

The Energy Transition Chronicles

HEIDELBERG (GERMANY): THE EPIPHANY OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The city



Heidelberg
Germany

150,000 inhabitants

Symbol



With its 116 hectares, Bahnstadt will be the world's largest passive district

© heidelberg-bahnstadt.de

Key figures

40% is the CO₂ emission reduction rate achieved in the building sector between 1987 and 2011

5,000 people will live in the world's largest passive district (Bahnstadt) and a further 7,000 will work there

3.1% is the unemployment rate for young people in Heidelberg – half the national average

Milestones

1990 Beate Weber, the newly elected mayor of Heidelberg, decides to make sustainable development a priority – Internal restructuring and creation of the Environmental office

1991 The municipality entrusts the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research with developing a CO₂ emission reduction programme.

1992 The 200 measures presented by the Institute are included in the Heidelberg's Climate Protection Concept

1993 Implementation of an energy management system in municipal buildings – Launch of a financing programme for retrofitting existing buildings

1995 Launch of roundtable discussions on energy and the climate: the city wants to engage local players – Large-scale campaign on energy savings in schools

1997 Following the roundtable discussions, Heidelberg creates the energy and climate protection agency in association with a neighbouring city

2001 The roundtable discussions lead to the "Heidelberg Circle for Energy and Climate Protection" - Launch of the "Sustainable management in SMEs" project

2007 Wide-ranging energy-saving awareness campaign

2009 Beginning of the construction of the world's largest passive district

You can get the story *Heidelberg, the epiphany of urban sustainable development*, as well as the chronicles of Burgenland (Austria), Schönau (Germany), Brussels-Capital (Belgium) and Växjö (Sweden), via Energy Cities' website www.energy-cities.eu - Resources > Publications.

Contact : floriane.cappelletti@energy-cities.eu