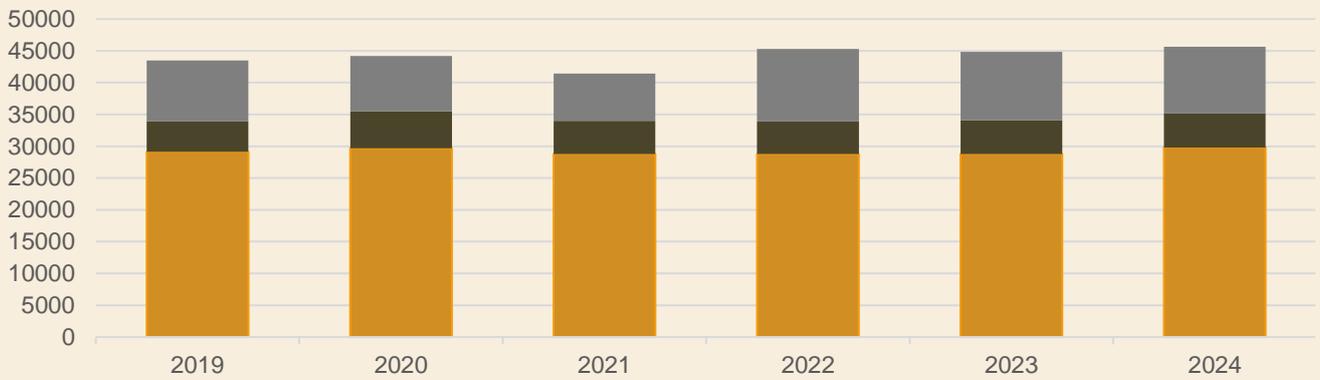
Local developments



Waste quantity (t)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Residual waste	29,129	29,697	28,798	28,782	28,802	29,771
Organic waste	4,842	5,805	5,211	5,098	5,316	5,356
Paper	9,500	8,701	7,407	11,391	10,738	10,493

Waste volume by waste type: residual waste, organic waste and paper in tonnes (t) (source: City of Saarbrücken, Central Municipal Waste Disposal Service (ZKE)).



Opportunities and challenges

As a border city, Saarbrücken faces particular challenges in the areas of sustainable consumption and resource use, sustainable waste disposal, and sustainable procurement and contracting. Its location on the borders with France and Luxembourg leads to increased consumption within the urban area by day trippers and tourist shoppers, and consequently to an additional traffic load, for example. Furthermore, social differences within the city make it difficult for certain population groups to access sustainable consumer goods, which are not always affordable for people on low incomes or who are unemployed. Since Saarbrücken has a significantly higher number of people entitled to benefits under Social Security Codes (SGB) II and XII than in Saarland as a whole, these social differences are also significant in the city. This contrasts with a strong higher education landscape that fosters innovation and thus creates opportunities, as well as a vibrant cultural and creative scene that demonstrates how resource-efficient consumption can be put into practice through repair cafés, second-hand shops, upcycling projects and a growing number of sustainable businesses.

The cross-border situation is also noticeable when it comes to disposal. Different regulations in France, Luxembourg and Germany make joint solid waste management difficult. At the same time, digital systems and app-based notifications, such as those already in use in the city of Saarbrücken, open up new possibilities for waste disposal, enable processes to be managed more efficiently and actively involve citizens. The “Meldoo” reporting system enables citizens to report faults and contamination directly via their mobile devices. The reports are automatically forwarded to the relevant authorities. After submitting a report, citizens can track its processing status in “Meldoo” – from receipt of confirmation to completion notification.

“With the introduction of the new fault reporting system ‘Meldoo’, the city administration is taking another step towards a digital, more transparent and more efficient administration.”

**Tobias Raab, Head of Department for Economic Affairs,
Social Affairs and Digitalisation**



Image source: Selina Salm

Finally, sustainable procurement by the city administration always plays an important role, as well. Although assessing environmental and social standards is complex and resource-intensive, awarding public contracts to regional companies within the scope of legal possibilities enables Saarbrücken to strengthen short supply chains, promote the local economy and serve as a role model in the greater region.

It is clear that through cross-border cooperation and by making use of local opportunity potential, the city of Saarbrücken can strengthen its role model function and continue to promote sustainable urban development.

13
CLIMATE
ACTION


SDG 13 Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Background



Global

In the Paris Agreement, the international community committed itself to limiting global warming to well below 2 °C. Nevertheless, climate change continues to accelerate: 2024 was the warmest year on record, with a global average temperature around 1.55 °C above pre-industrial levels. Extreme weather events, climate-induced displacement, food insecurity and economic losses are continuing to increase. According to UN forecasts, the world is currently heading for a temperature increase of 2.7 °C.³³ To keep the 1.5 °C target within reach, investment in emissions reduction must be accelerated as a matter of urgency. At the same time, increased investment in climate adaptation and resilience is needed to mitigate the already unavoidable consequences of global warming.



National

Germany has created a clear and internationally ambitious framework through its Climate Protection Act, binding sector targets and the legal stipulation of climate neutrality by 2045. Greenhouse gas emission is to be reduced by 65 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Total greenhouse gas emissions fell by more than ten per cent in 2023. Overall, 673 million tonnes of greenhouse gases were released in Germany in 2023.³⁴ The transport and building sectors, in particular, are still failing to meet the targets. According to the Federal Environment Agency, the national climate targets are still achievable by 2030.³⁵



Saarbrücken

The city of Saarbrücken has firmly anchored climate protection in its sustainability strategy. Greenhouse gas emissions are to be reduced by 65 per cent by 2030 and by 88 per cent by 2040 compared to 1990 levels. The city aims to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045 at the latest. Saarbrücken is thus taking responsibility for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement locally. The key foundation for this is the integrated climate protection concept: the climate adaptation concept, which unites the energy and heating transition, mobility, urban planning and administrative practice. A systematic energy and greenhouse gas balance forms the basis for potential analyses, scenarios and a dynamic catalogue of measures, which is regularly updated. Climate protection is established as a binding cross-departmental task in all offices.

³³ See: <https://unric.org/de/guterrescop2601112021/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

³⁴ See: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/archiv-bundesregierung/treibhausgasbilanz-2023-2265440> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

³⁵ See: <https://www.2030agenda.de/de/article/weiterentwicklung-der-deutschen-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie-veroeffentlicht> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

The city of Saarbrücken pursues the following objectives relevant to SDG 13 in its sustainability strategy:

- **Operational objective 2.5:** By 2030, the city administration will have increased incentives for employees to commute to work using low-emission modes of transport.
- **Strategic objective 8:** The city administration is committed to protecting and enhancing natural resources (water, air, soil) and biodiversity in Saarbrücken.
- **Strategic objective 9:** By 2030, the city administration will significantly reduce climate-relevant emissions through construction measures and smart technologies, thereby making a significant contribution to achieving supra-regional CO2 targets.
- **Strategic objective 11:** The city administration is actively committed to protecting and improving the urban microclimate and adapting to the consequences of climate change at the local level.
- **Operational objective 12.1:** The city of Saarbrücken is continuously reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero (climate neutrality by 2045), with interim targets of 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels.

Our commitment

Climate Protection Convention

The city's climate protection management team organised the Saarbrücken Climate Protection Convention (Klima.Con)³⁶ for the first time in 2023. Klima.Con is a practical event with a trade fair character for all those interested in climate protection. All visitors can find out more about climate protection at the stands of the participating organisations and listen to interesting keynote speeches on the topic. The "Klima.Con" in 2024 focused on the topic of heating.

Environmental and Climate Protection Award by the city

The city has been recognising projects and special commitment with the Environmental and Climate Protection Award³⁷ since 2022. The aim is to reward completed projects or achievements in the areas of sustainability, climate protection, environmental protection and nature conservation. Prizes and awards worth up to €2,000 are awarded in the Saarbrücken Environment and Climate Protection Award competition. Companies can be honoured with a certificate. A total of €10,000 in prize money is available each year.

KlimaKids Saarbrücken competition

In addition, the KlimaKids³⁸ Saarbrücken competition takes place annually. Primary schools and nurseries in the city can submit their projects to the competition, which offers prize money totalling €15,000. Primary schools and nurseries can apply with new projects and activities up to the start of the summer holidays.

Promoting solar energy use and the use of green electricity for the city administration

The city of Saarbrücken has drawn up a 7-point action plan for promoting the use of solar energy. Objectives include implementing photovoltaic systems in new municipal buildings and roof renovations as standard, as well as the retrofitting of photovoltaic systems on existing municipal buildings. The action plan also includes scanning urban open spaces for potential PV open space sites and recommending that municipal subsidiaries install photovoltaic systems. With regard to independent and holding companies, PV systems are reviewed and implemented in new buildings (and extensive roof renovations), i.e. all new construction measures are reviewed in terms of the economic efficiency of PV systems, and implemented if appropriate. For example, the Central Municipal Waste Management Company (ZKE) already operates photovoltaic systems at various locations. These are primarily used on non-residential buildings to cover and reduce the company's own electricity requirements. All new construction projects have also paid greater attention to sustainability criteria since 2022, such as the use of sustainable building materials, waste prevention and the use of efficient heating systems, etc.

The electricity requirements of the city administration of the city of Saarbrücken are completely covered by green electricity (Europe-wide tender for electricity requirements).

³⁶ See: https://www.saarbruecken.de/umwelt_und_klima/climate_protection/klimacon (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

³⁷ See: https://www.saarbruecken.de/umwelt_und_klima/climate_protection/umwelt_und_climate_protectionpreis (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

³⁸ See: https://www.saarbruecken.de/umwelt_und_klima/climate_protection/klimakids_saarbruecken (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

“Strengthening resilience and improving quality of life for the people of Saarbrücken are among the goals of our climate adaptation concept. Climate change requires us to take action, which we are doing on the basis of the analyses and developments outlined in the concept.”

Uwe Conradt, Lord Mayor



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Publication of a climate adaptation concept

A climate adaptation manager was hired in August 2023, and the city of Saarbrücken published its climate adaptation concept in May 2025. The integrated concept is intended as a cross-sectoral task which addresses the majority of the municipal administration, as well as relevant stakeholders. It describes the dangers posed by extreme weather events and offers solutions to increase the city’s resilience to changing climatic conditions. The focus is on heat and heavy rain prevention.

Strategic open space planning for greater climate protection and quality of life

The city of Saarbrücken pursues an integrated approach to climate adaptation that combines ecological, urban planning and social aspects. The greening statute and the funding requirements for greening and unsealing areas, which specifically support the removal of sealed surfaces and the creation of new green spaces, make a key contribution to this. Measures such as greening, rainwater retention, infiltration and the reduction of soil sealing are integrated into planning processes through the involvement of the environmental agency in development



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

planning procedures. Nevertheless, securing inner-city green spaces remains a challenge, especially when a legal basis or resolutions are lacking. The Open Space Development Programme (FEP) has been enhanced in order to design urban spaces in a sustainable and climate-resilient way. It serves as a strategic basis for the qualification of urban open spaces, formulates design principles and specific measures, and forms the basis for current city

and urban district development concepts. It aims to counteract overheating by means of forward-looking open space planning, to ensure quality of life and to adapt the urban structure to the consequences of climate change. One exemplary project is the planned redesign of Burbach Market into the “Burbach Green Oasis”. This square has, until now, been almost completely sealed off and is one of the hottest places in Germany in summer. The area is to be redesigned in terms of climate, functionality and aesthetics, starting in 2026. Greening, unsealing and rainwater retention measures will create an attractive location which improves the local microclimate, promote social interaction and sustainably enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Here, Saarbrücken is demonstrating how climate adaptation and urban design can be successfully combined.

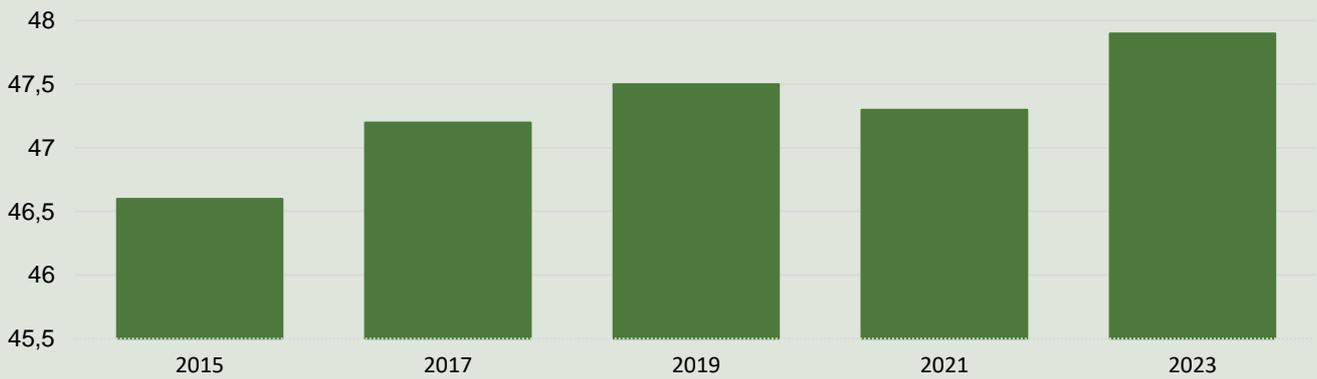
Local developments



Settlement density in flood zones (%)

2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
46.6	47.2	47.5	47.3	47.9

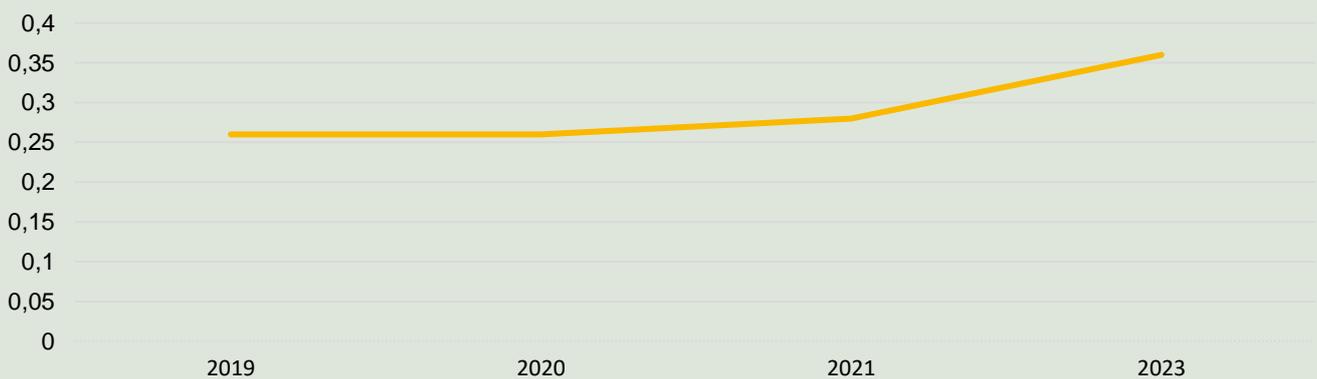
Proportion of built-up residential and transport areas in officially designated flood zones (source: SDG portal/Community Roadmap).



Affordable and clean energy (kW per inhabitant)

2019	2020	2021	2023
0.26	0.26	0.28	0.36

Electricity from renewable sources (kW per inhabitant) (source: SDG portal).



Opportunities and challenges

With Saarbrücken's sustainability strategy, the city's objective is to permanently establish climate protection and adaptation to climate impacts as key cross-sectoral municipal tasks. Saarbrücken is particularly susceptible to summer overheating and heavy rainfall events due to its topographical location in the Saar Valley, dense development and high degree of ground sealing. At the same time, the city has good preconditions for creating climate-resilient structures through targeted urban and open space planning. The consistent integration of climate protection aspects into planning, construction and administrative processes presents a special opportunity. Saarbrücken is focusing on a strategic combination of ecological, urban planning and social objectives through its climate adaptation concept and the continuation of its open space development programme. Greening and unsealing inner-city areas, promoting renewable energies and renovating municipal buildings to make them more energy-efficient all contribute to making the city more climate-friendly and liveable in the long term.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Background



Global

Strong international partnerships are essential for achieving the SDGs. However, the general conditions have deteriorated: in 2023, low- and middle-income countries had to service debts amounting to 1.4 trillion US dollars, with an investment deficit of around 4 trillion US dollars annually. At the same time, official development assistance decreased for the first time in years (by 7.1 per cent). The share of world trade accounted for by the poorest countries is also stagnating at 1.1 per cent. Progress in the expansion of digital infrastructures and data systems is offset by a continuing wide gap between wealthy and poorer countries. Greater international cooperation and innovative financing approaches are needed.³⁹



National

Germany is one of the most important industrial nations and campaigns internationally for the implementation of sustainability goals. Fair Trade, social cohesion and the transfer of knowledge and technology are embedded in the German sustainability strategy. Germany is also one of the largest funding providers/donors in international development cooperation. Development cooperation helps to reduce global poverty, secure peace and alleviate emergencies. Furthermore, globalisation is made more equitable and the environment is protected. Cooperation focuses on health, education, climate protection and good governance, as well as the transfer of technology and knowledge, for example in the areas of renewable energies and digital infrastructure.⁴⁰ The Federal Republic recognises the need for close and long-term cooperation and is therefore working together with a wide range of stakeholders. However, in 2024, Germany also failed to meet the UN financing target for development cooperation of 0.7 per cent of economic output for the first time since 2020. While Germany was still the second largest donor of development cooperation funds in 2022, the German contribution fell to 0.67 per cent of gross national income in 2024.⁴¹ In addition, municipal partnerships – for example, within the framework of municipal development policy – make a significant contribution to strengthening international cooperation on an equal footing and making sustainable development visible through direct dialogue with partner municipalities worldwide.

³⁹ See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/Goal-17/> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

⁴⁰ See also: Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the Federal Republic of Germany | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

⁴¹ See: <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/archiv-aktuelle-meldungen/oecd-bilanz-deutschland-2024-unter-un-finanzierungsziel-250336> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).



The city of Saarbrücken views international cooperation as a key component of sustainable urban development. Its sustainability strategy pursues the goal of systematically expanding global partnerships and cooperation by 2030, thereby strengthening networking, the exchange of knowledge and joint commitment to global justice. The strategy focuses on integrating the 2030 Agenda into existing city-to-city partnerships and on promoting local and international networks for sustainability. As Germany's first Fair Trade Town, Saarbrücken works together with local stakeholders from politics, business and civil society to promote Fair Trade structures and global responsibility. The city maintains international partnerships and is actively involved in European networks. Through this commitment, Saarbrücken is positioning itself as a cosmopolitan and supportive bridge city that takes on global responsibility and makes sustainability tangible through specific local partnerships.

The city of Saarbrücken is pursuing the following specific objectives relevant to SDG 17 in its sustainability strategy:

- Strategic objective 4: Within the scope of its responsibilities, the city of Saarbrücken will expand global partnerships and cooperation by 2030 in order to promote networking and dialogue for sustainability and global justice.
- Operational objective 4.1: The city of Saarbrücken addresses the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its city-to-city partnerships and attempts to generate projects with its partners.
- Operational objective 4.2: Expansion of local and global networks and cooperation for sustainability and global justice
- Operational objective 5.2: As a Fair Trade Town, Saarbrücken supports and connects stakeholders from civil society, politics and business who are working together to promote fair trade locally.

Our commitment

Fair Trade Town Saarbrücken

In 2009, the city of Saarbrücken became the first city in Germany to be awarded the title “Fair Trade Town”⁴². Fair Trade Towns specifically promote Fair Trade at the local level and are the result of successful networking among stakeholders from across the urban community who are committed to the Fair Trade movement and raise public awareness of the issue together. Fair Trade sensitises people to fair production conditions and promotes social and environmentally friendly manufacturing and trading structures at fair minimum prices for producers. Five criteria relating to Fair Trade commitment at various levels must be demonstrably fulfilled in order to be awarded Fair Trade Town status. A council order is required and a local steering committee must be set up to coordinate activities. Further criteria concern the presence of Fair Trade products in local retail outlets, information and education activities (also involving civil society) and corresponding media and public relations. Once all the criteria have been met, the Fair Trade Town title is awarded for two years. After two years, the title can be renewed through recertification by demonstrating continued compliance with the criteria.

“Together, we are committed to a fairer and more sustainable world.”

Uwe Conradt, Lord Mayor



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Fair Trade Capital

Saarbrücken’s commitment has been recognised in the nationwide competition “Fair Trade Capital” several times: the city came second in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and it took first place in 2015, earning the title “Fair Trade Capital 2015–2017”. In 2021, Saarbrücken won a special prize worth €10,000. The jury awarded this in recognition of the city’s efforts to further develop its Fair Trade Town cooperation with the first Fair Trade Town of Honduras, Marcala. The “Fair Trade Capital” competition is a nationwide competition for cities, municipalities and districts in Germany that are committed to Fair Trade, fair procurement and sustainable consumption. Engagement Global’s Service Agency Communities in One World has held the competition every two years since 2003.

⁴² There are over 2,000 Fair Trade Towns in more than 36 countries worldwide that are committed to fair trade at the local level. There are over 900 Fair Trade Towns in Germany alone.

QuattroPole city network

The cities of Luxembourg, Metz, Saarbrücken and Trier work together within the QuattroPole city network (4 cities – 3 countries – 3 languages – 530,000 inhabitants). The four cities are of comparable size and only an hour's drive apart. Their cooperation in the city network is an expression of their openness towards their European neighbours, a development that is reinforced by their proximity to the border. It demonstrates their determination to work even more closely together in order to advance European integration. A sustainability working group was established in 2024 as part of the city network. Dialogue and mutual support on topics related to sustainable development take place here.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

Cross-border cooperation in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict

The city of Saarbrücken is a member of the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict, a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) that connects local authorities on both sides of the Saar. It aims to strengthen Franco-German cooperation and develop joint responses to key issues of the future, with a focus on interculturalism and bilingualism as the basis for open-minded coexistence. In addition, projects are being implemented in the areas of business, sustainable urban and spatial development, mobility, health and tourism. This creates synergies for a liveable, sustainable and economically strong border region. Through its involvement in the Eurodistrict, Saarbrücken plays an active role as a bridge city between Germany and France and makes a specific contribution to European cooperation at the municipal level.

Municipal Partnerships for Sustainability and sustainable municipal development through partnership projects

Saarbrücken has a partnership for sustainability with Diriamba, Nicaragua, and Marcala, Honduras (triangular cooperation) within the “Municipal Partnerships for Sustainability” project run by the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW). The Saarbrücken-based Diriamba-Verein e.V. has maintained a friendship with Diriamba in Nicaragua for 40 years. The project partners in Diriamba, Nicaragua, with whom Saarbrücken and Marcala maintain a triangular partnership, also soon benefited from the South-South exchange. The idea for the Fair Trade partnership with Marcala in Honduras arose during a Fair Trade educational trip to Marcala by a delegation from Saarbrücken in 2016. Since Saarbrücken itself was Germany's first Fair Trade Town, the idea soon emerged for Marcala to become the first Fair Trade Town in Honduras. A Fair Trade Town partnership was established, involving mutual



Image source: City of Saarbrücken



Image source: City of Saarbrücken

dialogue, economic networking and joint educational work. Saarbrücken and Marcala also carried out a joint project to improve solid waste management in both cities within the programme “Sustainable Municipal Development through Partnership Projects” from 2022 to 2024. The project partners in Diriamba, Nicaragua, with whom Saarbrücken and Marcala maintain a triangular partnership, also soon benefited from the South-South exchange.



Image source: City of Saarbrücken



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QR code for video campaign against cigarette butts

Solidarity partnership with the city of Kovel (Ukraine)

A solidarity partnership with the Ukrainian city of Kovel has existed since July 2023. The partnership focuses on mutual assistance in the event of war, crises and disasters, as well as on fostering friendly relations through the mutual posting of delegations and cultural exchange. Since the beginning of the partnership, Saarbrücken has been able to support its twin town, which has been directly affected by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, on several occasions, including by supplying vehicles and aid packages.



Image source: City of Kovel

⁴³ See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh1mpYZrmN4> (last accessed: 17/12/2025)

Sustainable urban mobility – municipal partnership between Saarbrücken and Tbilisi (Georgia)

The municipal partnership between the city of Saarbrücken and the Georgian capital Tbilisi is strengthening sustainable urban mobility as part of a funding and partnership project. Tbilisi is implementing a comprehensive mobility strategy as part of its participatory and integrated urban development. An integrated transport planning expert has been working on site in Tbilisi since 2023 within the programme “Skilled Workers Fund for Municipal Partnerships Worldwide”. In consultation with the city administration, the expert contributes best practice examples and experiences from cross-departmental cooperation in Saarbrücken. In addition, regular training courses are held for employees, including peer-to-peer training and, currently, an intensive course on urban mobility for young architects at the Georgian University in Tbilisi.

The city-to-city partnership also forms the basis for cooperation in the field of mobility. A delegation trip was organised to Saarbrücken and to the second twin town of Nantes (France) in 2024. In this trilateral cooperation, the participating municipalities held intensive discussions on key mobility issues such as public transport, bus transport, cycling, parking space management and the design of public road space.

Promoting social involvement

Civic involvement is an indispensable task for society as a whole. Playground sponsorship, citizen participation or working in an association: there are many opportunities to get involved in Saarbrücken. The city points out various opportunities for getting involved on its municipal website (e.g. participation in World Cleanup Day⁴⁴, sponsorships, etc.).



Image source: City of Marcala

⁴⁴ See: <https://www.zke-sb.de/stadtreinigung/cleanupday> (last accessed: 17/12/2025).

Local developments



4 (2)

Total number of city-to-city partnerships of the city of Saarbrücken (Cottbus, Germany; Kovel, Ukraine; Nantes, France; Tbilisi, Georgia) and, in brackets, those with municipalities in DAC countries: Kovel (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia).

Opportunities and challenges

Thanks to its geographical location in the heart of Europe and its strong international orientation, the city of Saarbrücken has ideal conditions for actively shaping global partnerships and European cooperation. The border location with France and the established city-to-city partnerships and development-related connections open up a wide range of opportunities to make sustainable development tangible through the exchange of knowledge, culture and projects. As Germany's first Fair Trade Town and a long-standing winner of the nationwide "Fair Trade Capital" competition, Saarbrücken took early responsibility for promoting global justice and fair production conditions at the local level. Involvement in international networks also strengthens European integration and creates synergies in key future-oriented fields such as sustainable urban development, mobility and economic development. Securing international cooperation in the long term despite limited financial resources, making the impact of partnerships measurable, and placing the commitment on a broader social footing present the main challenges. At the same time, close networking at the European and global level opens up considerable opportunities for sustainable, solidarity-based and cosmopolitan urban development.

4. Summary and outlook

By creating its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the city of Saarbrücken is documenting its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and emphasising the central role of local authorities in achieving global sustainability goals. The report shows how Saarbrücken is already contributing to the 2030 Agenda in various areas and makes it clear that sustainable development can only succeed through long-term planning, reliable structures and cooperation between all social stakeholders.

The VLR creates transparency, enables progress made to date to be evaluated and forms an important part of local sustainability management. Together with the Sustainability Report, which was published for the first time in 2024, and the continuation of the sustainability strategy, it enables successes to be measured and future measures to be precisely controlled. Saarbrücken views sustainability as a cross-sectoral task which permeates all areas of the city's activities.

At the same time, the report aims to encourage other local authorities to report on their sustainability activities and indicators as well. The latest progress reports from the United Nations on the implementation of the global sustainability goals make it clear that urgent action is needed to achieve the 17 goals by 2030. Through implementation at the local level, municipalities have a special responsibility to effectively promote sustainable development during the United Nations' "Decade of Action" (2020–2030).

The report focuses on six topics: quality education (SDG 4), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). These priorities underscore the city's commitment to combining social justice, economic stability and environmental responsibility.

The analysis highlights both the opportunities and the challenges of sustainable development: Saarbrücken boasts a diverse educational and research landscape, a dynamic economy with growing innovative strength, and a strong commitment to fair, resource-efficient and inclusive structures. At the same time, the city needs to reduce social inequalities, secure skilled workers, use land sparingly and further expand sustainable mobility and climate-friendly urban districts. Its unique geographical location in the heart of Europe and on the border with France opens up great opportunities for cooperation, cultural exchange and sustainable European development.

By creating the VLR, Saarbrücken is laying the foundation for continuous, data-based sustainability reporting. The city is pursuing a clear roadmap that provides guidance for the tasks ahead. The city administration sees further potential for action in SDG 12, including in municipal procurement. The city aims to adjust its procurement practices to take even greater account of environmental and social standards, thereby promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.

It also plans creative measures in the field of mobility to help broaden people's understanding of mobility. We are therefore currently examining which routes in the city could be used for "open road Sundays". These events would temporarily repurpose public roads and spaces for climate-friendly mobility and social interaction for a few hours. This would enable the population to rediscover familiar streets in their local area and, for example, to "experience" them together on inline skates instead of by bus.

As these examples show, this report is not a conclusion, but rather marks the beginning of an ongoing process in which Saarbrücken, together with politicians, administrators, businesses and civil society, is consistently pursuing its path towards becoming a fair, climate-neutral and sustainable city.

5. Appendix

Summary of the 169 SDG sub-objectives

(Source of the indicators: Bertelsmann Foundation (last accessed: 17/12/2025), <https://sdg-portal.de/de/>)

SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty
- 1.2 Reduce poverty rate
- 1.3 Implement social protection systems and measures; achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable
- 1.4 Equal rights to economic and other resources (access to basic services)
- 1.5 Build the resilience of the poor (concerning economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters)
- 1.a Ensure mobilisation of resources for developing countries to implement programmes and policies to end poverty
- 1.b Create policy frameworks for eradicating poverty at the national, regional and international levels

SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1 End hunger; ensure access to food
- 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition
- 2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices
- 2.5 Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals (and their related wild species)
- 2.a Increase investment in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets
- 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and facilitate access to market information

SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 Reduce the maternal mortality ratio
- 3.2 Reduce deaths of newborns and children
- 3.3 Combat communicable diseases
- 3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse
- 3.6 Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (family planning, information and education)
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage / access to health-care services and access to necessary medicines / vaccines for all
- 3.9 Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution of environmental assets
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- 3.b Support the research and development of and the access to vaccines and medicines (developing countries)
- 3.c Increase health financing / development and training of the health workforce in developing countries
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free quality school education
- 4.2 Ensure access to quality early childhood education and care
- 4.3 Ensure access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education
- 4.4 Ensure sufficient qualifications for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 Ensure equal opportunities and equal access to all levels of education and vocational training
- 4.6 Optimise the literacy rate
- 4.7 Improve the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (ESD)
- 4.a Build and upgrade safe, inclusive and effective (child, disability and gender sensitive) education facilities
- 4.b Expand the number of scholarships available to developing countries
- 4.c Increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries

SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 5.1 End discrimination against women and girls
- 5.2 Eliminate violence against women and girls
- 5.3 Eliminate child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work (promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family)
- 5.5 Ensure women's participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making
- 5.6 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic and other resources
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women

5.c Strengthen sound policies / legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 Achieve access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all
- 6.3 Improve water quality
- 6.4 Increase water use efficiency; reduce water scarcity
- 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management
- 6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems (mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes)
- 6.a Expand international cooperation and support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities
- 6.b Strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 Increase the share of renewable energy
- 7.3 Improve energy efficiency
- 7.a Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology
- 7.b Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying sustainable energy services for all in developing countries

SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth (GDP)
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support decent job creation, entrepreneurship and innovation (small enterprises)
- 8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production; endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- 8.5 Achieve full employment and decent work for all (women, men, persons with disabilities), and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take measures to eradicate forced labour, child labour, slavery and human trafficking
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments
- 8.9 Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism
- 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to promote access to banking, insurance and financial services
- 8.a Increase trade support for developing countries
- 8.b Develop and operationalise a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact

SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

- 9.1 Develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being
- 9.2 Promote sustainable industrialisation and significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product
- 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services
- 9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research and upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors
- 9.a Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development in developing countries
- 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries
- 9.c Increase access to information and communications technology and provide access to the Internet

SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.1 Achieve income growth for the poorest part of the population
- 10.2 Empower all human beings and promote inclusion
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities
- 10.4 Adopt policies that promote equality (wage policy, social protection)
- 10.5 Improve regulation of global financial markets and institutions
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation for developing countries in decision-making in global economic and financial institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly and safe migration and mobility of people; implement well-managed migration policies
- 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries (in accordance with the WHO)
- 10.b Encourage development assistance and financial flows to developing countries
- 10.c Reduce transaction costs of migrant remittances

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- 11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services
- 11.2 Provide access to sustainable transport systems for all; improve road safety
- 11.3 Enhance sustainable urbanisation, implement participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

- 11.5 Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
- 11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities (air quality, waste)
- 11.7 Provide access to green and public spaces for all
- 11.a Support economic, social and environmental links between urban and rural areas by strengthening higher-level development planning
- 11.b Develop integrated policies and plans for sustainable urban development (inclusion, resource efficiency, climate protection, climate adaptation) and holistic disaster risk management
- 11.c Support developing countries in building sustainable and resilient buildings

SDG 12 – Ensure responsible consumption and production patterns

- 12.1 Initiate measures to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 12.2 Achieve sustainable management and use of natural resources
- 12.3 Halve food waste and reduce food losses
- 12.4 Ensure environmentally sound disposal of waste and chemicals
- 12.5 Reduce waste generation
- 12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting
- 12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement practices
- 12.8 Ensure that all people are informed about and aware of sustainable development issues
- 12.a Support developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor the impact of sustainable tourism
- 12.c Reduce fossil-fuel subsidies in consideration of specific needs of developing countries

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies
- 13.3 Improve education and institutional capacity for the area of climate protection and adaptation to climate impacts
- 13a. Provide financial support for climate action in developing countries
- 13b. Raise planning and management capacity in the area of climate protection for developing countries

SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution
- 14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- 14.4 Implement sustainable fishing practices
- 14.5 Contribute to the conservation of coastal and marine areas
- 14.6 End subsidies contributing to overfishing and illegal fishing
- 14.7 Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources for developing countries
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge to improve the health of oceans and enhance biodiversity
- 14.b Ensure access to marine resources and markets for small-scale fishers
- 14.c Improve conservation and a sustainable use of oceans and their resources

SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- 15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems
- 15.2 Promote sustainable management of all types of forests
- 15.3 Combat desertification; restore degraded land and soil
- 15.4 Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.5 Reduce the degradation of natural habitats; halt the loss of biodiversity
- 15.6 Promote fair sharing and adequate access to genetic resources
- 15.7 End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna
- 15.8 Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species
- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local planning and policies
- 15.a Increase financial resources to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Increase financial resources for sustainable forest management and provide corresponding incentives to developing countries
- 15.c Combat poaching and trafficking of protected species

SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.1 Reduce violence and related death rates
- 16.2 End violence against children
- 16.3 Ensure equal access to justice
- 16.4 Combat organised crime and illicit financial and arms flows
- 16.5 Reduce corruption
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- 16.7 Ensure participatory decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Strengthen the participation of developing countries in institutions of global governance
- 16.9 Provide legal identity for all

- 16.10 Ensure access to information and protect fundamental freedoms
- 16.a International cooperation: prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Financing

- 17.1 Mobilise domestic resources to improve revenue collection in developing countries
- 17.2 Implement development assistance commitments
- 17.3 Mobilise additional financial resources for development assistance
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining debt sustainability
- 17.5 Implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries

Technology

- 17.6 Enhance knowledge transfer cooperation (North-South) in the areas of science, technology and innovation
- 17.7 Promote development, transfer and dissemination of sustainable technologies in developing countries
- 17.8 Systematise science/technology/innovation cooperation; introduce a global technology promotion mechanism

Capacity development

- 17.9 Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing countries

Trade

- 17.10 Promote an open, equitable and rules-based global trading system
- 17.11 Increase the exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Implement duty-free and quota-free market access for developing countries

Systemic issues

- 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15 Respect national sovereignty when implementing policies to promote sustainability
- 17.16 Enhance global (multi-stakeholder) partnerships for sustainable development
- 17.17 Encourage public, public-private and civil society partnerships
- 17.18 Enhance capacity-building to increase the availability of data in developing countries
- 17.19 Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development; support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Indicators at a glance

Indicator	Definition	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SDG 4 – Quality education		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Childcare places	Number of crèche places (under 3 years old) in municipal facilities	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	451
	Number of nursery places (over 3 years old) in municipal facilities	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	1,885
Ratio of children (over 3 years old) to childcare provision	Number of nursery places	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	5,482	5,731
	Demand for nursery places	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	6,154	6,003
	Coverage rate (%)	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	83.5	95.5
Basic supply close to home – primary school	Population-weighted linear distance to the nearest primary school (m)	n. s.	659.0	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.
School leavers without a secondary school certificate	Proportion of pupils without a secondary school leaving certificate in relation to all pupils	n. s.	4.12	4.39	n. s.	n. s.
City library	Number of visits	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	214,744	241,615
	Number of loans	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	514,562	538,314
	Number of offers	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	1,091	1,152
Internal training opportunities in the administration	Number of seminars offered	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	86	n. s.
	Number of seminar participants	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	1,217	n. s.
SDG 5 – Gender equality		2016	2018	2020	2022	2023
Women in employment (as % of male employment rate)	Employment rates for women compared to employment rates for men (%)	92.7	90.1	91.6	89.9	90.39
SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy		2019	2020	2021	2023	2024

Indicator	Definition					
Affordable and clean energy	Electricity from renewable sources (kW per inhabitant)	0.26	0.26	0.28	0.36	n. s.
SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth		2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Guest arrivals and overnight stays	Number of guests who check into a hotel or other accommodation facility within a specific period of time	334,290	n. s.	311,937	376,404	403,075
	Number of overnight stays in accommodation per year	561,754	n. s.	555,722	659,622	706,510
Employment rates	Proportion of 15- to 64-year-olds in employment subject to social insurance contributions at their place of residence as a percentage of all 15- to 64-year-olds (%)	n. s.	53.0	55.2	n. s.	n. s.
	Proportion of 55- to 64-year-olds in employment subject to social insurance contributions at their place of residence as a percentage of all 55- to 64-year-old residents (%)	n. s.	48.0	49.9	n. s.	n. s.
SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities		2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
School leavers without a secondary school leaving certificate – foreign nationals	Ratio of the school drop-out rate among foreign nationals to the school drop-out rate among the total population	443.41	353.48	313.42	327.06	n. s.
SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of cars	Total number of cars (private and commercial) in the urban area	95,538	96,265	96,167	96,041	n. s.
	Number of petrol-powered cars (private and commercial) in the urban area	63,696	63,821	62,769	61,541	n. s.
	Number of electric cars (private and commercial) in the urban area	249	561	1,096	1,773	n. s.
	Number of cars with hybrid drive (private and commercial) in the urban area	1,338	2,282	4,017	5,532	n. s.
	Number of diesel-powered cars (private and commercial) in the urban area	29,794	29,056	27,848	26,765	n. s.

Indicator	Definition					
	Number of cars (private and commercial) with other types of drive system in the urban area	461	445	437	430	n. s.
Number of traffic casualties	Number of persons injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants	4.8	n. s.	4.6	n. s.	5.1
Electric vehicles owned by the city administration	Number of electric vehicles in the city administration of the city of Saarbrücken	n. s.	8	n. s.	18	32
Land use and new land use	Proportion of settlement and transport area compared to the previous year based on the total area (%)	36.0	36.0	36.0	n. s.	n. s.
Land use and new land use	Change to the settlement and transport area compared to the previous year based on the total area (%)	0.01	0.01	0.02	n. s.	n. s.
Land use intensity	Settlement and transport area (excluding "mining operations" and "open-cast mining, pits, quarries") per person (m ²)	336.0	n. s.	331.6	n. s.	n. s.
Local recreation areas	Local recreation areas per person (m ²)	24.48	n. s.	24.29	n. s.	n. s.
Living space	Available living space per person (m ²)	45.7	n. s.	45.3	n. s.	n. s.
Completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy	Proportion of newly constructed residential buildings with renewable heating energy in all new constructions per year (%)	36.6	n. s.	49.3	n. s.	n. s.
SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount of waste	Residual waste (t)	29,697	28,798	28,782	28,802	29,771
	Organic waste (t)	5,805	5,211	5,098	5,316	5,356
	Paper (t)	8,701	7,407	11,391	10,738	10,493
SDG 13 – Climate action		2015	2017	2019	2021	2023

Indicator	Definition	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
Settlement density in the flood area	Proportion of built-up residential and transport areas in the officially designated flood zone (%)	46.6	47.2	47.5	47.3	47.9
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals		2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
Total number of city-to-city partnerships, including those with municipalities in DAC countries	City-to-city partnerships of the city of Saarbrücken in total (Cottbus, Germany; Kovel, Ukraine; Nantes, France; Tbilisi, Georgia) and those with municipalities in DAC countries ⁴⁵ : Kovel (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia).	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	n. s.	4 (2)

⁴⁵ List by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of countries that fall within the scope of development cooperation due to their low or medium per capita income.

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