



Stadt Augsburg

2025 Voluntary Local Review of the City of Augsburg

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



Legal details

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Foreword by the Mayor and the Sustainability Officer



Dear Readers,

With this Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the City of Augsburg is, for the first time, also reporting at international level on our contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This new format complements our existing sustainability reporting: we published the 2025 Augsburg Sustainability Report in line with Augsburg's sustainability goals – our Future Guidelines for Augsburg – in July 2025. This VLR now shows how our engagement also makes Augsburg part of a global network of cities that are taking responsibility for sustainable development.

Augsburg has a 30-year tradition of sustainability work. A broad process was launched back in the mid-1990s with the Local Agenda 21 for a Sustainable Augsburg. The Agenda's forums, the Sustainability Advisory Board and many other stakeholders are still making a contribution and providing impetus to this day. This cooperation between civil society, politics, administration, research, culture and business is a strong foundation on which we can continue to build. For a long time now, sustainability in Augsburg has involved all sections of society.

The 2030 Agenda calls on us to combine environmental responsibility, social justice and economic sustainability, all in a spirit of partnership. Climate change along with the need to preserve biodiversity, transform our economy and ensure social cohesion make this a particularly challenging task. This VLR highlights our contribution to the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Augsburg and where we can do even more together.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in preparing this report: the city administration employees, the municipal utilities and the many dedicated individuals involved in associations, initiatives, research, culture and business. Their commitment demonstrates the diversity and dynamism of our sustainability process in Augsburg.

The path to sustainability offers us an opportunity to further develop Augsburg as a great place to live and a fair and diverse city, both locally and globally, for current and future generations. We hope that our reporting will drive further engagement in support of Augsburg's shared sustainable future. After all, sustainability can only be achieved if we work together. That's why we're guided by the 2030 Agenda principle: "Leave no one behind!"

Eva Weber, Mayor of the City of Augsburg

Reiner Erben, Officer for Sustainability, Environment, Climate and Health for the City of Augsburg

Foreword by the spokespersons for Local Agenda 21 – Augsburg Network for Sustainability



Where does Augsburg stand when it comes to implementing the 2030 Agenda's global Sustainable Development Goals? This question is at the heart of this Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for Augsburg.

While many of the answers can be found in the 2025 Augsburg Sustainability Report, this VLR links our sustainability process to global sustainability requirements. The Future Guidelines for Augsburg have been shaping our local sustainability process for years, and now we want to highlight our contributions to the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Bringing the SDGs to life requires more than just the 17 goals – sustainability in Augsburg thrives on cooperation between the city administration and civil society. This report details this commitment and invites further involvement.

However, both the global and local outlook indicates that many of the targets set in 2015 are unlikely to be achieved. Some of the international indicators show stagnation or even a deterioration in the global situation since then.

We must face this challenge, too, and rethink local structures. Nevertheless, we are continuing the many initiatives and projects that make Augsburg a vibrant city and a great place to live – especially when compared to other cities around the world.

Maria Brandenstein, Sociocracy Centre Augsburg / Augsburg Education Alliance

Sabine Pfister, Lebensraum Schwabencenter / CoCreate Forum / Transition Town Augsburg

Sylvia Schaab, Plastic-Free Augsburg Forum / Lifeguide Augsburg / Transition Town Augsburg

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Spokespersons for Local Agenda 21 – Augsburg Network for Sustainability



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1. Introduction

Voluntary Local Reviews in the context of the 2030 Agenda

2030 Agenda

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since then, it has served as a **global framework for sustainable development**. The 2030 Agenda aims to promote 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 and emerging nations as well as countries of the Global South are all required to contribute to its implementation. Policymakers, the private sector, academia and civil society are addressed and bear responsibility for global sustainable development. The 17 goals support 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 federal level in the Voluntary National Review. The current 2025 report highlights measures and challenges during the 2021–2025 period. The German Sustainable Development Strategy, which was most recently adopted in January 2025, is the basis for the German VNR and for German sustainability policy in general.

In 2019, the City of Augsburg signed the model resolution "2030 Agenda for sustainable development: building sustainability at the municipal level." This makes Augsburg one of more than 250 signatory municipalities in Germany.

Voluntary Local Review

The German VNR especially emphasises the role of municipalities and their interaction with the federal states and the federal government. Implementing the Agenda requires commitment at the municipal level in particular. Cities and municipalities play a key role in this, as they are where both the causes of global challenges and the scope for effective solutions manifest themselves. A large proportion of the SDG targets can be directly influenced through local action. To make progress visible, the 2030 Agenda provides for regular reporting. In addition to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) format has become established at the municipal level.

A VLR is a **voluntary municipal sustainability report that 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 learning and improvement process. 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 municipal sustainability policy**.

Context, methods and structure of the report

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) has been prepared as part of the City of Augsburg's municipal sustainability reporting. It is both a supplement and extension to the **2025 Augsburg Sustainability Report**, which provides a comprehensive baseline of sustainable development activities in the city. The aim of this VLR is to place the City of Augsburg's municipal strategies and activities in the global context of the 2030 Agenda and thereby establish international comparability and connectivity. The report illustrates **how the City of Augsburg is contributing to the implementation of the 17 SDGs with its wide range of measures.**

This sustainability report has been prepared as part of the Municipalities for Global Sustainability ("Global Nachhaltige Kommune"), Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) project run by Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Service Agency Communities in One World supports municipalities, cities and rural counties in their efforts to actively promote global sustainability in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda. In 2025, the City of Augsburg, the Hanseatic City of Buxtehude, the State Capital Saarbrücken, the City of Pirmasens and Lamspringe Municipality were selected to prepare Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in German and English.

This VLR is based on the community sustainability report published by the City of Augsburg in 2025. All of the strategies, activities and measures presented in the VLR stem from its baseline review. The preparation of the underlying 2025 Augsburg Sustainability Report involved not only the **city administration, municipal enterprises** and important **municipally owned companies**, but also **civil society organisations, initiatives, the private sector, research institutions** and **interested citizens**. This perspective covering all sections of society provides the foundations for the VLR and reflects Augsburg's understanding of a broadly supported municipal sustainability policy. The data has been compiled on the basis of the quantitative and qualitative information available at the time of preparing the VLR, which presents not only empirical indicators, but also projects, programmes and initiatives that make the sustained transformation in Augsburg visible.

This VLR builds on the City's long-standing sustainability work. The **Future Guidelines for Augsburg**, which have been setting the strategic direction for the City's sustainability policy since 2015, serve as the central guiding framework. They are divided into four thematic areas – the environment, the economy, social affairs and culture. Each area has five guidelines, and there are a total of 78 targets across all areas. The Future Guidelines are reviewed and refined every six years to reflect city-wide developments. This VLR systematically places this locally developed reference framework in the context of the SDGs for the first time by utilising a new, internationally compatible reporting format. Content is assigned to thematic categories according to its strongest association. Many of the measures and activities contribute to several SDGs. To avoid overlaps and keep the thematic structure clear, each contribution is assigned to the SDG with which it is most closely related in terms of content. In some cases, cross-references are made to other SDGs to highlight interactions between the goals.

Section 2 begins by describing the **local context**. This brief profile of the city of Augsburg provides key information, followed by a short introduction to local sustainability efforts. The section concludes with an overview of some relevant facts and figures. Section 3 forms the core of the VLR and covers **all 17 SDGs**, highlighting the connection between the global, national and local levels. First, global, national and municipal developments in the area of the respective SDG are addressed, followed by a list of the relevant targets for German municipalities. The information presented is consistently organised according to the SDG targets. All measures, projects and strategies described are assigned to the target to which they are most closely related in terms of content. Only targets that are relevant and feasible at a municipal level are included. Activities, projects and strategies from public administration, urban policy,

civil society, research and business are then presented. The sections conclude with quantitative indicators and an outlook. This uniform structure provides a comprehensive picture of sustainable development in Augsburg.

2. Augsburg in the context of sustainable development

Brief profile of the City of Augsburg



Augsburg cityscape (source: Ruth Plössel)

The independent city of Augsburg is located in south-western Bavaria. With around 308,000 inhabitants, it is the third-largest city in the Free State of Bavaria after Munich and Nuremberg. It covers an area of around 147 km² and is subdivided into 17 planning areas encompassing 42 municipal districts. Augsburg's urban society is diverse, with over 50% of the city's population having a migration background.

Based on the Peace of Augsburg concluded in 1555 and the establishment of political parity between the Protestant and Catholic denominations in 1650, Augsburg considers itself a city of peace to this day. With the Augsburg Peace Festival held annually on 8 August, Augsburg has its own public holiday limited to the city area. Augsburg is widely known beyond the region for having been a Roman provincial capital and for the Fuggerei, the world's oldest social housing complex, which was founded by Jakob Fugger back in 1521. Other cultural and historic landmarks include Augsburg Cathedral, the Renaissance-style town hall with its Golden Hall and the Augsburger Puppenkiste marionette theatre.

Augsburg's cityscape is characterised by its location on the Lech and Wertach rivers and its extensive system of historic canals. Over 500 bridges span rivers, canals and streams within the city limits. With the Water Management System of Augsburg and its 22 historic elements (canals, waterworks and fountains), which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019, the city of Augsburg has a globally unique example of sustainable resource use and water engineering.

In addition to structures and water, the Augsburg city forest shapes the cityscape. Covering an area of 2,180 hectares, it is among the largest non-Alpine nature reserves in Bavaria and is considered one of the most species-rich protected areas in that federal state. It plays a key role in climate action, biodiversity and the city's drinking water supply.

Augsburg is a strong business and research location. Companies such as KUKA and Everllence (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions) and numerous medium-sized businesses shape the city's economy. With the University of Augsburg and the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg, the city has two distinguished academic institutions with a combined total of over 25,000 students.

As a growing city, Augsburg faces a wide range of environmental, social, cultural and infrastructural challenges, particularly in respect of issues such as the careful use of land, climate-adapted urban development, socially equitable housing policy, good educational infrastructure and the decarbonisation of the economy and mobility, as well as ensuring equal participation in a heterogeneous urban society. These challenges are being actively addressed by society as a whole in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Augsburg in figures

308,040

residents from 160 nations

Lech and Wertach

shape the cityscape

146.9 km²

total area of the city

Fuggerei

world's oldest existing social housing complex, established 1521

2,000 ha city forest

Germany's largest municipal drinking water protection area

26,000 students

at the University and the Technical University of Applied Sciences

Fairtrade City

since 2010

More than 150 sports clubs

in the city

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Water Management System of Augsburg

109 MW

of installed capacity (gross) of renewable energy (2022)

Augsburg Peace Festival

Germany's only public holiday limited to a city area (8 August, UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)

Mozart & Brecht

Birthplace of Leopold Mozart and Bertold Brecht

Sustainability and the 2030 Agenda in Augsburg

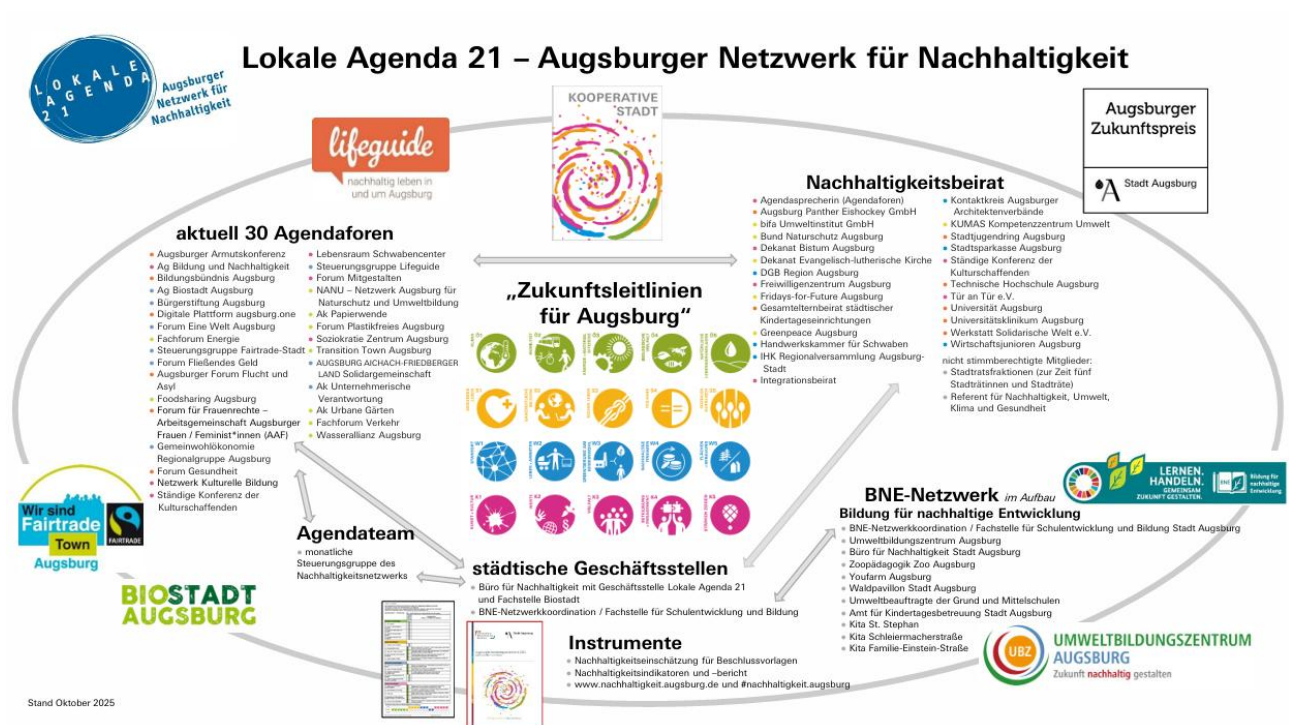
Augsburg is one of the pioneers of municipal sustainability policy in Germany. A comprehensive sustainability process based on broad civic participation has been in place since the mid-1990s. The starting point was the establishment of the Local Agenda 21 process, which remains the cornerstone of Augsburg's sustainability work to this day.

Cooperative process

Local Agenda 21 open expert forums allow citizens, civil society groups and committed businesses, public administrations and politicians to work together on issues for the future and are key elements of this participatory process. There are currently 30 expert forums covering all aspects of sustainability. The forums develop their own projects, contribute ideas to political processes and serve as a hub for civic engagement in the city.

In addition, 25 important local civic institutions form a Sustainability Advisory Board comprising representatives from civil society, business and research. This board can make recommendations to the administration and politicians. The board members are appointed by the City Council every three years. The Sustainability Advisory Board's member institutions are also committed to sustainable development within their own organisations.

The City of Augsburg's Office for Sustainability is the central coordinator of all activities. It is organisationally anchored in the Department for Sustainability, Environment, Climate and Health and acts as an interface between civil society, the administration, politics, business and research institutions. This is where strategic management, process support and communication of Augsburg's sustainability process come together.



Structure of Augsburg's sustainability process (City of Augsburg)

Within Augsburg's sustainability process, sustainable development is viewed as a **collaborative effort by the city as a whole**. To achieve this, the process is based on the concept of a "cooperative city". This involves engaging as many members of the city community as possible in taking responsibility for Augsburg's sustainable development – and, by extension, for global sustainability. The aim is to get as many people as possible (with all of their various knowledge, skills, interests and opportunities) assuming responsibility – as private individuals, initiatives, institutions, businesses and political parties. This requires co-operation on an equal footing. Everyone is part of the city and everyone contributes to it.



Concept of a cooperative city: the diversity and colourfulness of urban society brings collaboration and momentum. The sustainability process is open to further participants and new findings and measures (illustration: City of Augsburg)

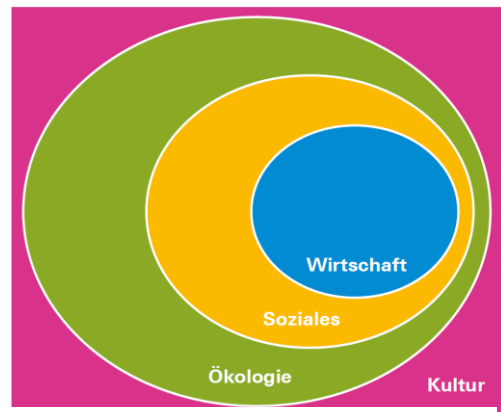
Augsburg's understanding of sustainability

A key foundation for Augsburg's sustainability work is a shared understanding of sustainability, which has been developed with initial guidelines since 1998 and been summarised in the Future Guidelines for Augsburg since 2015. The Future Guidelines contain 20 guidelines and 78 targets. The sustainability targets are grouped into four dimensions: the environment, society, the economy and culture. The Future Guidelines were developed independently of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but address all sustainability issues in the 2030 Agenda. The Future Guidelines are reviewed and refined every six years, in line with the local election cycle, in a process of discussion involving the local community.



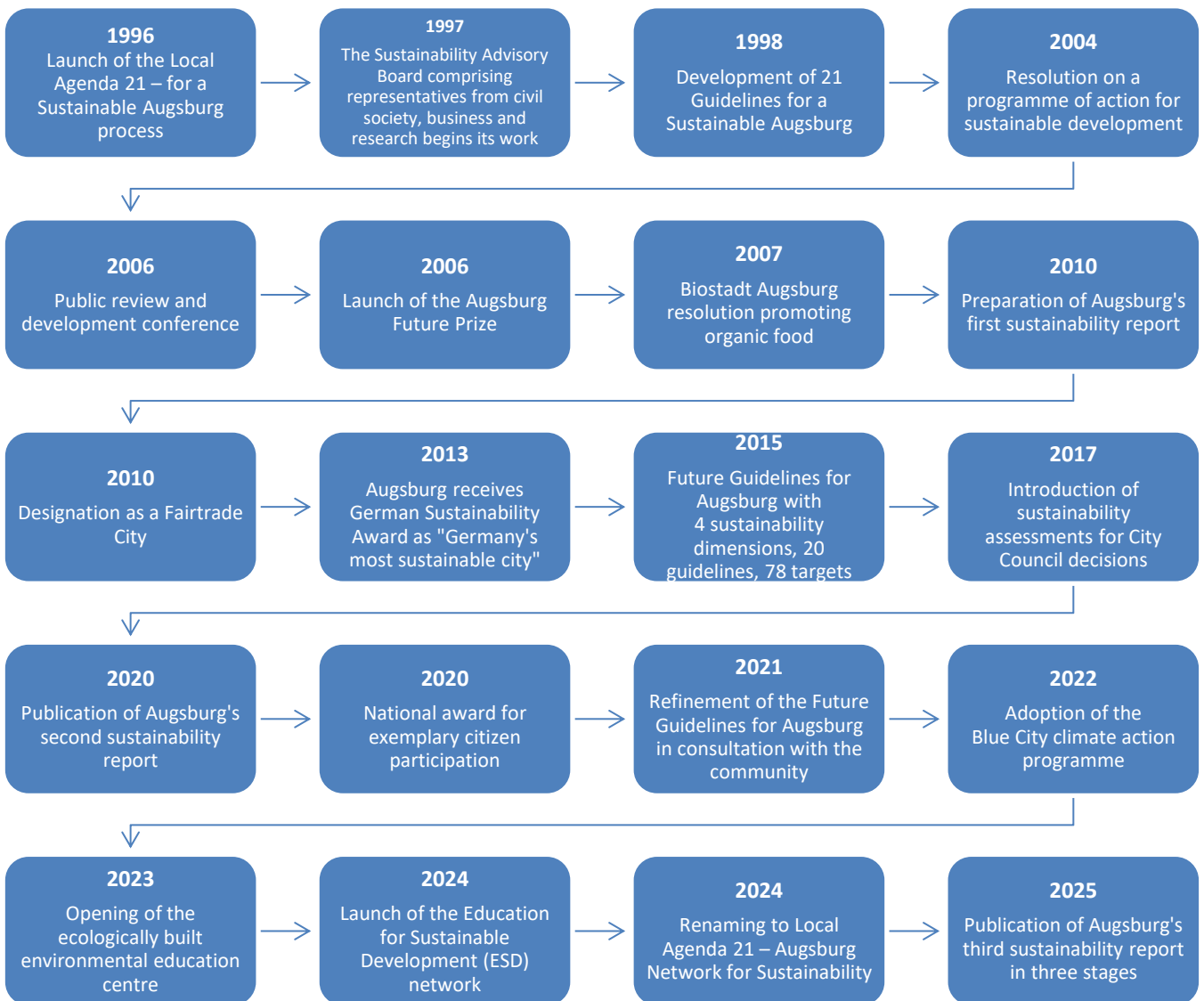
Future Guidelines for Augsburg, as of 2021 (illustration: City of Augsburg)

Sustainability is seen as having four dimensions: environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability and cultural sustainability. These four dimensions are considered interconnected, forming a model of **strong sustainability within a cultural context**: the planet's environmental limits (environment) establish the basis for human social action (society). The economy is one part of these human activities. Our human understanding of the Earth and its interrelationships is shaped by cultural ideas and values (culture). This understanding strongly affects human behaviour. That is why Augsburg addresses the circumstances shaping our actions and inactions in a cultural dimension of sustainability.



Strong sustainability within a cultural context (illustration: City of Augsburg)

Augsburg's sustainability work: important milestones and plans



For more **information on Augsburg's sustainability process**, please visit (in German only): www.nachhaltigkeit.augsburg.de

3. Implementation of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals in Augsburg

Selected SDGs within the VLR



No poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Zero hunger

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



Good health and well-being

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



Quality education

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



Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Clean water and sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Affordable and clean energy

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



Decent work and economic growth

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



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries



Sustainable cities and communities

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



Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Life below water

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



Life on land

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



Peace, justice and strong institutions

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



Partnerships for the goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda, with its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, provides a universal framework for sustainable development. The City of Augsburg is also committed to these goals and is fulfilling its responsibilities as a major city. Municipal sustainability policy involves considering all dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social, economic and cultural) and linking them together.

All 17 SDGs have therefore been taken into account for this Voluntary Local Review. This shows how broad Augsburg's commitment is: from climate action and mobility through social participation and education to international responsibility and partnerships. At the same time, the report indicates that sustainable development in a city of this size and diversity is a task for society as a whole and must be tackled jointly by the administration, politicians, civil society, research institutions and business.

Sustainability thrives on local implementation. Whether in large cities or smaller communities, it is crucial that the global goals are translated into concrete local strategies, projects and structures. As a sustainability-oriented city,

Augsburg is making a broad contribution to this effort. Local action is one of the key factors for the success of the 2030 Agenda.



SDG 1 No poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Background



Global

Combating poverty is the primary goal of the 2030 Agenda. The aim is to halve the proportion of the population living in poverty, according to the respective national definitions. The World Bank estimates that 808 million people live in extreme poverty, representing approximately 10 per cent of the world's population.¹ This is based on the international poverty line of \$3.00 per day, as updated by the World Bank in 2025.² Despite some progress, SDG 1 is not on track to be achieved by 2030. Rural regions in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are particularly affected. Multiple crises – including conflicts, the consequences of the pandemic, inflation and the effects of climate change – have further stalled progress.



National

With its Social Code, citizen's income, basic income support and broad social infrastructure, Germany has a strong social security system that is by no means the standard internationally. Nevertheless, poverty remains a key social challenge even in a prosperous country such as Germany. The at-risk-of-poverty rate in Germany stood at 15.5 per cent in 2024. People are considered at risk of poverty if they have a disposable income that is below 60 per cent of the median disposable income – in 2024, this corresponded to a monthly net income of less than €1,378 for a single-person household. In total, around 17.6 million people, or 20.9 per cent of the population, were affected by poverty or social exclusion in 2024.³ Children and young people whose parents have lower educational qualifications, people over the age of 65, single mothers, large families, people with disabilities, migrants and unemployed people are particularly at risk of poverty.



Augsburg

Poverty is also a serious problem in Augsburg. In 2023, 12.5 per cent of under-15s, 11.1 per cent of 15–17-year-olds and 6.4 per cent of over-65s were affected by poverty. Poverty has increased slightly across all age groups over the last few years.

Particular challenges include rising living costs, the tight housing market and migrants' integration needs. The complexity of the economic situations of families and of individuals affected by poverty poses a challenge for strategy development and planning. In crisis situations, it is also necessary to react quickly time and again. Poverty is particularly visible in the form of housing shortages, homelessness and the need for food support services (lunch clubs, free food distribution at food banks).

Cooperation between municipal authorities and integrated planning are important for targeted poverty reduction and use of financial resources. To this end, the city administration carries out integrated planning and monitoring (housing development, youth welfare planning, social planning, education planning and monitoring, urban research). The City of Augsburg also focuses on low-threshold services in its districts.

Beyond the activities offered by the City, there is a wide network of assistance and support services. The work group of independent and public welfare organisations, which brings together social services, plays an important role in this regard. Augsburger Armutskonferenz is also a key forum that connects associations, initiatives and projects, highlights injustices and provides new impetus for combating poverty.

Relevant SDG 1 targets for German municipalities include

- Implement social protection measures
- Ensure broad provision for the poorer sections of the population
- Build resilience in vulnerable situations

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 1.2 – Reduce poverty by at least 50%

Children's Opportunities funding programme

The **Children's Opportunities funding programme** was launched in Augsburg in 2024 to create equal opportunities for disadvantaged children (especially in education). Support that exceeds the statutory entitlement to education and participation is granted as individual assistance (e.g. for private tuition, music lessons or sports activities). In principle, financially, socially and emotionally disadvantaged children (up to the age of 18) from all social classes are eligible for this support. As a rule, these are children from families receiving German Social Code, Book Two (SGB II) benefits.

Augsburger Armutskonferenz

Augsburger Armutskonferenz is a coalition of various organisations, initiatives and projects in Augsburg focused on the topic of poverty. It sees itself as a critical observer and provider of inspiration for the City, political parties and associations. Augsburger Armutskonferenz plans campaigns, launches initiatives and connects stakeholders. It has expertise in various aspects of poverty. For years, Augsburger Armutskonferenz has been organising a **neighbourhood walk** taking in various social institutions on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. It focuses on integration and participation, because poverty often means exclusion and a lack of social involvement. At its **Good Education for All! event**, Augsburger Armutskonferenz discussed the sociopolitical significance of education and equal opportunities, as children's educational paths are still very closely linked to their social background and family resources. It also holds regular **exchange meetings with the job centre** to discuss current issues and questions arising from day-to-day advisory work.



SDG 1.3 – Implement social protection systems

Housing Office

The municipal **Housing Office** is a contact point for Augsburg citizens who find themselves in difficult housing situations, are looking for more suitable accommodation and are disadvantaged on the open housing market. The target group consists primarily of low-income households, single parents and senior citizens with modest pensions. The

Housing Office can refer suitable tenants, takes care of all aspects of the tenancy and is also available afterwards as a point of contact and advisory service for tenants and landlords in the event of any problems arising.

Emergency accommodation for homeless people

The City of Augsburg operates two emergency shelters for single men and women and flats for families with minors to provide **accommodation for homeless people**, as is required of it under public law. Only those legally entitled to accommodation are eligible for this support, and this is examined on a case-by-case basis. The accommodation is only ever temporary. The social and educational supports provided in the accommodation are intended to enable these homeless people to return to normal living arrangements as soon as possible.

Emergency shelters for young people

In Augsburg, there are **five emergency shelters for young people aged 14 to 21**. The emergency shelters aim to 1.) provide basic existential care and build relationships as a prerequisite for engaging with future life opportunities; 2.) reach young people who have not yet taken advantage of youth welfare services or can no longer stay in those facilities; 3.) avoid placing young people in homeless shelters, which are primarily aimed at adults and 4.) close the gap between drug-free services and drug assistance programmes.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg, the City's municipal housing company, provides the premises for three of the four **temporary shelters for people of no fixed abode**. These are run by the Catholic Men's Social Service (SKM). People who find themselves in need of housing for various reasons can turn to this service and get different forms of assistance through the Housing Office within the Office for Housing and Housing Support and the emergency housing assistance provided by social services. If tenants have difficulties meeting their financial obligations to Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg, the company can put in place an **instalment payment arrangement** to enable them to settle their arrears and any outstanding claims. This is intended to prevent people from losing their homes and having their living situation deteriorate further. Terminations and eviction proceedings are only considered as a last resort. Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg supports the **decentralised accommodation of refugees** and, where possible, also provides longer-term housing.

City of Augsburg's work group of independent and public welfare organisations

The **City of Augsburg's work group of independent and public welfare organisations** discusses important issues relating to social assistance that arise from the cooperation between public social assistance bodies and independent welfare services. In particular, it works to establish and expand social services and facilities that meet people's needs.

Streetwork for young people in housing need

City Youth Council (SJR) streetworkers help **young people in housing need**. They connect regularly with young people without a permanent residence or with acute housing needs in squares, parks or through outreach services in Augsburg's districts, especially in Mitte, the city's central social region. They provide advice, assist the young people in dealing with authorities and arrange contact with emergency shelters such as N21 and Safehouse. In addition to collaborations with aid organisations, various projects have been initiated, such as **Building Bridges** (sports for homeless and refugee youth) and the **Rise by Lifting Others** research project examining **social design strategies for tackling youth homelessness**.

Tür an Tür and Diakonisches Werk: Augsburg Housing Project (Future Prize 2022)

The **Augsburg Housing Project** run by Tür an Tür-Integrationsprojekte gGmbH and Diakonisches Werk Augsburg e.V. supports **refugees in their search for accommodation** through a multi-stage concept offering advice, training and information. Volunteers and full-time staff provide individual support to facilitate access to housing and promote social participation. Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine, there has been a particular focus on assisting people who have taken refugees into their homes in order to ensure sustainable and non-discriminatory housing allocation.

Developments at local level



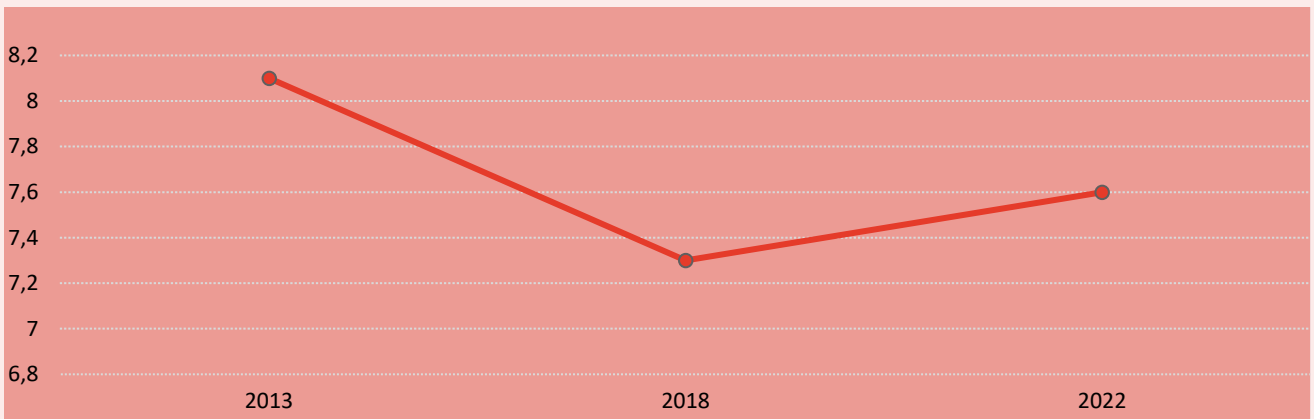
SGB II/SGB XII rate

2013	2018	2022
8.1	7.3	7.6

Percentage of people eligible for benefits under Book II or Book XII of the German Social Code (SGB II or SGB XII) in the total population (under 65 years)

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Child poverty (%)

2013	2018	2022
14.0	12.4	12.7

Percentage of under-15s (child poverty) receiving social benefits

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Youth poverty (%)

2013	2018	2022
9.8	10.1	11.0

Percentage of 15–17-year-olds (youth poverty) receiving social benefits

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



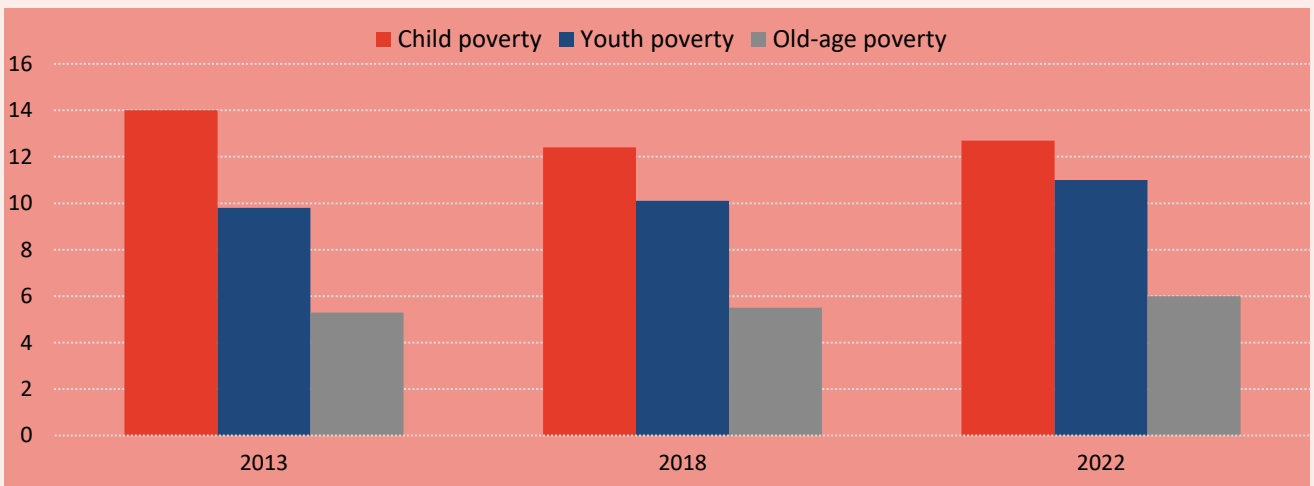
Old-age poverty (%)

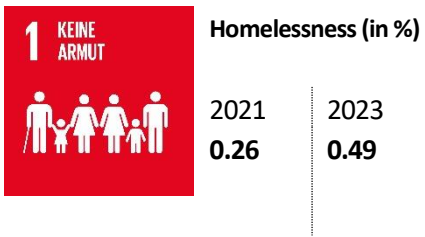
2013	2018	2022
5.3	5.5	6.0

Percentage of over-65s (old-age poverty) receiving social benefits

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator





Percentage of people accommodated in facilities for homeless people in relation to the total population

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator

Outlook

The fight against poverty remains an ongoing cross-cutting task for Augsburg, closely linked to the areas of education, youth welfare and housing. In its Future Guidelines for Augsburg, guideline *S5 Create social balance* sets out the City's targets to *Prevent poverty and hardship* and *Support people in special circumstances*.

Monitoring is covered in the City's Social Report (2025), which is compiled and updated every five years by the Department for Social Affairs, Family, Care, Generations and Inclusion. This highlights development needs and resources in Augsburg's 22 districts analysed for social indicators. The report lays the groundwork for specialist planning and targeted measures and is intended to stimulate further consideration.

In civil society, networks such as *Augsburger Armutskonferenz* and the *work group of independent and public welfare organisations* will continue to provide important support in the fight against poverty in the future.



Neighbourhood walk organised by Augsburger Armutskonferenz, October 2025 (source: Pia Haertinger)



SDG 2 Zero Hunger

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

Background



Global

Although progress has been made in some areas in recent years, the figures remain above pre-pandemic levels. The United Nations estimates that between 638 and 720 million people are suffering from chronic hunger – roughly one in every eleven people worldwide. 2.3 billion people continue to experience food insecurity. An estimated 50 per cent of all countries are affected by high to very high food prices, three times as many as between 2015 and 2019. One cause of food shortages in countries in the Global South is the increasing use of arable land for food exports. Several factors have slowed progress, including ongoing conflicts, economic crises, climate change and the aftermath of the pandemic. Current estimates indicate that SDG 2 is unlikely to be achieved by 2030.⁴



National

Germany maintains a high level of food safety through strict food laws and comprehensive controls, and has structures in place that ensure basic access to food. There is no acute malnutrition, but there are significant social differences in access to healthy food. Low-income households – an estimated three million people – are disproportionately affected by food poverty.⁵ In addition, overweight and obesity are major problems in Germany: more than two thirds of men and half of women are overweight and around one quarter of adults are heavily obese. This puts Germany above the EU average.⁶



Augsburg

People in Augsburg also experience food insecurity. In particular, those affected by poverty are feeling the strain of rising food prices. Another challenge is to prevent malnutrition, for example by providing education on healthy eating. Promoting organic food contributes to good nutrition and a reliable food supply.

Communal catering based on the principles of balanced nutrition plays a central role in nurseries, schools and after-school care centres, ensuring that children have access to healthy meals regardless of income and background. In addition, educational programmes and projects in schools, after-school care centres and leisure facilities promote awareness of healthy and sustainable nutrition.

Initiatives such as the Augsburger Tafel food bank and regional lunch clubs in local communities offer those in need support with basic provisions while creating places where people can come together.

The question of where and how food is produced is also a factor in sustainable nutrition. Augsburg is a member of Bio-Städte, a German network of organic cities, and helps to stimulate demand for organic and regional produce in canteens, markets and municipal facilities. This is intended to strengthen food production in the city and surrounding areas.

Relevant SDG 2 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food
- Ensure agricultural productivity and sustainable food production

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 2.2 – End all forms of malnutrition

Kita Reischlestraße nursery (Future Prize 2021)

The **Kita Reischlestraße** nursery in Augsburg provides daily balanced meals to 112 children and had already increased its use of organic ingredients from 2015 to 62% by 2020. It raises children's awareness of environmental protection and sustainability through projects such as the fresh cuisine initiative, in which children actively participate in menu planning and food preparation. In addition, the nursery's garden, with its fruit, herbs, vegetables and compost area, gives the children practical experience of ecological cycles and promotes an environmentally conscious attitude.

Office for Social Services and neighbourhood management team

The **offerings from the Office for Social Services, Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities** are designed to prevent or alleviate poverty and hardship. The **regional lunch clubs** are one **example**. In 2023, the Office began establishing new regional lunch clubs at various locations and expanding existing ones. Regional lunch clubs are a way of promoting community participation and alleviating loneliness as well as offering inexpensive meals. The **Oberhausen neighbourhood management team** has also established **lunch clubs** in the Oberhausen and Herrenbach districts. These benefit the community in various ways, including helping to prevent loneliness, serving as a point of contact for problems, offering inexpensive, healthy food and providing a means of sharing important information with partially vulnerable people.

Villa youth centre gardening club

Some visitors have started a **gardening club at the Villa youth centre run by the City Youth Council (SJR)** in the city centre. Members can borrow gardening tools and, after consulting with each other, can plant, repot, prune bushes and sow seeds in the outdoor area. Staff are on hand to provide assistance if necessary. Since summer 2024, Villa's garden has been bursting with colour, and the young people harvest the vegetables for communal cooking in the youth centre.

Resolutions on the proportion of organic food

Since the last Augsburg Sustainability Report for 2018 (published in 2020), two **City Council resolutions** have been passed **on the use of organic food at municipal events and in municipal nurseries**. In 2021, the decision (made in 2007) to use 100% organic food at municipal events wherever possible was reaffirmed and expanded to include vegetarian and vegan alternatives. The Organic City Specialist Unit offers practical implementation support to municipal departments, enterprises and holdings via the intranet and through training courses. An implementation status survey is currently being evaluated. For municipal childcare facilities, a decision was also made in 2021 to increase

the proportion of organic food to 40% by the end of 2026, with an emphasis on regional and seasonal produce. Thanks to training and adapted tenders, the share of organic food already reached over 60% in 2023 and even 77% by the end of 2024.

Healthy, animal-friendly nutrition is a priority in **municipal nurseries** – all municipal daycare centres and kindergartens offer all children a healthy, 100% organic snack in the morning. Municipal after-school care centres provide a healthy afternoon snack. The proportion of organic food in municipal nurseries is steadily increasing (and reached 77% in 2024). The nutritional recommendations of the German Nutrition Society (DGE) are also consistently taken into account. Relevant training is given to kitchen and support staff to further develop their skills and to ensure and improve the quality of the organic meals.

Augsburg: organic city

Augsburg's Organic City Specialist Unit at the Office for Sustainability promotes sustainable nutrition through the use of organic food in the city administration (nurseries, schools and other institutions), at municipal events and markets, and in Augsburg's restaurants. It provides information and education on the subject of organic farming and food, and organises the organic city work group with stakeholders from the city community. An organic school snack campaign run annually with almost all first-year primary classes encourages pupils, teachers and parents to eat healthily with food produced in an environmentally friendly way. In 2024, the organic city work group reached 34 primary schools with more than 2,400 pupils through this initiative. Other successful projects include the launch of a digital organic regional shopping guide for the city and county of Augsburg in 2024, regular training courses for the city administration and annual walk-throughs of the BioSüd trade fair in Augsburg for employees in the hospitality and communal catering sectors.

The **Augsburg organic city work group** connects players in the organic sector with each other and with politicians and public administrators. To date, environmental and consumer protection organisations, environmental education stakeholders, organic companies, municipal authorities and municipal enterprises have been involved. The aim is to raise awareness of organic food through various campaigns and events, and to encourage the use of organic food in municipal institutions. The organic city work group is a forum of the Local Agenda 21 – Augsburg Network for Sustainability.

Augsburg is also active beyond its own region: the City of Augsburg is a founding member of the **Bio-Städte network**. Through this, it is linked with (currently) 32 other cities, municipalities and counties across Germany committed to sharing experiences and engaging in joint projects and high-profile campaigns to strengthen organic farming and food in the country. The members of this national alliance are working together to give the organic sector greater political weight, improve the framework conditions for the use of organic food and increase interest and knowledge in this area.

Annual World Food Day event

Since 2011, **Forum Eine Welt Augsburg** has organised an annual information event on the topic of hunger around International World Food Day on 16 October. The member groups present both information and possible courses of action. The topics include harmful stock market speculation on food products, food security, support for small-scale farming, food waste and fair trade. The aim is to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger in the world.

Everlence (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions): company catering

At **Everlence** (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions), the **company catering operation** focuses on sustainability, cuisine and nutrition with **Foodversity** – a word created from "food" and "diversity". The concept ranges from regional purchasing with a focus on seasonality and animal welfare to energy management. All suppliers to the company catering service are located within a 50 km radius and at least one vegetarian or vegan dish is offered each day. "Wonky veg" is also purchased to save it from being thrown away. The meat dishes follow a holistic, nose-to-tail

approach (using every part) as a way of respect for the animals. An in-house returnable bottle scheme ensures significantly less plastic waste. The factory's own bees produce around 240 kg of honey annually, which is used in desserts and other dishes. Fridays are all about saving food: the chefs creatively repurpose the week's surplus produce. This has reduced food waste by almost 50%. In addition, some of the surplus produce is donated to Augsburg's Wärmestube daytime shelter.

University Hospital Augsburg: Veggie Day & Coolfood project

University Hospital Augsburg (UKA) is continuously improving the food on offer for patients and staff, including focusing on **regional foods** and increasing the proportion of vegetarian dishes. Since October 2021, every Monday has been **Veggie Day** at UKA, with only meat-free dishes available at the counter for staff and served to patients. In addition, UKA is participating in the **Coolfood project** run by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), which supports the introduction of the Planetary Health Diet in hospitals. The project aims to promote a predominantly plant-based diet that has a positive impact on both health and the environment. Workshops and targeted support are designed to facilitate the changeover to this diet and ensure that the measures are successful in the long term.

Evangelical Lutheran Deanery Vesper Church project

Under the motto "Everyone at one table", the **Evangelical Lutheran Deanery of Augsburg** joined with the Catholic diocese and other partners in organising the first **Augsburg Vesper Church** from 3 to 17 March 2024. Many volunteers, donors and corporate partnerships supported the project. Every day, hot meals were served in St Paul's church for just one euro, along with coffee and cake. In addition, guests could avail themselves of haircuts and medical and social counselling, and enjoy cultural performances and church services. The project gave people an opportunity to engage in conversation across social boundaries and make new acquaintances. It helped to counteract loneliness and strengthen the sense of belonging that many Augsburg residents feel towards "their" city. The Vesper Church project was repeated in February 2025.



SDG 2.4 – Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices

Municipal agricultural land

The **Property Management Office** leases the municipal agricultural land it manages on the basis of the **guidelines for leasing agricultural land**, which were revised in 2023 to put a greater emphasis on environmental aspects in crop cultivation and animal husbandry. New leases are concluded in accordance with the guidelines. **Part 2** of the **climate change adaptation plan for the City of Augsburg (KASA)** contains an agricultural sub-strategy and related measures.

Stadt.Land.Augsburg model eco-region

The **Stadt.Land.Augsburg model eco-region** was launched in 2019, and takes in the city and county of Augsburg. The main objectives are to establish and expand regional value chains and sales channels for organic food. The general public and producers are made aware of organic food and farming through information and awareness-raising. For this, organic farms are connected with regional consumers, for example through farm tours and experience days. Small amounts of funding can be provided for individual projects.

Health Forum: effective microorganisms

Through education and information, the **Health Forum** raises awareness of the valuable and important use of **effective microorganisms** in households and in agriculture, where they function as a substitute for artificial fertilisers. This improves health and quality of life, reduces the consumption of raw materials and preserves and promotes biodiversity in arable soils.

Developments at local level

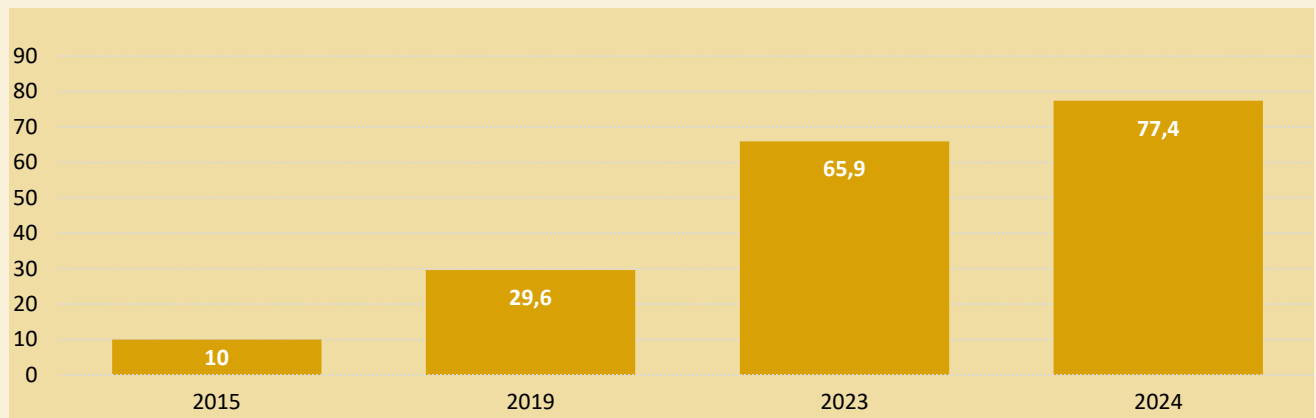


Proportion of organic ingredients used in Augsburg nurseries

2015	2019	2023	2024
10.0	29.6	65.9	77.4

Source: Office for Early Childhood Education and Care, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

In Augsburg, food security is not a major problem compared with other parts of the world, but many people here are also coming under increasing pressure due to rising living costs and food prices. In the Future Guidelines for Augsburg, the City is working within guideline *S1 Enable healthy living* towards the target to *Promote healthy, animal-friendly nutrition*. Guideline *Ö5 Preserve natural resources* promotes sustainable agriculture with the aim to *Protect soil and improve soil quality*.

The City Council's "Healthy Nutrition – Augsburg Organic City" resolution sets the direction. The target of 40% in daycare services has already been achieved. The City is continuing to pursue the goal of using 100% organic food at municipal events and 30% in all municipal facilities, including schools, retirement homes and the canteens of municipal subsidiaries.

In civil society, the local network of the Augsburg organic city work group plays an important role in connecting local stakeholders. Augsburg is demonstrating its engagement as a member of the Germany-wide Bio-Städte network and by ensuring a high proportion of organic food in municipal catering.



Opening of the Vesper Church project in St. Paul's church in 2025 (source: Irmgard Hoffmann)

3 GESUNDHEIT UND
WOHLERGEHEN



SDG 3 Good health and well-being

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

Background



Global

After decades of continuous progress, global primary healthcare has deteriorated again. Between 2000 and 2019, maternal and child mortality rates fell significantly and life expectancy increased. The incidence of HIV also declined. The COVID-19 pandemic has set back many of these achievements: global life expectancy has fallen by almost two years and nearly all health-related SDG targets have lost momentum. There are still significant regional differences in life expectancy. Poor and fragile states are particularly affected. Significantly greater efforts are needed if global health targets are to be achieved by 2030.⁷



National

Germany has one of the world's most efficient healthcare systems, and ensures access to medical and nursing care at a high international standard through compulsory health insurance and statutory long-term care insurance. However, there are still structural and demographic challenges. The combination of staff shortages and inadequate pay means that too many nursing staff are leaving the profession due to working conditions.⁸ The average life expectancy for women is 83.2 years and for men 78.5 years.⁹ The most common causes of death (70 per cent) are cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. Mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety disorders are becoming an increasing problem. Health inequalities remain significant: people with low incomes and low levels of education have significantly lower life expectancy and poorer health prospects. Prevention, health promotion and strengthening primary care are therefore the focus of the 2025 German Sustainable Development Strategy.¹⁰



Augsburg

The problems that exist in Germany are also relevant for Augsburg. Added to these are urban challenges due to heterogeneous population structures as well as health protection in the context of climate change (heat protection). Premature mortality has recently fallen from 2.5 deaths of people under the age of 70 per 1,000 inhabitants to 2.1 deaths. The level of particulate matter pollution has decreased in recent years and amounted to an annual average of approximately 7.8 µg/m³ in 2023. However, it remains a relevant issue in the urban environment. The same applies to noise pollution, which is being counteracted with a noise action plan. Support for cycling, public transport and walking is an important component.

Augsburg has a wide network of medical services and facilities. Nationally and internationally recognised multidisciplinary teams treat around 250,000 patients annually in over 24 hospitals and clinics, three institutes and 18 medical centres. The population-weighted straight-line distance to the nearest GP is 347 metres and the population-weighted travel time by car to the nearest primary care hospital is around five minutes.

The City of Augsburg is increasingly focusing on health promotion and prevention. Programmes in nurseries, schools and youth centres aim to teach children and young people the skills they need for a healthy life at an early age. In addition, psychosocial counselling centres, addiction support services and self-help groups are there to assist people in special circumstances. The city is also committed to promoting physical activity among all age groups.

Relevant SDG 3 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure high-quality health services
- Promote mental health
- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from air, water and soil pollution

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 3.4 – Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health

Workplace integration management

The Augsburg city administration has a **workplace integration management** programme in place. This offers preventive measures tailored to individual circumstances for employees who have been ill for more than six weeks within a year, with the aim of maintaining their ability to work and reducing future absences due to illness.

Updated sports and swimming pool development plan

The sports and swimming pool development plan adopted in 2017 to promote formal and informal sports in Augsburg was evaluated for the first time in autumn 2023 (evaluation of the years 2017 to 2023 and report on the next steps). Five of six measures previously prioritised in a resolution have been implemented or preparations for implementation have commenced. The sports and swimming pool development plan was refined on the basis of the 2022/2023 sports discussions, general developments in sport and among the population, and the updated survey of sports clubs. At the beginning of 2024, the **updated sports and swimming pool development plan** with the new prioritised measures was presented to the sports committee and approved by it.

Augsburg playground programme

Playgrounds are public areas that are accessible to everyone free of charge and provide space for exercise and play. The **playground programme** identifies new play areas in development plans and urban development contracts, outlines the necessary measures for renovating existing playgrounds and constructing new ones in the budget and elsewhere, and identifies what action is likely to be needed in the coming years as an investment programme.

Psychosocial counselling centre

For more than forty years, the **Public Health Department's psychosocial counselling centre** has been offering health counselling to citizens of the City of Augsburg who suffer from or are affected by an addiction, a mental illness, a chronic illness or a disability, or are at risk as a result. Advice is provided by individuals, institutions and agencies that can offer preventive, supportive and follow-up assistance, as well as through the person's social environment. The Public Health Service Act (ÖGDG) is the legal basis for this work. Use of the services offered allows for better man-

agement of psychosocial problems, especially those affecting older people, the socially disadvantaged and particularly vulnerable or at-risk citizens, which helps to relieve the burden on those affected and the people around them. Damage can be reduced and, in the best case scenario, health can be improved.

Contact point for self-help groups in Swabia

For over 25 years, the **contact point for self-help groups in Swabia** at the City of Augsburg's Public Health Department has been advising people seeking help, bringing together individuals and groups interested in self-help and supporting the work of self-help groups. People who are actively engaged enjoy healthier and more mentally stable lives, have more social connections and live longer. Active voluntary participation is a key factor in improving health in society.

Prevention programmes in schools to promote mental health

Various measures and programmes have been initiated to specifically promote the health of children and young people in Augsburg. In 2023, a number of **mental health prevention programmes** were introduced **in schools**. Mental health is an important foundation for healthy growth and social participation. With multiple crises overlapping, young people's mental health is under pressure. Against this backdrop, the **HeyLife prevention programme** was implemented in **Augsburg schools**, along with the **Adventures of Childhood and Youth campaign** and the **"Freiburg social training" concept** in the city.

Promoting the general health of children and young people

The **reformed school entry health check** is carried out on all children in Augsburg who are about to start school in order to assess their general state of health and level of development. Possible supports and therapies are also discussed if necessary. Children are required to go through the school entry health check. Support needs are assessed to improve equality of opportunity. If necessary, referrals are made to other agencies. As part of the **vaccination record review in year 6**, the vaccination record of year 6 pupils in all schools in the city area is determined and parents are informed about the standard recommended vaccinations. An individual vaccination reminder is also issued if any vaccinations have been missed. In cooperation with the work group for dental health of the State of Bavaria, an annual event is also held in daycare centres in the city of Augsburg to promote prevention and provide practical training on oral and dental hygiene ("**toothbrushing nook**").

German Pension Insurance prevention programme & company run

Employees of the City of Augsburg can be partially exempted from work to allow them to participate in the **German Pension Insurance prevention programme** (RV Fit). RV Fit is a training programme with elements of exercise, nutrition and stress management to promote an overall improved sense of well-being. The City of Augsburg also covers the entry fee for the annual **company run** to support employees in staying active.

Augsburg Sports Map

Since early 2023, the **Sports Map** has provided a quick and easy overview of the local sports offerings of Augsburg's clubs and public sports facilities. A timetable is available showing when the various clubs use Augsburg's sports halls. In addition to club activities, free sports facilities (football pitches, skate parks, table tennis tables, etc.) can be explored.

One example of a specific offering is the **Girls on the Ball project** launched in 2023 – a low-threshold football programme for girls offering them the opportunity to train without any obligations, club commitments or pressure to perform. Football just for girls – that is the idea behind the project, which allows girls aged between six and 16 to take part in football training once a week free of charge. In addition to being coached by professionally qualified trainers, the girls are also supported by youth workers. As a team sport, football is not only good for their health but

also supports the development of their personality structure. The focus is on fostering teamwork, willingness to integrate, empathy, a sense of responsibility and sporting ability. Another specific example is **notification of the Join in! Dive in! swimming skills programme** organised by the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior. This is promoted in day-care centres by the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care.

Noise action plan and interactive noise map

The City of Augsburg takes regular measures to combat noise pollution by drawing up **noise action plans** that focus in particular on road traffic noise. This involves, for example, creating **noise maps**, reducing speed limits and surfacing roads with low-noise stone mastic asphalt. The City of Augsburg noise action plan (stage 4) was initially drafted based on the strategic noise maps and a public survey conducted in November 2023. Following approval by the environmental committee and the City Council, the government of Swabia also gave its consent. The City of Augsburg noise action plan (stage 4) then came into force. Going forward, the City intends to designate a total of 17 inner-city recreational spaces (relatively quiet areas) that are within walking distance of many people in Augsburg.

Everllence (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions): women's health

As part of its occupational health management system, **Everllence** (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions) has developed an innovative programme for female employees – **Frauengesundheit er#leben (Experience women's health)** – which has received national recognition. It is specifically tailored to the needs of female employees and designed to improve their capacity to make informed health decisions. The programme enables participants to examine their personal health priorities and own sense of well-being, and equips them with the skills to actively shape these factors.

Health Forum

Every year, the **Health Forum** holds a **Long Yoga Night** – an evening of theory and practice designed to impart knowledge about integrated approaches to health to people who are interested in leading healthier lives. The idea is to make this accessible to every section of society. The forum also provides information on the health consequences and risks of **electrosmog**, particularly from mobile phones, but also from the blue light emitted by flat-panel displays. It promotes education and networking for the implementation of sustainable, health-focused building improvements to protect against, for example, (high-frequency) radiation and the effects of underground water flows, so that people can live healthily in their own homes.



SDG 3.5 – Prevent and treat substance abuse

Pilot project to strengthen addiction care in Augsburg

The District of Swabia, the City of Augsburg, Drogenhilfe Schwaben (a non-profit addiction support organisation for Swabia), the district hospitals in Swabia and the Bavarian Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians have entered into a cooperation agreement for a three-year **pilot project to strengthen addiction care in Augsburg**. This is intended to continuously improve support for people suffering from addiction, mitigate the consequences for society and expand collaboration between the individual agencies. Combining various measures can improve health and reduce harm. For example, the existing safe, harm-reduction space for people in particular social difficulties is to be relocated for capacity reasons and expanded in new premises as “Forum St. Johannes”, offering a more comprehensive range of services for people in special circumstances.



SDG 3.8 – Achieve universal health coverage

Gesundheitsregion^{plus}

Within the City of Augsburg's *Gesundheitsregion^{plus}* (health region plus) network, regional stakeholders play an active role in work groups, a health forum and various projects. The network aims to improve regional preventive care and healthcare provision in the city.



SDG 3.9 – Reduce illnesses and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution

Clean air plan

As a result of exceeding the limit values for air pollution by particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide (as set in the EU Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management (96/62/EC) and confirmed and specified in more detail in Directive 2008/50/EC from 2008 onwards), a *clean air plan* had to be drawn up for the City of Augsburg. It contains measures that are proportionate and designed to achieve compliance with the specified limit values as quickly as possible.

Developments at local level



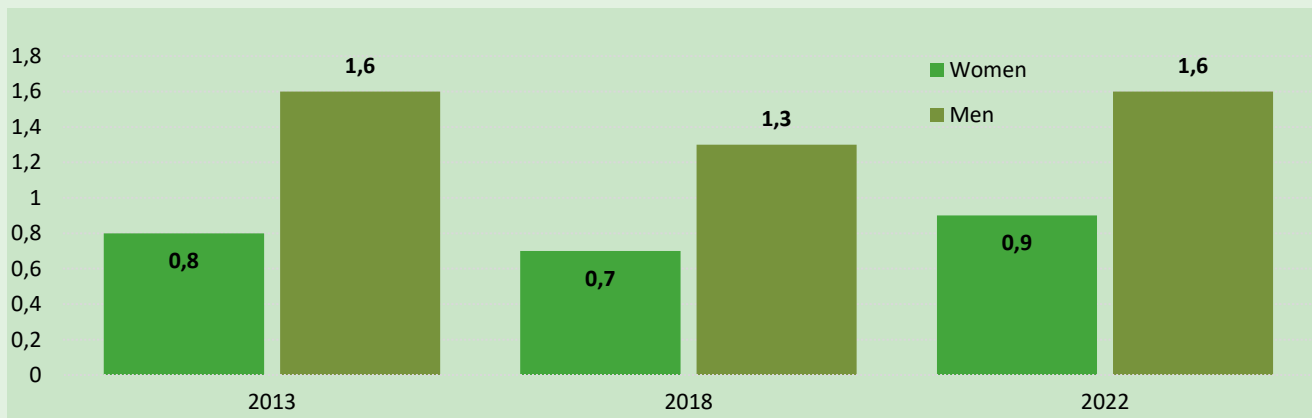
Premature mortality

	2013	2018	2022
Women	0.8	0.7	0.9
Men	1.6	1.3	1.6

Number of deaths among women and men under the age of 70 per 1,000 inhabitants

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Staff in nursing homes and nursing services

	2013	2018	2022
Nursing homes	802.2	815.7	901.9
Nursing services	0.25	0.26	0.20

Number of employees (full-time positions) in nursing homes per 1,000 full-time and part-time residents, and number of employees (full-time positions) in outpatient nursing services per person requiring care

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator

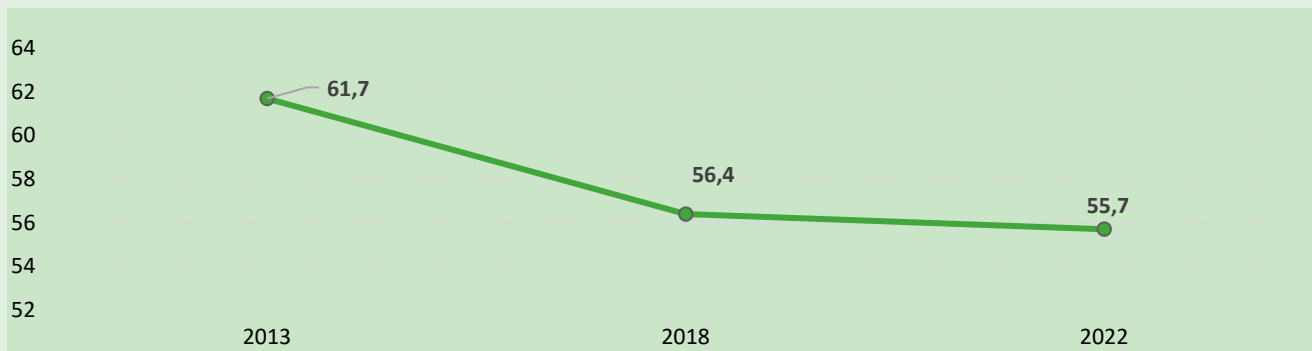


Nursing home places

2013	2018	2022
61.7	56.4	55.7

Number of available inpatient places in nursing homes per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and over

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal
Type: national indicator

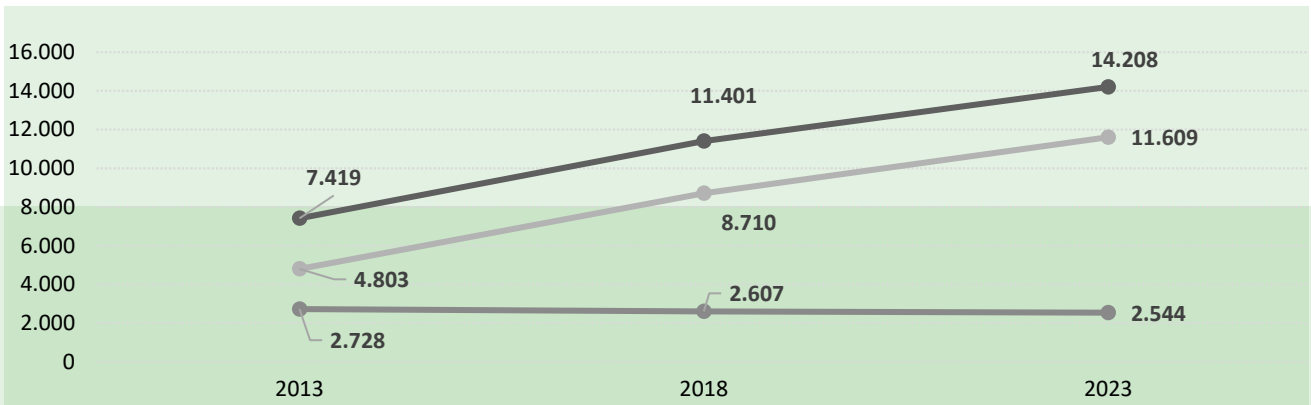


Persons in need of care

	2013	2018	2023
Beneficiaries under SGB XI	7,419	11,401	14,208
Beneficiaries under SGB XI – outpatient care and care allowances	4,803	8,710	11,609
Beneficiaries under SGB XI – inpatient care	2,728	2,607	2,544

Number of persons in need of care receiving SGB XI benefits, as well as number of inpatient and outpatient care cases. Recipients of benefits in kind for home care are presented in outpatient care. They may also be eligible for care allowances.

Source: Care sector statistics from the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the federal states
Type: Augsburg's own indicator



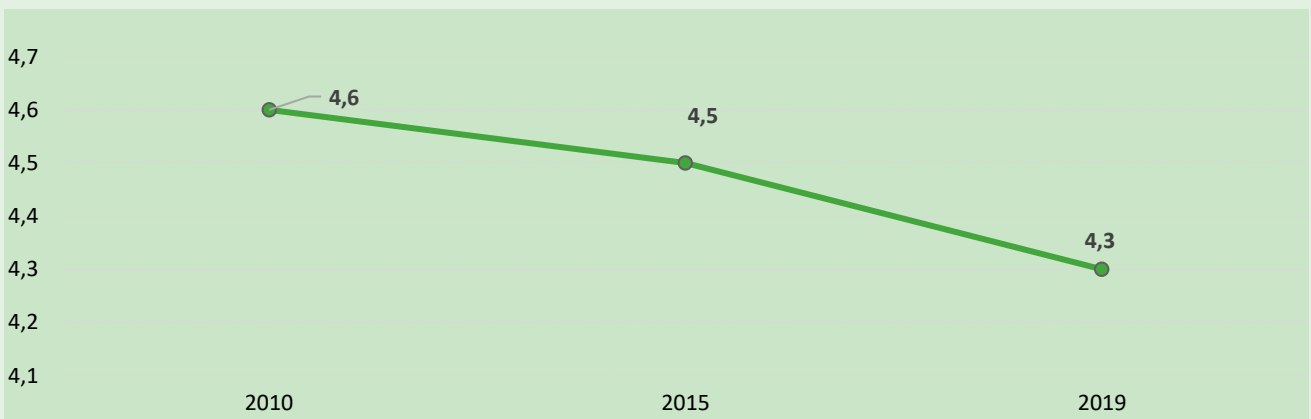
Obese children at the school entry health check

Year	Percentage
2010	4.6
2015	4.5
2019	4.3

Percentage of obese children at the school entry health check

Source: Health Department, Gesundheitsatlas Bayern

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



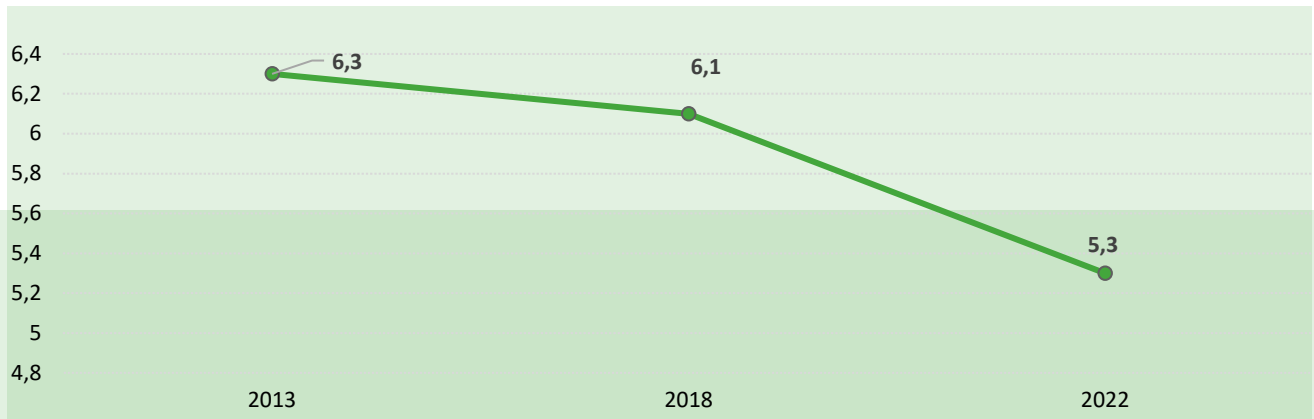
Number of traffic casualties

Year	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants
2013	6.3
2018	6.1
2022	5.3

Number of persons injured or killed in traffic accidents per 1,000 inhabitants

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Access to basic services – hospital



4.88 minutes
(2020)

Travel time by car to the nearest primary care hospital in minutes

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator

Access to basic services – healthcare facilities



General practitioner
347 metres

Pharmacy
494 metres

Population-weighted straight-line distance (metres) to the nearest general practitioner and pharmacy

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Air pollution – particulate matter

	2013	2018	2022	2023
Augsburg	16.45	15.08	11.75	--
Augsburg Königsplatz	26	22	16	18
Augsburg Karlstraße	--	24	19	14

Annual mean value for particulate matter (PM₁₀) per location in µg/m³

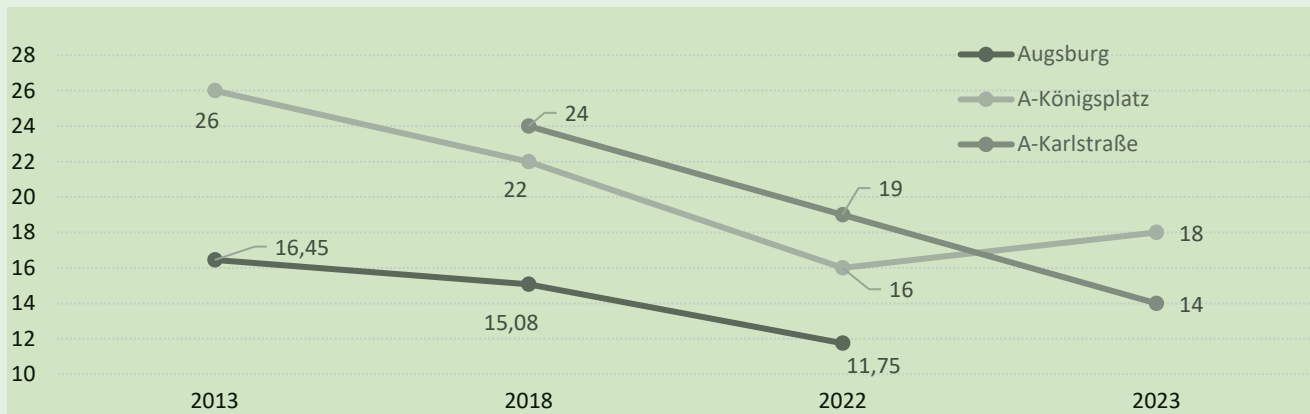
Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator

Annual mean value for particulate matter (PM₁₀) at the Augsburg-Königsplatz and Augsburg-Karlstraße measuring stations

Source: Office for the Environment, City of Augsburg/Bavarian State Office for the Environment

Type: Augsburg's own indicator





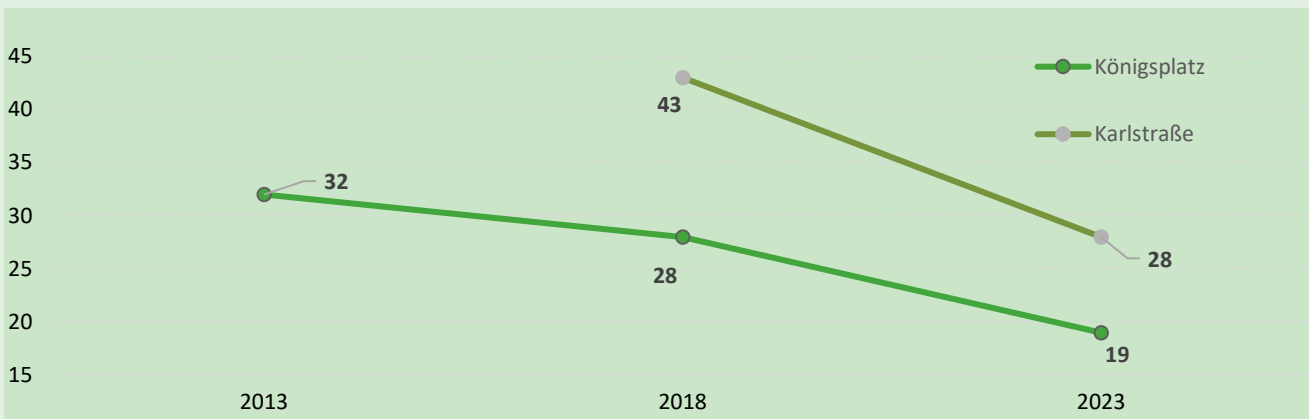
Air pollution – nitrogen dioxide

	2013	2018	2023
Königsplatz	32	28	19
Karlstraße	--	43	28

Nitrogen dioxide pollution (NO₂) at the Königsplatz and Karlstraße measuring stations in micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³)

Source: Office for the Environment, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Members and number of sports clubs

	2010	2013	2018	2023
Members	57,097	67,980	72,916	84,949
Clubs	145	152	153	150

Number of members of sports clubs and number of sports clubs in Augsburg

Source: Office for Statistics, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator

Outlook

Augsburg has an efficient healthcare system supported by a well-developed infrastructure. The Future Guidelines for Augsburg enshrine targets to *Promote physical, mental and emotional health* and *Promote sports and physical activity* in guideline S1 *Enable healthy living*. Similarly, conditions for healthy living are being created with the targets to *Promote a healthy urban climate (guideline Ö1 Protect the climate)* and *Improve air quality and reduce noise pollution (guideline Ö5 Protect natural resources)*.

These are underpinned by the sports and swimming pool development plan, which is designed to support the creation and maintenance of a wide range of easily accessible and inclusive sports and exercise opportunities that also promote the health and social integration of the community. Similarly, the Augsburg playground programme (currently 2025–2026) promotes places for exercise and social gatherings. The clean air and noise reduction plans are also designed to support the ongoing improvement of a healthy environment. An update to the noise action plan is currently being worked on, including measures to reduce noise and protect quiet areas.

Permanently active local networks such as *Gesundheitsregion^{plus}* contribute to improving regional preventive care, healthcare provision and care services. The Sports Advisory Board and sports round tables ensure continuous improvements in the area of sports.



Health Day at the town hall (source: Ruth Plössel)

4 HOCHWERTIGE
BILDUNG

SDG 4 Quality education

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

Background



Global

Education is vital for sustainable development, yet progress remains well behind the targets set. Low levels of education are a problem for the people affected, but also for the respective country as a whole. Countries that lack educated and qualified skilled workers struggle to develop and achieve sustainable economic growth on their own. While school enrolment and completion rates have improved since 2015, progress is slowing. Worldwide, 272 million children and youth still have no access to adequate education. Despite slight improvements in literacy, 754 million people still lack basic reading and writing skills – women are disproportionately affected, accounting for 63 per cent of the total.¹¹



National

With its compulsory education, free educational institutions and internationally recognised dual training system, Germany has a well-developed education system. Nevertheless, structural challenges remain. According to the country's national education report, the school dropout rate is 6.9 per cent. Furthermore, individual educational opportunities continue to depend heavily on social and educational background and the socio-economic situation of the family. As a consequence, fewer young people with a migration background achieve the upper secondary school-leaving certificate.¹² There is also a need to update digital equipment and provide further training for low-skilled workers. The 2025 German Sustainable Development Strategy therefore places greater emphasis on improving equal opportunities, lifelong learning and digital skills. The aim is to make the education system more inclusive, improve transitions into training and employment, and promote further training opportunities.¹³



Augsburg

Education is a key factor in ensuring equal opportunities and sustainable development. Augsburg offers a wide range of educational opportunities – from early childhood care, schools and vocational training to universities and adult education. Approximately 4.1 per cent of pupils in Augsburg left school in 2023 without at least a secondary school-leaving certificate. The major challenges facing Augsburg as a growing city are adapting school capacity, renovating school buildings and promoting integration and inclusion. Augsburg pursues two central approaches in the field of education: equal opportunities – regardless of origin, income or disabilities – and the teaching of future skills in the interest of sustainable development. Accordingly, one focus in all areas of education is education for sustainable development (ESD), which aims to help people to understand the impact of their own actions and to make respon-

sible decisions. There are many extracurricular providers in this field of education, and the new environmental education centre serves as a venue. The universities also make important contributions – whether through degree pro-



grammes covering the environment, resource efficiency and digitalisation or projects such as HSA_teach.
New classrooms at Hans Adlhoch Primary and Secondary School (source: Ruth Plössel)

Relevant SDG 4 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure that all children have access to quality early childhood development, care and education and receive quality primary and secondary education
- Promote education for sustainable development
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 4.1 – Free primary and secondary education

Education planning and school development plan

Education planning in the City of Augsburg is holistic in nature: building modernisation measures are accompanied by a qualitative and quantitative **school development and capacity plan**. This was first drawn up in 2020 and will be continuously updated over the next few years based on expert reports on future requirements for primary schools, secondary schools, grammar schools, middle schools and special needs centres in Augsburg. The respective reports clearly highlight where action is needed in this growing city in terms of specific school types and locations, and the locations where facilities need to be expanded or built from scratch. The primary school report also underpins planning for differentiated expansion in that sector to meet the legal entitlement to all-day schooling. All of the school reports therefore serve as a benchmark for the structured, ongoing development of the schools in Augsburg.

Augsburg Education Region

The **Augsburg Education Region** was launched ten years ago as part of the Education Regions in Bavaria initiative of the State Ministry of Education and Culture in agreement with the State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs. This aims to give young people in the region valuable future prospects by providing tailored educational offerings that allow them to make full use of learning and participation opportunities. In addition to organising flexible pathways and clear progression within the Bavarian school system, the focus is on designing holistic educational processes. The Education Region connects relevant education stakeholders in topic-based work groups as well as local education providers with a view to developing structures (steering committees). It also creates the data foundations needed for data-based municipal management.

Augsburg Education Alliance (Future Prize 2023)

The **Augsburg Education Alliance**, part of the Local Agenda 21 Augsburg process, promotes the discovery and development of diverse talents through a wide-ranging network. It advocates for democratic, inclusive and vibrant educational alternatives that give pupils more influence. The Education Alliance organises voluntary film series, discussion groups, presentations and, since 2015, an annual talent day.

Augsburg Media Education Network

The **Media Education Network** is managed by the Media Education Department at the Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in collaboration with the Augsburg media centre of the JFF – Institute for Media Research and

Media Education. It is an association of over 20 institutions engaged in media education in Augsburg. It fosters regular professional exchange on current media education topics and developments, raises public awareness of media education discourse and creates synergies. In 2024, it launched the **Medienstark series of events** to promote media literacy in families. The network is involved in strategic projects, such as the development of a media roadmap for the city of Augsburg.

Reading islands in primary schools

Since 2019, the **Friends of Augsburg City Library** association has financed three additional **reading islands in municipal primary schools**. Currently, 13 out of the 30 municipal primary schools have such reading islands. These are run under the organisational and professional guidance of Augsburg City Library and are financed, supported and supervised on a voluntary basis by a wide range of cooperation partners. These creative spaces filled with books and other media stimulate curiosity about reading and promote pupils' reading skills.

HSA_teach project

In the **HSA_teach project**, students at the **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg** (THA, or HSA until Q2/2024) helped primary school children to close learning gaps that arose as a result of remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic. The project started in March 2021, even before the first government programmes had been launched, and ran until July 2024, when the last primary school children significantly affected by the infection control measures left primary school. During this time, 45 students helped 770 primary school children with their learning in a total of 8,520.5 hours of support lessons. This corresponds to a project volume of €97,766.08, financed by the HSA_transfer project as well as internal and external donations. Thanks to the project's pro bono administration, every euro spent directly reached the schoolchildren through support for the tutors. In response to repeated requests and a largely unchanged need, the project has been continued from March 2025 under the name THA_teach.

Homework support and afternoon supervision

As part of a partnership with the Drei-Auen Primary School, **Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg** enables the provision of **homework support and afternoon care** at the school premises in Oberhausen through an annual donation of €13,000.

Learning and reading mentors in primary schools

Since 2020, **learning and reading mentors** organised by Augsburg's Volunteer Centre have been visiting primary schools usually once or twice a week. They support children in their individual development and ensure greater equality of opportunity and education.

Gaming for Augsburg: digital city models

In the **Gaming for Augsburg** project, young people aged between twelve and 18 developed concrete ideas for a more youth-friendly Augsburg via a playful, digital format in three workshops held in 2024. In Minetest, an open-source version of Minecraft, they redesigned neighbourhoods and youth centres to reflect their own vision and learned about democratic engagement in the process. In cooperation with KidsLab Augsburg, digital city models were created at the B-Box, Kosmos and h2o youth centres run by the **City Youth Council**. These featured more space for young people, safe cycle paths, more creative learning environments, communal living arrangements and self-managed meeting places. The concepts developed were incorporated into proposals for the youth forum.



SDG 4.2 – Equal access to quality pre-primary education

Nursery planning and networking between nursery providers

Nursery planning is part of the overall planning process of the City of Augsburg, nursery providers and investors. Here, all enquiries and locations are examined with regard to expected demand, and calculations are made, for example to determine the extra space required to develop facilities through the creation of additional building rights via development plans. A new position for nursery planning has been created to further improve the planning of daycare services.

Support services offered by municipal nurseries and schools

Municipal nurseries also offer various services to support children and families in special circumstances. The seven **WillkommensKitas** (welcome nurseries) in Augsburg provide safe environments with small groups to facilitate rapid integration and familiarisation with the German education system. The children experience everyday nursery life over five days, with at least four hours of education and supervision each day. For pre-school children without a place at a nursery, the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care currently also offers three **WillkommensSchulen** (welcome schools). The aim is to provide children with strong support in early education and to familiarise parents with the local education system. The **Bildungsmittelpunkt Lechhausen** education centre is a space for dialogue, learning and interaction. Its services are aimed at families, education stakeholders and childcare facilities (the "Education moves." project as part of the ElternChanceN programme is designed to strengthen families through guidance for parents). In addition, an **individual case consultation** offering for facility managers and providers helps them to refer parents and children to the relevant counselling centres, specialist agencies and support services. There is also a **duty to report** place cancellations. In many cases, this reporting combined with the guidance for facility managers and providers can help support parents so that places will not be cancelled.

Digital education and media literacy

One specific example in this area is the **City Library's promotion of media literacy**. In addition to the already well-developed language and reading support programmes in pre-school and school settings, expanding digital education for all generations in the local community has been identified as an urgent task for the City Library's media education work. This is stipulated in the 2024–2030 library development plan.

Another example is targeted media education in municipal nurseries, through which children learn at an early age how to use media responsibly and critically. Various campaigns have been launched to promote media education in nurseries. **Startchance kita digital**, a digital nursery springboard campaign run by the Bavarian Ministry of Social Affairs, is active throughout Bavaria. The aim is to integrate digital education offerings into daycare centres, teach media literacy to children and education professionals, and improve the provision of appropriate media. The **Digibus** from the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care provides digital education on wheels. This mobile education centre travels around the Lechhausen district, providing services for children aged three to eleven and their families as well as education professionals in nurseries and daycare centres and teachers at schools.

General parents' council of municipal nurseries

The **City of Augsburg's general parents' council (GEB) of municipal nurseries** draws attention to ways in which the parents' councils of the various municipal nurseries are implementing a range of sustainable measures together with the respective daycare centres – for example, by **not using disposable tableware at summer parties**, but asking parents to bring their own from home instead. The GEB also supports parents with campaigns promoting **healthy snacks**. To help develop their understanding of nutrition, the children and their parents cut out food items from advertising brochures and then sort them according to the food pyramid with the educators at nursery. The children learn to treat nature with respect and care through **gardening activities** with the participation of their parents and educators. They gain insights into recycling by engaging with crafts that involve **upcycling rubbish** at the Aumida collection and meeting place. In the area of **mobility**, independent and safe use of public transport by children in after-school care remains a very important issue, and many parents' councils are campaigning for safer routes. The

City is supporting this use of public transport with the ***Leave the Parent Taxi at Home*** campaign, which has been very well received and will be extended to nurseries after primary schools.



SDG 4.3 – Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education

A³ Education Portal/A³ Education Region round table

The digital ***A³ Education Portal*** – a joint project between the City of Augsburg, the County of Augsburg and the County of Aichach-Friedberg – is important to promoting lifelong learning in Augsburg. The portal covers the region's entire educational landscape, with its diverse range of advisory and educational services, and provides up-to-date information on education and further training. To support its networking function, an ***A³ Education Region round table*** was held at Augsburg Town Hall in September 2023 (kick-off event for the 2023 German Continuing Education Day for the A³ Education Region).



SDG 4.4 – Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success

City of Augsburg's digitalisation strategy

The ***City of Augsburg's digitalisation strategy (sub-area: information technology – implementation of the 2021 IT strategy)*** was adopted by the City Council in 2021. It lays technical foundations that can also be used as the basis for new digital training and further education opportunities. Knowledge management is being facilitated through the introduction of digital learning formats (webinars) and the provision of a suitable e-learning platform and other technical tools. The "participation and involvement" and "employer of the future" target dimensions aim to expand digital literacy, among other things.

Extending opening hours for and access to the City Library

The City Library is also promoting equal opportunities through ***extended opening hours and access to the City Library as a place of education***. Considering spatial, technical and organisational factors, there are plans to significantly increase access to and services provided by and at the existing libraries and through decentralised measures that are less dependent on staff schedules. These will offer the diverse urban community (especially disadvantaged individuals and groups) a safe and inviting place for inspiration and exchange.

Together Digitally project

Citizens can get free help with using digital media via the ***Together Digitally*** project, which is funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Digital Affairs. The City of is one of 30 municipalities in Bavaria to have set up advice desks as part of this. The project is aimed at digital novices – often older citizens – and is designed to help them with their specific everyday questions relating to the internet and smartphones. For example, they can learn how to read QR codes and use online services.

Augsburg adult education centre

The ***Augsburg adult education centre*** has embraced and supported social and technological change from the outset. Even in these times of digital, cultural, social and economic flux, it remains at the cutting edge with its programme and learning methods. ***Digital transformation*** and ***education for sustainability*** are the challenges for the coming years.

NANU!

NANU! e.V., the Augsburg network for nature conservation and environmental education, offers training courses for stakeholders in education for sustainability. The online workshop on **developing digital skills for online event hosting** held in 2021 is one particularly noteworthy example.

Diakonie HandwerksBetriebe Augsburg (Future Prize 2024)

Diakonie HandwerksBetriebe Augsburg (DHB) is a crafts and service company that has been promoting the integration and employment of people facing barriers to employment since 1985. Inclusion is put into practice through cooperation between employees with and without disabilities in areas such as gardening and landscaping, carpentry and caretaker services. Since 2023, DHB has also been offering care sector training to support disadvantaged or long-term unemployed young people and adults as well as people with disabilities.



SDG 4.5 – Eliminate all discrimination in education

School support pool solutions

At many schools in Augsburg, young people with mental health issues or at risk of developing such receive individual (1:1) support in school to encourage their participation in education. A **framework concept for school support pool solutions** was developed in 2023, and intensive work is being done on its implementation, particularly in collaboration with independent child and youth welfare organisations, integration assistance providers, schools and school administrators.

Equal opportunities in municipal nurseries

Various measures to increase equal opportunities are also being implemented on an ongoing basis in **municipal nurseries**. One example relates to the expansion of **integration places** through individual case assessments so that children with increased support needs can continue to be cared for in their current facilities. Systematic efforts are being made to expand the number of integration places available through guidance provided to providers and facilities in the context of new allocations and the extension of operating permits. With the **Language Nurseries** federal programme, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth encourages language education as part of efforts to improve the quality of early childhood care. The programme is primarily aimed at nurseries attended by an above-average proportion of children with special language support needs. In Augsburg, 15 municipal nurseries are participating in the programme. All "language nurseries" and their families have free access to Pollyno software, a **digital book service** for work with language development and literature. In the area of **complaints management**, non-discriminatory complaints management procedures are in place in privately run nurseries, and parents with children in these are advised on how they can make complaints.

MORE MUSIC! music education programme

Various projects have been organised in recent years as part of the City of Augsburg's MORE MUSIC! music education programme, which offers a wide range of activities aimed primarily at young people in Augsburg. For example, the **KlangSchule composition and participation project** for primary school children was held in 2023 and 2024. Four school classes received regular weekly visits by facilitators over a period of three months. The pupils worked together during this time to develop their own composition under a specific theme and then performed it as a class at the KlangSchule concert held to mark the end of the project. As part of **KaraokeKids**, children and young people learned to play the ukulele from autumn 2023 to February 2024. They concluded the project with four play-along concerts. The **Courageous Girls** project (2022/2023) enabled young women of today (schoolgirls from Augsburg and the surrounding area) to engage with biographies, texts and music by women who championed and continue to champion

causes that directly influence the lives of the project participants. The **BRECHT BREAKS** (& BRECHT BITES) project (2023/2024) was a music, rap and creative writing inclusion project for young people that aimed to familiarise them with Brecht in various ways through artistic workshops. Similarly, the **Beethoven reconstructed** participatory project (2023) aimed to bring Beethoven and his music into the "here and now". In the **Close your Eyes and Listen** listening and participation project (2023 and 2024) run in cooperation with Augsburg City Library, children wearing eye masks followed a story accompanied by live music to stimulate their imagination.

Children's cultural education and participation

The **KuKuk** project promoting art and culture in nurseries (autumn 2023 to July 2024) was aimed at children with additional language support needs. Music, dance and movement, and theatre offerings were intended to encourage and strengthen children's ability to express themselves individually. In the **KULTURKIESEL-Klassen** project, school classes from the Augsburg area have an annual opportunity to become a KULTURKIESEL class. The winners get to put together their own free cultural programme for a whole school year. All Augsburg daycare centres are invited to join in the annual **Children's Rights Week: Right to Culture** programme. This gives children the opportunity to visit a variety of cultural institutions in Augsburg and join in their activities.

Senior citizens' education report

Education and digital skills are important for older people to participate actively and independently in social life. The **senior citizens' education report** to be published in 2025 is intended to help capture existing educational opportunities and further needs. The report will set out the next course of action based on these.

Schools Without Racism – Schools With Courage

The **Schools Without Racism – Schools With Courage (SOR-SMC)** schools do valuable work to promote democracy. Currently, 26 schools in Augsburg have joined the nationwide network that actively campaigns against discrimination. Members make a lasting commitment to advocate for equality for all people and to combat all forms of discrimination. The children and young people at the SOR-SMC schools decide which topics they would like to explore with the support of their teachers. The SOR-SMC initiative aims to promote a school culture that is sensitive to discrimination while fostering long-term commitment.



SDG 4.7 – Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

2024–2030 library development plan

Within the library development plan, the **City Library** has a strategic goal to evolve into a **centre of excellence for digital media education and information** for all age groups and to build confidence in using digital technologies.

Neighbourhood management team: multi-generational meeting places and community centres

The development of social skills is promoted in Augsburg in a number of ways, including through a neighbourhood management team as well as multi-generational meeting places and community centre projects. Overall, the **neighbourhood management projects** in the Oberhausen district are aimed at creating strong civic networks and promoting intercultural coexistence. They are designed to be preventive and facilitative, encouraging support systems and positive, rule-based interactions at neighbourhood level. Examples of projects with this focus include garden and workshop projects and the Drei-Auen bookcase. The neighbourhood management team supports open educational work through its own offerings (e.g. workshop, bicycle project) and assists in organising the local vocational training fair. There are currently eleven **multi-generational meeting places** in Augsburg. The focus here is on work within the respective facility and in the district that is geared towards families and senior citizens, as well as civic engagement

(e.g. participation in prevention committees and local district work groups). The respective coordinator (as an individual) and facility (with its services) provide space for the concerns of citizens and ensure social participation, support structures, social balance and rule-based interactions. These multi-generational meeting places serve as learning hubs open to all generations (e.g. neighbourhood mothers' groups, language cafés and dementia groups). They also have digital participation and skills development offerings. **Community centres** are currently **planned** for two locations in Augsburg. These will combine social and educational topics and, as multi-generational locations, will promote intergenerational work and civic engagement management.

Cooperation in the classroom

In recent years, the Cultural Education Unit has developed two collaborative projects aimed at improving **cooperation in the microcosm of the classroom**. With the **US AND NOW!** project (2022 to present), young people in years 5 and 6 in secondary school get inspiration from museum, dance, theatre and art education to encourage them to consider how we live together. At five stations, the young people reflect on ideas and concepts for successful coexistence and what they want for their future. A total of five classes from years 5 and 6 at secondary schools in Augsburg can take part in this process. The free project runs for approximately six weeks, with the period being agreed individually with the class teacher. In the **ME + YOU = US** project, participating groups first undergo social training and then work with theatre and art educators to develop strategies for better coexistence.

Eco-School programme

The Eco-School programme is an energy-saving initiative for public schools in the city of Augsburg that is run by the Municipal Energy Management Office in the Building Department on behalf of the Department of Education and Migration. The environmental station/education centre provides educational advice and support through the Prima Klima partner project. Teachers, pupils and caretakers are the key stakeholders and ensure that climate action projects are carried out.

Special exhibitions at the Naturmuseum

Following the **redesign** of the foyer in the ticket office area, the **Naturmuseum**, a natural history museum, now offers more space and a more pleasant environment for groups, including a "picnic corner". Admission to the entrance area is free of charge, as is access to the regular special exhibitions presented there. These explore themes of depicting, experiencing and interpreting nature in geosciences and biosciences – also using an artistic approach grounded in the natural sciences. With the partial renovation of the Molasse exhibition on the ground floor and the newly presented exhibition area there entitled "Archaeobelodon – Augsburg's prehistoric elephant", the Naturmuseum has gained a unique attraction.

City of Augsburg Landscape Conservation Association

As a state-recognised **environmental station**, the **City of Augsburg Landscape Conservation Association** initiates and coordinates a wide range of activities and events relating to nature protection, climate action, resource conservation and other sustainability issues in the city and county of Augsburg. It is also a point of contact for anyone interested in getting involved in environmental education and education for sustainable development. In 2023, the newly built **environmental education centre**, constructed to high ecological standards, began operating as an educational facility for environmental education, climate action and sustainability. It is a central platform for networking between individuals and institutions from the fields of education, nature conservation and sustainability who want to participate in the discourse on sustainable development in Augsburg. It can also be used by others to organise events.

Environmental education centre events

The **environmental education centre** of the City of Augsburg Landscape Conservation Association organises a wide range of **events** for all age and target groups on a regular basis. These look at key issues such as biodiversity, cultural

landscape development, sustainable use of resources, democracy and society. The event themes focus on "forests, hedges, heaths", "streams, canals, rivers", "biodiversity" and "climate and consumption".

Overall environmental education plan

The City of Augsburg's **overall environmental education plan** (2017) aims to expand education for sustainable development (ESD) in all areas of education and to embed it structurally, based on the "Education for sustainable development" national action plan and its subgoals "Making visible", "Networking and training" and "Promoting and increasing". It provides a basis for a future ESD plan.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) network

Augsburg's **education for sustainable development (ESD) network** brings together stakeholders from the formal, informal and non-formal education sectors, including schools, daycare centres, educational institutions and NGOs. It promotes the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices and helps evaluate how ESD is integrated in institutions. Coordination of the ESD network is based in the School Development and Education Unit of the Department of Education and Migration and is carried out in close cooperation with the Office for Sustainability and the environmental education centre. The network is currently in phase 1 and is working with selected model institutions (nurseries, extracurricular learning centres).

ESD in the Office for Sustainability

The City of Augsburg's **Office for Sustainability** has implemented various **ESD activities**. In 2020, three rooms in the **museum of contemporary art** were set up as **activity spaces for education for sustainable development**. Among other things, they could be used for an escape game designed for young people (but also used by other groups). In 2020, the town hall hosted a large exchange meeting between students active in Fridays for Future and stakeholders from politics, the city administration, the Agenda forums, the Sustainability Advisory Board and businesses as part of the **Climate Heroines** campaign. The Office for Sustainability also developed the **Augsburg Future Box** in collaboration with the University of Augsburg in 2022. Cue cards for discussion games were created for all of the 20 Future Guidelines for Augsburg. Over 200 future game card kits were distributed to educational multipliers. A website referenced educational materials relating to all Future Guidelines for different age groups. In the **Eco Heroes** project, four virtual reality mini-games were developed at Augsburg University of Applied Sciences in 2023. With the help of the games, pupils aged between 10 and 15 were introduced through play to the ecological dimensions of Augsburg's understanding of sustainability.

ESD in municipal nurseries

All **municipal nurseries** have also set out to implement education for sustainable development in their teaching methods (such as through the Early Child Education in Transition project). The Kita Remshartgässchen daycare centre was the first municipal nursery (and the second in Augsburg after the Kleine Strolche nursery run by the Workers' Welfare Association) to be awarded the **Eine Welt nursery** label. This educational concept anchors global learning: children discuss diversity and uniqueness, discrimination and social justice as well as international issues. To this end, a culturally sensitive approach is embedded in the design of the facility, which is reflected, among other things, in the play materials provided. With the **plastic-free nursery/school certificate**, the City honours schools and nurseries that, in project groups, make a special effort in their school or daycare centre to raise awareness of plastic waste prevention and actively reduce their use of plastic. The certificate is the brainchild of the **Plastic-Free Forum**, which sets out paths to a resource-efficient and sustainable life and also runs the training programme with the institutions.

Cooperative educational projects at the Naturmuseum

Cooperative projects in education for sustainable development are also carried out between the **Naturmuseum** and other institutions. Examples include study and career guidance project seminars, internships for technical college students, adult education centre events and loaned teaching materials.

City Library: sustainability event formats

In its 2024–2030 library development plan, the **City Library** has set itself the goal of organising specially designed **event formats** with selected cooperation partners that address the topic of sustainability and aim to embed it in everyday life.

Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries events

The Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries also promotes a culture of sustainability in everyday life with **a wide range of events** in the Botanical Garden and other offerings (practical gardening seminars on sustainability, guided environmental education tours, musical events, cultural interfaces, local producers' day, children's peace festival, illuminated evenings, Japanese spring festival, etc.).

Augsburg Zoo: education for species and nature protection

Augsburg Zoo promotes ESD with a focus on **education for species and nature protection**. New school programmes with titles like "rubbish tips from animal friends" and "water ecosystems", which deal with topics such as overfishing, are designed to encourage pupils to adopt more sustainable behaviour. Kindergarten children develop a sense for the individual needs of each animal in the new "mini animal keeper" programme. In addition, the zoo's own species conservation projects are always highlighted and sustainability tips for the home are provided during guided tours for children's birthday parties, holiday programmes and company outings. Penguin Day, Biodiversity Day and other special events bring species and nature protection to life for general zoo visitors.

Augsburg adult education centre: key topics and diverse learning locations

The **Augsburg adult education centre** has made "Better Living" its theme for the year and "Animals", "Forests", "Air" and "Walking" its semester themes. These **key topics** are aligned with the Future Guidelines for Augsburg, which focus on environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability. The Augsburg adult education centre works with cooperation partners such as the City of Augsburg, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and the environmental education centre to offer this educational programme. In addition, the Augsburg adult education centre facilitates **learning across a range of locations**. Its "on the go" offering includes nature tours of a wide variety of places, including water tours in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Office.

Local Agenda 21: Augsburg's understanding of sustainability – strong sustainability

Augsburg's ESD work is based on an **understanding of strong sustainability within a cultural framework**. Attitudes, values and the willingness of as many people as possible to contribute their skills and expertise in their respective roles to the sustainable development of their own city are essential for engagement in the "traditional" areas of sustainability: the environment, social issues and the economy. These areas of action are grouped within culture. Sustainability requires and promotes participation, involvement and social cohesion. It should bring people together to shape the lives of residents, with all their diverse circumstances, backgrounds and interests, in a peaceful, democratic, supportive and environmentally friendly way and in a spirit of freedom. Particular attention must be given to those who require support.

Guided tours of the Naturmuseum

The **Naturmuseum** also offers space for art, culture and history. This scientific, cultural and educational institution collects, preserves, researches and publicly exhibits cultural heritage worthy of protection (here: natural objects). The Naturmuseum promotes science, research, education and culture and educates the public about natural sciences (particularly biology and geoscience). Through its (special) exhibitions and museum tours, it imparts general knowledge and current research in the natural sciences. The Naturmuseum offers artists an exhibition space and makes drawing classes possible. Loans of natural objects support external exhibitions and are used in schools.

Education and sustainability work group presentation series

The **education and sustainability work group** (a Local Agenda 21 Augsburg forum) creates a framework for planning and implementing educational events on matters of sustainability. Every year, experts present key topics related to sustainable development, such as hunger, nutrition, energy transition and sustainable management, as part of the **What can we do?!** presentation series and highlight specific courses of action. In 2024 and 2025, the work group organised the **Earth for All presentation series** on the Club of Rome report of the same name together with students and professors from the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and the University of Augsburg. The work group brings together organisations such as the Evangelisches Forum Annahof educational institution, Katholische Arbeitnehmerbewegung (a Catholic workers' movement district association) for the city of Augsburg, Katholische Erwachsenenbildung (a Catholic adult education organisation) for the city of Augsburg, the Augsburg adult education centre, Werkstatt Solidarische Welt e.V., Augsburg's environmental education centre and the Office for Sustainability.

NANU! – the Augsburg network for nature conservation and environmental education

NANU! e.V., the Augsburg network for nature conservation and environmental education, is a voluntary association of organisations and individuals from the Augsburg region who have made nature and environmental education their mission. Every year, NANU! compiles **over 300 events** in a printed booklet, which is also published on the internet, and each July it organises the **Long Night of Nature** in the Botanical Garden.

Augsburg young researchers network and ESD symposium

The City's **Augsburg young researchers** network and the same network of the County of Augsburg cooperate under the Little Scientists Foundation framework, supporting nurseries with early childhood STEM education for sustainable development (ESD). The **first Augsburg ESD symposium for education professionals** was held in 2024 together with the Augsburg young researchers network. With the theme "Opening the door to the future – embedding education for sustainable development in nurseries and after-school care centres", the ESD symposium invited all education professionals from the city and county of Augsburg to actively participate.

Work groups within the Local Agenda 21 framework

As part of the City of Augsburg's **Local Agenda 21 process**, around 30 work groups (**Agenda forums**) devoted to a variety of topics conduct between 40 and 50 environmental, social, economic and cultural projects offering a wide range of activities each year. They are supported in this by the Office for Sustainability as part of the Local Agenda 21 process.

FC Augsburg: Zirbelnuss educational arena

Since spring 2024, **FC Augsburg** has been offering the **Zirbelnuss educational arena** in the WWK ARENA as a special extracurricular learning venue in cooperation with the City Youth Council. The arena brings political and social issues to the stadium in a way that is tailored to the target group. Young people from year 7 onwards participate as a class. They are encouraged to develop an interest in new topics in this unusual learning environment through the provision of space for self-efficacy and reflection, and the teaching of creative and decision-making skills.

Werner von Siemens Secondary School (Future Prize 2022)

The **Werner von Siemens Secondary School** is strongly committed to **environmental protection and sustainability** and implements numerous **innovative projects** such as its plastic-free school initiative and the training of energy detectives. These projects promote environmental protection, while also strengthening the school community and teaching sustainable behaviour. The school works with regional partners and has received several awards for its efforts, including being named a Partnerschule Verbraucherbildung Plus (partner school for consumer education plus) and Prima-Klima-Schule 2021 (2021 super climate school).

Fairtrade City steering committee: KonsumMensch booklet

In 2024, the *Fairtrade City steering committee* produced the fifth edition of the *KonsuMensch booklet*, with a print run of 10,000 copies. The booklet is a guide in Pixi book format for young people on sustainable lifestyles. With its many amusing illustrations on sustainability topics, it conveys information in a clear way and encourages participation in social transformation. It is distributed free of charge to interested school classes.

Werkstatt Solidarische Welt development educational work

Werkstatt Solidarische Welt e. V. carries out *development educational work* through presentations, literary events, action days and concerts as part of African Weeks as well as through educational programmes and teaching units for schools, youth groups and adults in the Global Learning project. In addition, a colonial city tour and guided tours of the Weltladen store are offered.

foodsharing Augsburg educational work

With approximately 50% of food waste coming from private households, *foodsharing Augsburg* considers *educational work* to be very important. Information stands at various events, presentations to a wide range of groups and cooking events using rescued food are used to raise public awareness of the effects of food waste and provide people with simple guidelines for reflecting on their own behaviour.

Bund Naturschutz excursions and other events

BUND Naturschutz (BN) Augsburg, an organisation dedicated to preserving nature and protecting the environment, regularly runs *excursions* that offer valuable insights into the local natural environment – from species hotspots in the city, such as Gögginger Bridge with its lizards and the Wertach river with its bats, to the unique habitats on the banks of the Lech with its orchid meadows and heaths. It particularly focuses on protecting biotopes, urban green spaces and endangered moorland areas such as the drying Lechhauser Moos. BN raises awareness of topics such as insect decline, climate-resilient trees and the importance of green oases in the city through *information stands, symposiums and events*. In this way, it promotes understanding of environmental challenges and motivates people to actively protect nature in the city.

Greenpeace presentations at schools and events

To strengthen a sustainable and just society, *Greenpeace Augsburg* promotes awareness of environmental protection, democracy and social responsibility through *presentations at schools and events*.

City Youth Council sustainability bonus for youth leisure activities

Since 2024, youth associations in Augsburg have been able to receive a *sustainability bonus for youth leisure activities*. The *City Youth Council* wants to use this to make sustainability the new standard in extracurricular youth education. Measures that focus on low-carbon mobility, conscious nutrition or educational initiatives on the topic of sustainability receive higher funding rates. The four criteria are: arrival by public transport or bicycle; at least 50% regional organic products; vegetarian or vegan food; and a focused exploration of sustainable consumption. A resource developed by the City Youth Council provides practical methods for raising awareness of environmental issues among children and young people through play.

FC Augsburg: Green Weeks and water as a focus topic

Every year, *FC Augsburg (FCA)* puts regional environmental and climate action in the spotlight during a Bundesliga home match. Relevant topics such as mobility, energy, water and nutrition are addressed over the accompanying *Green Week*, creating a platform for information and awareness-raising. In addition, the club promotes opportunities for people to get active together in the region, including annual tree planting in the FCA forest (a joint project with the City of Augsburg). With its special regional connection to the Water Management System of Augsburg World Heritage Site and given the great importance of water as a resource for the global Sustainable Development Goals, FC Augsburg has enshrined *water as a central focus of its sustainability strategy*. The club is responsible in its use of this vital resource and wants to raise awareness of it through a wide range of projects and educational work. For

example, FCA organises water days for its partner schools and, together with Viva con Agua, launched the Football4WASH project in South Africa.

Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg: sustainability in research and teaching

In 2024, the **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg** introduced an interdisciplinary **Master's in Sustainability Management**. As part of their project work, the students carried out practical projects on topics such as biodiversity, renewable energy, sustainable mobility and consumption, and organised a sustainability day in the School of Business. In the same year, a **compulsory module on sustainable development and responsible business practices** was introduced for all students enrolled in the Business Administration and International Management bachelor's programmes. The university wants to ensure that all students understand the impact of their actions on the world and learn to make responsible decisions. In 2023, students developed **carbon footprints for foods** and displayed these on the floor in the cafeteria area to provide basic information about low-carbon diets. The **Sustainable Campus interdisciplinary seminar** teaches skills for sustainable action through simulation games and presentations from experts; this teaching concept was awarded the Teaching Innovation Prize by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and Culture in 2022. The **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg** has developed a **bachelor's module on the technical aspects of sustainability** from the hsa_transfer project supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It links typical engineering aspects of environmental technology with a discussion of social values and also involves stakeholders from outside the university. The module consists of three teaching events with an overarching framework: 1. Framework providing an introduction to the sustainability process, SDGs, the EU Green Deal, etc.; 2. Seminar on sustainability, technology and society involving external stakeholders, with focal points and content that change each year; 3. Seminar-based teaching on typical environmental technology processes, such as plastic, e-waste and battery recycling, with each teaching unit designed by specialists; 4. Exercise where the students create their own (small) life cycle assessment in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14040 et seq. for a specific product using life cycle assessment software. In **the Environmental and Process Engineering master's programme**, specific environmental technology tasks are tackled in the form of a simulation game in collaboration with companies and institutions ranging from Hosokawa Alpine AG to the Bavarian State Office for the Environment (LfU).

University of Augsburg: sustainability in research and teaching

All faculties at the **University of Augsburg** and its interdisciplinary centres teach courses on sustainability. In particular, they cover **climate action, environmental and resource research**, and environmental **health research**, as well as **peace and conflict research** in numerous bachelor's and master's degree programmes and in teacher training. Given its educational mandate for society as a whole, the university considers it its duty **to foster, educate and equip environmentally and socially responsible individuals with the skills to shape their environment**. These should enable them to work independently and reflectively on sustainability issues and to develop and implement socially viable solutions. All of the university's faculties now offer courses and specialisations related to sustainability, for example in the areas of sustainable management, circular economy and waste disposal, water, climate, health and equal opportunities. In the 2023/24 winter semester and the 2024 summer semester, 1,100 of 5,300 **teaching events** (lectures, seminars, excursions, etc.) were directly related to sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the university organises a **series of specialist lectures for the public** every year in the area of science communication, including in cooperation with LfU as part of the Public Climate School, and participates with specialist presentations in municipal cultural events such as the Water & Sound cultural festival.

University of Augsburg: sustainability strategy

In 2024, the University of Augsburg adopted its **first sustainability strategy** as part of a participatory consultation process. It views sustainability as an ethical principle guiding organisation and action, and its implementation as a task and obligation for the entire university community (= whole-institution approach). As part of a **green transfor-**

mation, the university is focusing on sustainability in the areas of study, research and campus life. Based on an extensive baseline review of its sustainability activities to date, the university participated for the first time in 2024 in the **international UI GreenMetric ranking**, which evaluates and compares the sustainability performance of 1,500 universities worldwide. The University of Augsburg received the award for "Best New Participating University" among all 300 new entrants worldwide in recognition of its sustainability efforts to date.

University Hospital Augsburg: environmental education at nursery level

University Hospital Augsburg (UKA) is already raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation and intact nature among Augsburg's very young citizens attending UKA's **nursery**. This is a joint initiative with the City of Augsburg Landscape Conservation Association.

Diocese of Augsburg: creation awards and funds

The **Diocese of Augsburg** issued **creation awards** in 2019, 2021 and 2023 to promote the idea of sustainability and stewardship of creation in the Church and society. It began issuing Laudato si plaques annually in 2021 and established a **creation fund** in October 2023. All of these efforts also benefit a number of church projects in the city of Augsburg.

Augsburg Future Prize student jury

The annual Future Prizes offer an opportunity to strengthen and promote exemplary projects in Augsburg that contribute to sustainable development. Each year, a different (secondary) school class forms the jury for the Future Prize for Students.

Urban Gardening with Refugees (Future Prize 2024)

The **Urban Gardening with Refugees** project as part of the Social Work course at the **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg** combines the topics of asylum, climate and sustainability through urban gardening to improve refugees' quality of life and promote an environmentally friendly lifestyle. The garden facilitates exchanges between refugees, students and lecturers, with various cultivation methods being used to help create a sustainable urban landscape. Gardening also has health benefits. The interaction fosters mutual learning processes and allows refugees to feel recognised and appreciated. In addition, language barriers are lowered in an accessible way.

Developments at local level



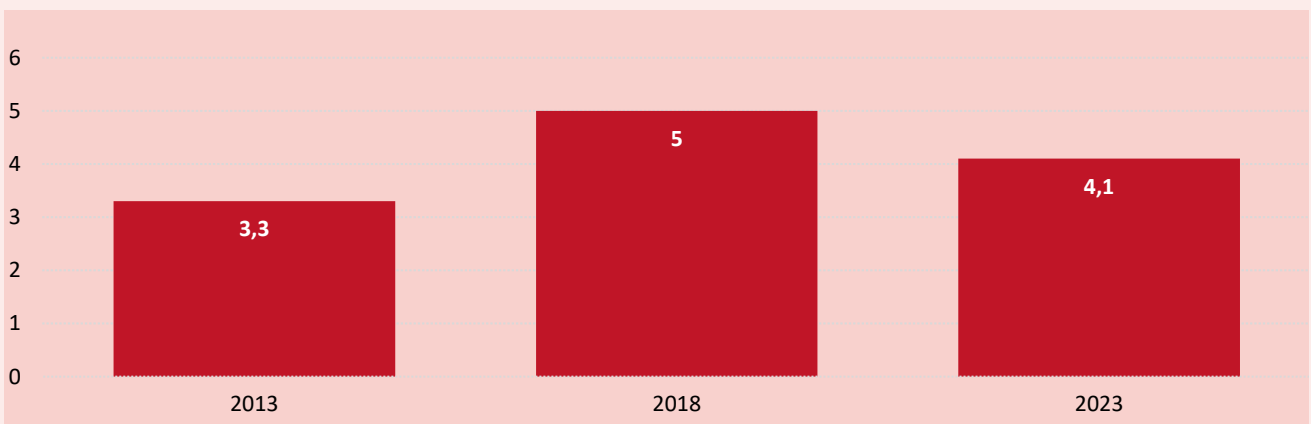
School leavers without (at least) a secondary school-leaving certificate

2013	2018	2023
3.3	5.0	4.1

Percentage of school leavers without at least a secondary school-leaving certificate out of all school leavers (from general education and vocational schools)

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



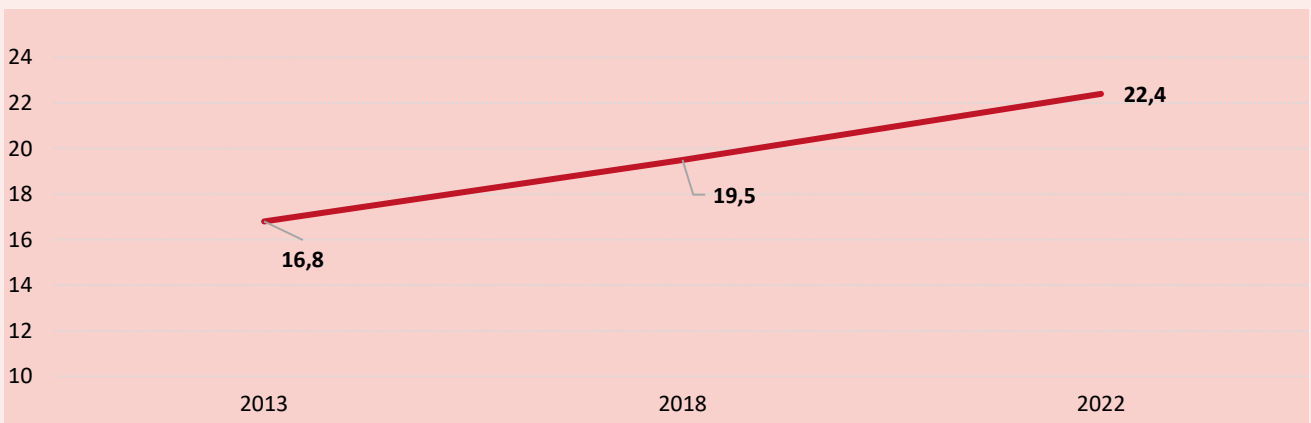
Children aged under three in daycare facilities

2013	2018	2022
16.8	19.5	22.4

Percentage of children under the age of three cared for in daycare facilities

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Outlook

With its educational planning, classroom requirement analyses and dense network of nurseries, schools, colleges, universities, municipal libraries, adult education centres and civil society organisations, Augsburg is well placed to systematically strengthen equal opportunities.

The Future Guidelines for Augsburg set out the following targets in guideline *S2 Live education holistically: Build social skills, Further develop forms of education and educational infrastructure, Enshrine education for sustainable development (ESD), Enable lifelong learning and Promote digital skills and expand offerings*. These are supplemented by the targets to *Create equal opportunities and Prevent discrimination and remove barriers (guideline S4 Enable participation in society) as well as Promote and utilise creativity and talent (K3 Live diversity) and Seek to preserve planet Earth (guideline K2 Strengthen values)*.

Ongoing education planning (also covering school capacities and development) and nursery requirements planning, in conjunction with inclusion and integration action plans, are paving the way for good education in Augsburg. They are supported by sub-plans covering inclusion and social education topics (neighbourhood management projects, framework concept for school support pool solutions, cooperation in the classroom: US AND NOW! / ME + YOU = US projects). Adult education is guided by an ESD concept and a library development plan. The digitalisation strategy is promoting digital skills in the city administration.

The regularly published education report contains monitoring data, and is supplemented by reports on the action plan for inclusion and integration. The senior citizens' education report covers another area of education.

A wide variety of local networks are working on the topic of education at various levels in Augsburg:

- Augsburg Education Region (Bildungsregion Augsburg)
- Augsburg Education Alliance (Bildungsbündnis Augsburg)
- Augsburg Media Education Network (Netzwerk Medienpädagogik Augsburg)
- Nursery operators network
- General parents' council of municipal nurseries
- A³ Education Portal/A³ Education Region round table (Bildungsportal A³/Runder Tisch Bildungsregion A³)
- Schools Without Racism – Schools With Courage (Schulen ohne Rassismus – Schulen mit Courage)
- Education and sustainability work group (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bildung und Nachhaltigkeit)
- NANU! – the Augsburg network for nature conservation and environmental education
- Augsburg young researchers (Augsburger Forscherkinder) network/Augsburg ESD symposium for education professionals
- Education for sustainable development (Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung) network
- All other Agenda forums under the Local Agenda 21 framework



5 GESCHLECHTER-
GLEICHHEIT

SDG 5 Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Background



Global

Despite progress, gender equality remains an unachieved goal globally. Discriminatory laws and social norms continue to prevent women and girls from enjoying equal rights and opportunities. Women and girls are underrepresented in political decision-making processes and leadership roles, and in many countries often lack autonomy over sexual and reproductive health. Another key obstacle is the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, which is disproportionately performed by women.¹⁴ Women are also more frequently affected by poverty and violence. By the age of 20, almost one in four women will have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner.¹⁵ Another essential component of gender equality is ensuring that women are able to participate in the political process and take on responsibility. To date, very few parliaments have equal representation. On average, 27.2% of all members of parliament worldwide are female.¹⁶



National

With equality enshrined in its constitution, the Transparency in Wage Structures Act (EntgTranspG) and binding quotas for leadership positions, Germany has a legal framework that is by no means the standard internationally. Nevertheless, gender equality remains a social goal that has not yet been achieved. Around 180,000 women per year are victims of domestic violence. Almost every day, a woman is a victim of femicide.¹⁷ There are significant differences in the economy and workplace. Women continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles, despite having comparable qualifications. In 2024, women accounted for just under one third of leadership positions (29.1 per cent).¹⁸ Even though the unadjusted gender pay gap has fallen by two percentage points compared to previous years, the earnings gap between women and men still stands at 16 per cent. Women with comparable qualifications, jobs and employment histories to men continue to earn on average 6 per cent less per hour.¹⁹ Women are also still underrepresented in politics. In the newly elected 21st German Bundestag, the proportion of women is 32.4 per cent. This puts Germany in 58th place in the global ranking.²⁰



Augsburg

The City of Augsburg is committed to supporting equality and equal opportunities. Although the situation has improved in recent years, differences remain – for example, in terms of income and the distribution of care work. In 2021, the median income of women in Augsburg was 81.7 per cent that of men. According to the most recent survey in 2019, the proportion of women in Augsburg City Council was 38.3 per cent.

With all this in mind, the City provides targeted support to women starting or returning to work. Its Human Resources Department participates in the *herCareer* women's job fair in Munich and cooperates with institutions such as Kolping to support women in their career orientation and skills development. The Equal Opportunities Office participates in networks such as *A³ return-to-work* and publishes the *Frau & Beruf* (women & work) brochure. The City also

seeks to raise awareness of fair pay. Its Equal Pay Day Alliance regularly draws attention to the wage gap between women and men and links this to demands for a fairer distribution of paid and care work.

Beyond the city administration, numerous initiatives, trade unions and companies in Augsburg are helping to put equality into practice – whether through works council work in smaller companies, training opportunities or measures to improve work-life balance.



2025 Augusta business award for women (source: Ruth Plössel)

Relevant SDG 5 targets for German municipalities include

- End all forms of discrimination against women and girls
- Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
- Ensure women's participation and equal opportunities for leadership

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 5.1 – End discrimination against women and girls

Round table on women and displacement

The **round table on women and displacement** is a joint initiative of the Social Services Department and Equal Opportunities Office. It focuses on female refugees and their specific needs.

Forum for Women's Rights/AAF

The **Forum for Women's Rights/AAF (work group of Augsburg women/feminists)** brings together associations and interest groups from a wide range of areas of Augsburg's civil society that campaign for a free, peaceful and self-determined life for girls, women and non-binary, intersex and trans* children and adults. The forum is committed to issues such as women and peace, women in the church, domestic and sexual violence, forced prostitution, human trafficking, displacement and migration, genital mutilation and safe, legal abortions. It organises a **wide range of events** to raise public awareness of these, particularly on international days of action, such as 8 March (International Women's Day) and 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), and as part of the Augsburg Peace Festival (e.g. Göggingen Peace Table, Interreligious Women's Dialogue). It is also a forum within Augsburg's sustainability process.

Round table on girls' work

The **round table on girls' work** is coordinated by the City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office in cooperation with Talitha – Fachstelle Mädchenpädagogik, a specialist centre for girls' education. It gives professionals involved in community-based and residential youth work, schools and school social work, counselling and coaching a way to network with each other. It advocates for the interests of girls and young women in Augsburg, offers specific training and reflection opportunities and organises annual events for International Day of the Girl on 11 October.



SDG 5.4 – Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities

Promoting equal opportunities and work-life-family balance

The **digital administration strategy** promotes equal opportunities in Augsburg's city administration by providing barrier-free access in multiple languages. The digitalisation of administrative processes and the creation of modern working practices are also helping to improve the work-life-family balance of city administration employees.

Service agreement on mobile working

Since May 2020, the City of Augsburg has had a generous **service agreement on mobile working** that makes it easier to balance work and family life.

Equal Care Day campaign

The Equal Opportunities Office organises the **Equal Care Day campaign** to highlight the often invisible work of caring and to raise awareness of the need for a gender-equitable distribution of care work.

Service Agency for Work-Life Balance

The **Service Agency for Work-Life Balance**, based at Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft, helps companies ensure work-life balance. For around ten years, the agency has been providing companies in the Augsburg economic area with information on family-friendliness and support for projects. Its aim is to bring together all regional and, in some cases, national activities and activists promoting work-life balance.

KUKA AG: flexible working time models

KUKA AG offers **flexible working time models** at many of its locations to help employees achieve a better work-life balance. Staff at its German locations can go part-time, use flexitime arrangements or work from home. A "shortened full-time" model was continued in 2024 in accordance with the IG Metall collective agreement. This model includes the right to reduced working hours of up to 28 hours per week for a period of between six months and two years, as well as the right to return to the standard full-time working hours of 35 hours per week. In Augsburg, some internal job vacancies for management positions are also offered with a part-time option of at least 32 hours per week.

Stadtsparkasse: family-friendliness

Employees at the **Stadtsparkasse Augsburg (municipal savings bank)** city savings bank regularly donate flexitime to colleagues in exceptional family situations. The programme for employees' children on the Day of Repentance and Prayer, a laundry and cleaning service and the canteen's takeaway meals actively contribute to work-life balance. This commitment has been regularly confirmed for many years through the **"berufundfamilie" (workandfamily) audit**.



SDG 5.5 – Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making

Equality plan to promote equal opportunities

Augsburg's city administration also specifically promotes good working conditions and equal opportunities for its employees. Every five years, the Equal Opportunities Office draws up an **equality plan to promote equal opportunities in the Human Resources Department of Augsburg's city administration**. Family-friendly working conditions contribute to equal opportunities for women and men. Another focus is on empowering women in their professional development and creating suitable conditions. An **online part-time job exchange** has been in place since 2018 to

help employees find job-sharing partners for current job vacancies or to plan ahead for part-time work. It is coordinated by the City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office.

Augusta business award for women

With the *Augusta*, the first *business award for women*, the City of Augsburg has been honouring women for their outstanding entrepreneurial achievements and innovative contributions to Augsburg's economy and the city since autumn 2024. The prize is awarded annually.

Developments at local level



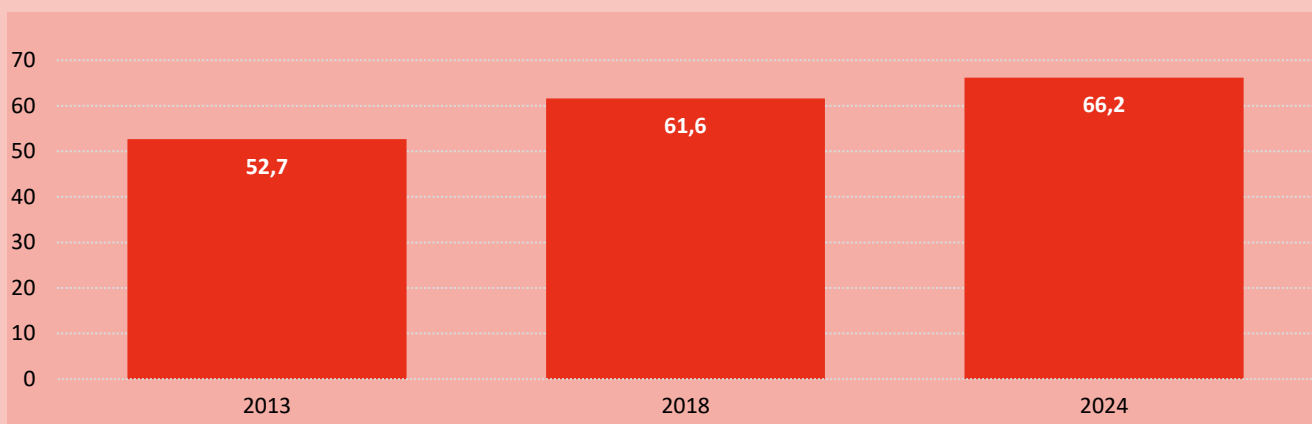
Share of children receiving after-school care in state primary schools

Year	2013	2018	2024
Share (%)	52.7	61.6	66.2

Proportion of children attending after-school care at a state primary school

Source: School Development and Education Unit, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



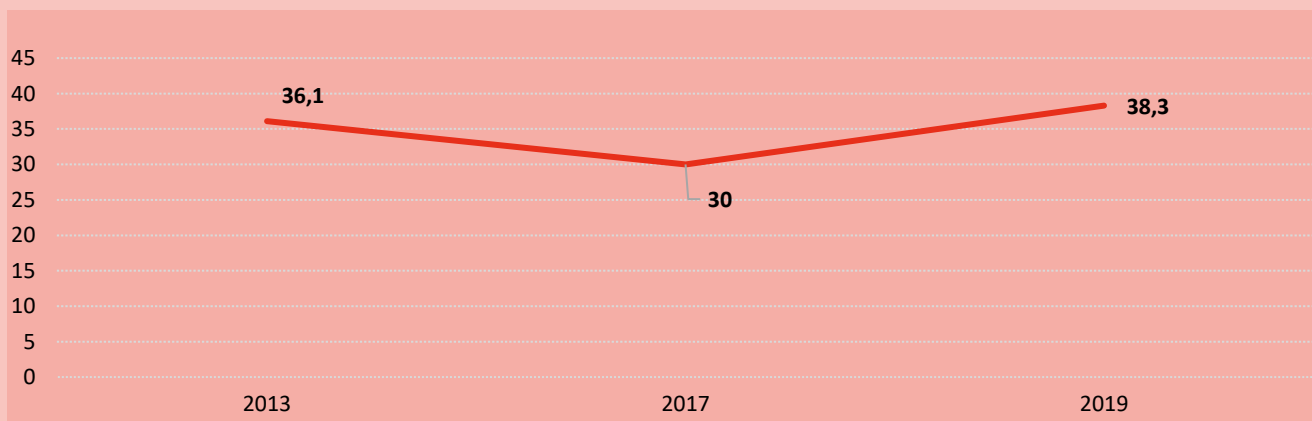
Proportion of women in the City Council

Year	2013	2017	2019
Percentage (%)	36.1	30.0	38.3

Percentage of women holding seats on Augsburg City Council

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Outlook

There will continue to be major challenges in the years ahead. Despite progress in labour force participation and representation, women are still underrepresented, particularly in leadership positions. The unequal distribution of care work, income disparities between the sexes and structural barriers in education and careers persist. Added to this are challenges in balancing family, care and work. The demand for affordable childcare and care infrastructure continues to rise, as does the need for flexible working time models. Protection against domestic and sexual violence also requires stable and effective prevention and support structures.

Augsburg has well-developed structures for promoting equality and equal opportunities. Networks between the administration, business and civil society, as well as programmes promoting work-life balance, create a solid foundation for establishing and further improving gender equality as a cross-cutting issue for society as a whole. The City Council's Commission for Gender Equality is an important instrument in this regard. It comprises five representatives from the City Council and seven experts from the community. The commission discusses current gender policy issues and makes recommendations to the City Council or the mayor and the city administration.

The City of Augsburg is continuing to build on its commitment to equal opportunities, safety and social participation for all genders in all areas of life. This is evident in the Future Guidelines targets *S4.1 Prevent discrimination and remove barriers* and *S4.2 Create equal opportunities* as well as the Future Guideline *W2 Balance work and life* with the objectives *Create fair work, income and development opportunities (W2.1)* and *Enhance the value of care work (W2.2)*. The City of Augsburg's new action plan for families lays the foundation for better work-life balance. Its Central Anti-Discrimination Agency is raising awareness of this, among other things through a brochure setting out the "ABCs" of the General Act on Equal Treatment (AGG). The Equal Opportunities Office is promoting greater involvement of women in local politics ahead of the 2026 municipal elections. The seventh report on the continuation and implementation of the City of Augsburg's equality plan will be published in 2027.



6 SAUBERES WASSER
UND SANITÄR-
EINRICHTUNGEN



SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Background



Global

While progress was made in improving access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services between 2015 and 2024, billions of people remain underserved. In 2024, 2.2 billion people had no access to safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion had no safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion lacked basic hygiene services at home. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular has shown how important access to clean water and sanitation facilities is for hygienic living conditions and thus also for combating a pandemic. To prevent future pandemics, public water infrastructure needs to be significantly expanded, especially in poorer regions. At the same time, water systems are coming under increasing strain from pollution. Only 56% of municipal wastewater worldwide is safely treated, and many freshwater ecosystems are being lost.²¹



National

Germany has a comprehensive water supply network with drinking water of a very high quality. This is ensured through the strict requirements of the Drinking Water Ordinance (TrinkwV) and almost complete wastewater treatment. While there is no general water shortage, there are significant regional differences. Climate change is placing growing strain on the water supply.²² Since 1931, Germany has never experienced such a dry year as 2025. Prolonged dry spells are leading to falling groundwater levels, increasing drought stress in soils and crop failures in agriculture. Forests and ecosystems are also affected. The risk of regional shortages is rising, particularly in combination with growing water demand in agriculture and urban areas. Furthermore, groundwater and surface water in Germany are contaminated to some extent by nitrates, phosphates and residues of pesticides and pharmaceuticals.²³ This can lead to the death of many fish and the formation of toxic algae. In 2023, 92 per cent of Germany's streams and rivers were in a "poor" ecological condition.²⁴



Augsburg

Augsburg has a reliably safe and clean supply of drinking water. The water comes mainly from the city forest's drinking water protection area, which has been a central source for the municipal water supply for many years. The basis for this is the "Augsburg model", which has been in existence since 1991: the municipal utilities provider works closely with farmers in the protected area to reduce the use of fertilisers and pesticides. As a result, nitrate levels in Augsburg's groundwater are significantly below the Bavarian average.

Per person, consumption averages 117 litres per day – which is below the Bavarian and German average.

Within the city limits, residents have access to fresh drinking water at public drinking fountains.

Wastewater treatment is also part of public services. 100% of wastewater is treated at the municipal sewage treatment plant.



Family at the drinking water fountain in the Siebentischwald forest (source: Ruth Plössel)

Relevant SDG 6 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure access to drinking water
- Improve water quality by reducing pollution
- Treat wastewater
- Implement integrated water resources management
- Protect water-related ecosystems

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



SDG 6.1 – Safe and affordable drinking water

Access to drinking water in public spaces

Stadtwerke Augsburg has been providing *drinking water in public spaces* since 2005. In addition to maintaining the City's municipal drinking fountains, Stadtwerke Wasser GmbH itself operates six free drinking fountains throughout the city. As the drinking fountains have to be taken out of service in the winter, the customer centres are also designated as refill stations.



SDG 6.2 – End open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene

Free disposal of wastewater wherever possible

Augsburg's municipal drainage company provides wastewater disposal services that are free of charge wherever possible. The 2040 master plan for renovating and expanding Augsburg's sewage treatment plant and the general drainage plan form the basis for economic planning and the determination of fees and charges for urban drainage. The aim is to provide wastewater disposal services that are free of charge wherever possible for customers of the municipal drainage company.



6.3 – Improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse

Preserving water quality through the Augsburg model

Stadtwerke Augsburg maintains water quality in Augsburg through what is known as the ***Augsburg model***. Cooperation agreements have been in place with farmers in the drinking water protection area since 1991 to reduce the nitrate content in the groundwater and keep the drinking water free of pesticide residues. Regular testing at groundwater monitoring wells in the catchment area of Augsburg's drinking water fountains show that these measures will continue to have their desired effect in the immediate future. Management of the water supply under the Augsburg model has resulted in the complete elimination of artificial fertilisers and pesticides on many areas of land.

Sustainable sewage sludge recycling plan

In 2024, *Augsburg's municipal drainage company* commissioned a plan for the design of a **sustainable sewage sludge recycling system** with phosphorus recovery and a circular economy. This involves using at least some of the sewage sludge on the treatment plant site and extracting further raw materials from it.

2040 master plan for the sewage treatment plant and general drainage planning for the sewer network

The *municipal drainage company* is implementing the **2040 master plan for the sewage treatment plant and general drainage planning for the sewer network**. The 2040 master plan provides a roadmap for repairing the sewage treatment plant infrastructure and creates an orderly framework. The company is aiming to implement the measures in stages. The sewer network is being upgraded in accordance with the general drainage planning.

Sewer pipe repair and renewal

Augsburg's *municipal drainage company* is also playing an important **role in protecting public health** by **repairing and renewing sewage collectors**. Leaking sewers put a key basic function (health protection through the safe discharge of wastewater) at risk. Any such sewers identified during sewer inspections are repaired as part of a Sewer Network Department repair and renewal programme.



6.4 – Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies

Water treatment systems and cleaning products

WashTec, the Augsburg-based global market leader in car wash systems, has further developed its **water treatment systems** to reduce fresh water consumption by up to 90%. It has also developed **cleaning and care products** with ingredients selected according to strict ecological criteria to ensure both resource-efficient extraction and biodegradability after use.



6.6 – Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

NaturSinn International KG: addition of quartz flour (Future Prize 2019)

The Augsburg-based environmental technology company *NaturSinn International KG* is supporting the self-cleaning properties of water bodies. Regular **addition of biophysically treated quartz flour** mobilises the existing microbial population. Small organisms and microorganisms are effectively stimulated to multiply rapidly, thereby accelerating the breakdown of excess nutrients. This eliminates the cause of algae and plant growth, reduces the formation of primary sludge and promotes decomposition. The oxygen content increases, effectively preventing putrefactive conditions in anaerobic environments and the resulting microbial contamination.

Simple microplastic filters (Future Prize 2020)

Sisters *Leonie and Zoë Prillwitz* have developed bag-style **microplastic filters** for sinks and washing machines that are easy to manufacture and deliver good filtration results. They remove from the water flow around six-sevenths of the microplastics produced during a wash cycle, primarily in the form of microfibres.

Developments at local level



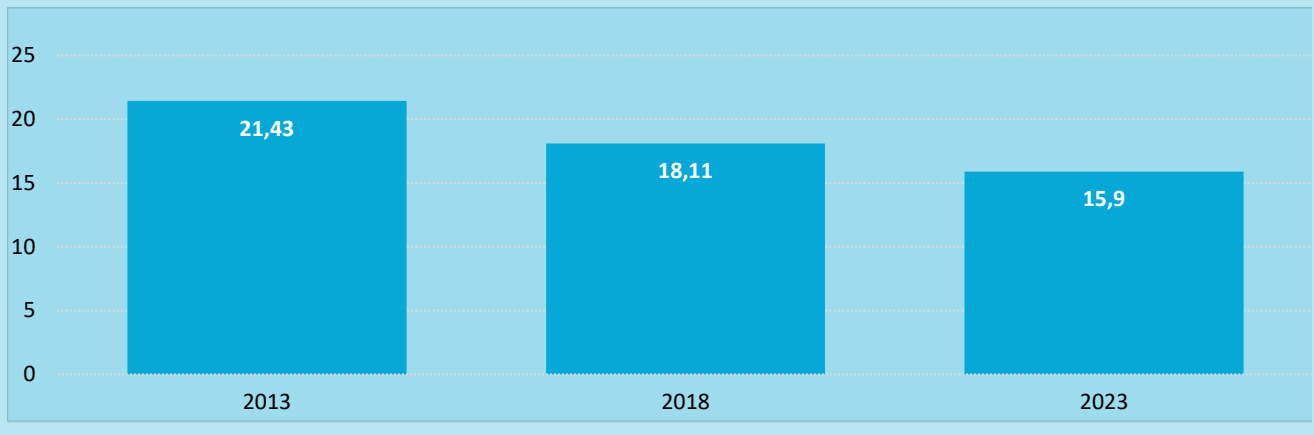
Nitrate pollution in groundwater

2013	2018	2023
21.43	18.11	15.90

Annual average nitrate levels in groundwater at drinking water fountain 3308 in the Lochbach catchment area in milligrams per litre. By comparison, percentage of monitored wells in Bavaria with more than 25 milligrams per litre.

Source: Stadtwerke Augsburg Wasser GmbH/values for Bavaria: lfu.bayern.de

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

Augsburg aims to provide high-quality drinking water and an efficient wastewater infrastructure. Its sustainability targets *S1.1 Create a healthy environment* and *Ö5.2 Improve water body ecology and water quality* are particularly relevant. Augsburg's drinking water comes mainly from the city forest's drinking water protection area with its numerous wells. Groundwater contamination is kept below the Bavarian average thanks to the Augsburg model of cooperation with the agricultural sector, which has been in place since 1991. A soil protection plan for preventive soil protection, including the preservation of natural soil functions, is also in preparation.

Climate change, with longer periods of drought, more frequent heavy rainfall and rising temperatures, will pose new challenges for water management in the coming years and decades. This is covered by Augsburg's sustainability target *Ö1.3: Adapt the city to climate change*. Securing groundwater resources and adapting drainage systems to extreme weather events will therefore become increasingly important in the coming years. Another challenge is the recovery of phosphorus from the sewage sludge produced. A plan for this was already agreed in 2024 and is now to be implemented more robustly.

In addition, the municipal drainage company will equip the sewage treatment plant with a fourth treatment stage. This will improve the water quality of the Lech river and protect the Franconian long-distance water supply network. The construction of this treatment stage will make it possible to significantly reduce the amount of trace substances in the water. At the same time, it will increase the potential for reusing the effluent from the treatment plant as service water.

Augsburg is investing specifically in climate-resilient, environmental infrastructure through its 2040 master plan for modernising the sewage treatment plant, introduction of a fourth treatment stage and preparations for sustainable sewage sludge recycling. In doing so, it is aiming to ensure high water quality in the long term and to make the water cycle in Augsburg sustainable and resilient.



7 BEZAHLBARE UND SAUBERE ENERGIE



SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy

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

Background



Global

Significant progress has been made worldwide in terms of access to energy. 92 per cent of people had access to electricity in 2023 (2010: 84 per cent). Renewable energy is currently the fastest-growing energy source. Nevertheless, progress is not sufficient to achieve SDG 7 by 2030. Without accelerated investments, around 645 million people will still lack electricity access in 2030. Rapid expansion of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and targeted funding for developing countries are crucial to achieving SDG 7.²⁵



National

With its energy transition and Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), Germany has a legal framework that will ensure the expansion of renewable energy in the long term and is regarded as a model internationally. The share of renewable energy is rising steadily: in 2024, 59.4 per cent of the electricity generated in Germany and fed into the grid came from renewable energy sources. The expansion of wind power and photovoltaic systems contributed significantly to this. While the feed-in of electricity from coal declined further, electricity feed-in from natural gas rose to a share of 14.9 per cent. Accelerated expansion of wind and solar energy and efficiency gains remain key to achieving the targets by 2030.²⁶



Augsburg

Augsburg's energy supply is geared towards climate protection and the energy transition, with the gradual replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy. Since 2021, a solar obligation has been in force for municipal facilities, ensuring nurseries, schools and administration buildings are systematically equipped with photovoltaic systems. In addition, the City of Augsburg has been supporting private investment with a solar subsidy programme since 2023. In the first year alone of this programme, 445 balcony solar power systems, 330 other types of photovoltaic systems and three solar thermal systems were subsidised. However, with 0.35 kW of electricity from renewable sources per capita, Augsburg still lags significantly behind the Bavarian average of approximately 2 kW.

Stadtwerke Augsburg is also pushing ahead with the expansion of renewable energy. In addition to using hydro-power at the Hochablass Weir, it operates biomass plants for district heating. Furthermore, all of the utility provider's own roofs have been assessed for PV suitability and the first systems went into operation in 2024.

Systematic monitoring of energy consumption in municipal buildings has resulted in savings of 16 per cent in heating and 11 per cent in electricity since 1998. The Augsburg energy standard adopted in 2021 is an important instrument for new municipal buildings.

Relevant SDG 7 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- Increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix
- Improve energy efficiency
- Promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



7.2 – Increase global percentage of renewable energy

Solar obligation for municipal buildings

There has been a **solar obligation for municipal buildings** since 2021. The resolution passed sets out the City's commitment to install photovoltaic (PV) systems on municipal properties and properties owned by companies in which the City of Augsburg has a stake. The administration has been instructed by the City Council to strengthen climate action measures through voluntary commitments for municipal properties and mandatory requirements for non-municipal buildings. One example of PV expansion is the extension of the PV system at the Augsburg Technology Centre (TZA) approved by the Supervisory Board in 2022. Photovoltaic systems are also being gradually installed on municipal nursery buildings.

Municipal solar subsidy programme

Since autumn 2023, the City of Augsburg has been promoting the installation of photovoltaic systems, solar thermal systems and plug-in solar devices ("balcony solar power plants") on and in buildings in the Augsburg city area with a **solar subsidy programme**. In 2023 and 2024, 445 plug-in solar devices, 330 PV systems and three solar thermal systems were installed with funding.

Municipal utilities provider: biomass cogeneration plant, PV and hydroelectric power plants

Stadtwerke Augsburg is also actively promoting the use of renewable energy. The construction of an additional **biomass plant** is intended to provide the generation capacity needed as a result of the district heating expansion. Given the decarbonisation in production and increase in the share of renewable energy in district heating, this will be achieved through the use of biomass, in particular forest residues and landscape maintenance material. On the island of Rügen, Stadtwerke München (Munich's municipal utilities provider), Stadtwerke Augsburg and the Hessing Foundation are jointly planning the construction of a **photovoltaic plant** that will produce green electricity for approximately 40,000 households. In addition, the partners intend to take measures that will increase regional biodiversity and strengthen the local community. In 2024, Stadtwerke Augsburg assessed the suitability of all the roofs on its own properties for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems. An expansion plan for generating electricity for on-site consumption is in place, and the first of the company's own installations went into operation back in 2024. This **expansion of PV systems across its own properties** complements the work the municipal utilities provider has already carried out to install PV systems on individual roofs (e.g. the roof of the Lochbach waterworks). With two

hydroelectric power plants at Augsburg's historic waterworks and the Hochablass Weir, the municipal utilities provider is also generating electricity locally from renewable energy. Some of the electricity generated is consumed by the historic waterworks itself. The surplus electricity from the two plants is fed into the power grid, supplying around 4,000 households in Augsburg.

Municipal utilities provider: climate-neutral drinking water production and distribution

Stadtwerke Augsburg is committed to ensuring sustainable provision of essential services. With regard to the **water supply**, the company supplies natural drinking water without treatment, made possible by decades of sustainable measures in the drinking water protection area and through the expansion of wells. The use of deep water has been reduced to a minimum. With the introduction of the Trinkwasser Regenio tariff in 2009, customers could opt for drinking water produced using hydroelectric power, while also supporting local water and nature conservation projects. Since 2021, all drinking water production and distribution has been climate-neutral (through sustainable self-generation of electricity, the purchase of green electricity and, to a lesser extent, the use of carbon credits).

Municipal utilities provider: supplying energy with green electricity

With regard to the **energy supply**, all 65,000 households on the municipal utilities provider's standard and emergency supply have been automatically switched to electricity generated from hydro, wind or solar power since 1 April 2021. This means that around half of all households in Augsburg receive electricity from renewable energy sources. Since 1 April 2021, only green electricity has been available for new contracts with private customers. This has not resulted in any changes to electricity prices for customers.

Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries: construction of the new environmental education centre and workshops

The **Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries** has constructed a new workshop and environmental education centre, both of which are equipped with a photovoltaic system. As a result, the location has been expanded to include a replacement building with a low grey energy requirement.

Waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg: hydropower, solar power and landfill gas

The **City of Augsburg's waste management and municipal cleaning service** gets electricity generated by hydropower from Stadtwerke Augsburg. In addition, the Holzweg and Unterer Talweg recycling and service points are equipped with photovoltaic systems that generate emission-free electricity. Since 2020, the service has also had a new landfill gas engine for generating electricity – the amount of electricity generated in the 2023 financial year was 745,735 kWh.

Municipal drainage company: wastewater heat utilisation, reduction of nitrous oxide emissions, photovoltaic system, etc.

As part of **wastewater heat recovery at the sewage treatment plant's effluent discharge point**, the energy potential of the effluent heat can support climate-friendly district heating generation. Thanks to the improvement of regulations using artificial intelligence (AI) and the repair and renewal of the plant components and concrete structures, **nitrous oxide emissions** can also be significantly reduced in the biological treatment stage. To this end, a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is being prepared as a basis for further planning of GHG reductions right through to low-carbon wastewater treatment. Once the project is complete, the biological treatment stage will be able to function as a GHG sink. The **use of flowable fill** obtained from suitable excavated material from sewer construction will significantly reduce GHG emissions in this sector. Older valves and access points in the structures have allowed sewage gas to escape to date, increasing the GHG footprint. The **sludge treatment facilities** will be gradually repaired and renewed, and weak points will be eliminated. By constructing a carbon management facility and a process water treatment plant, it will be possible to reduce the sewage treatment plant's GHG emissions by at least 75% through an improved

nutrient balance in the wastewater. The use of **AI in process control technology** will enable optimal and proactive control of the sewage treatment plant and sewer network for efficient operation of the biological and sludge treatments. Furthermore, regulating the sewer network will allow for adaptation to rainfall patterns and optimal utilisation of the sewer network and sewage treatment plant reserves.

In addition, the **municipal drainage company** has initiated the **construction of a PV array** installed above the aeration tank at Augsburg's sewage treatment plant. The plant generates a large part of the energy it uses itself in a climate-friendly manner using a **combined heat and power plant** and self-produced biogas. While the sewage treatment plant currently covers its own energy requirements, shortfalls in energy supply are possible, in which case the photovoltaic system will offset the energy use. During the day, the PV array will be able to cover almost the entire electrical energy requirement. This will leave the combined heat and power plant to cover the heat demand, thereby enabling the complete elimination of heating oil use.

Airport, conference centre, exhibition centre: energy efficiency in municipal holdings

Since 2023, Augsburg Airport's operator, **Augsburger Flughafen GmbH**, has been pushing ahead with the installation of photovoltaic modules, e.g. on the roofs of aircraft hangars. In 2024, a 300 kWp plant was successfully connected to the grid. The switch from conventional lighting to energy-efficient LEDs is currently underway – the lighting on the aprons, at the petrol station, in the hangars and in the administration offices and public areas is gradually being converted to energy-saving LEDs.

Thanks to energy-efficient renovation, the use of a hydrogen fuel cell for heat and power generation and a solar panel system installed on the roof, the City-owned **Kongress am Park** facility is climate-neutral and can be used for carbon-neutral meetings, known as "green meetings".

Since June 2024, the **Messe Augsburg** exhibition centre has been sourcing 100 per cent green electricity from EU hydropower. In autumn 2024, it installed around 2,500 photovoltaic modules on the 20,000 square metres of roof space covering halls 2, 4 and 5. The annual PV energy generated is approximately one million kilowatt hours (kWh). The solar yield accounts for around one third of Messe Augsburg's total electricity requirements. This is one of the largest and most powerful PV systems in the Augsburg city area.

Augsburg Zoo: photovoltaic system

Augsburg Zoo put a new **photovoltaic system** into operation in late 2024. It is located on the roof of the old service building, where it is not visible to visitors. It had already generated 2.4 MWh of electricity by the end of that year. The zoo has been committed to **electric mobility** for several years now: its electric fleet currently comprises a car, a wheel loader, a forklift truck and two small vans for transporting feed and materials around the zoo grounds. Further acquisitions are planned.

Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia: photovoltaics

The **Chamber of Skilled Trades (HWK) for Swabia** installed a **photovoltaic system** on the roof of its academy in Augsburg in 2024. It has a capacity of 68 kilowatt peak (kWp), almost all of which is used by the chamber. The chamber plans to add further solar panels at its Augsburg location. The topic of solar energy is also being prioritised at the two vocational training and technology centres (BTZ) in Memmingen and Kempten.

KUKA AG: photovoltaic systems and electric vehicles

KUKA AG is further developing its renewable on-site power generation and investing in **photovoltaic systems** at an increasing number of its locations worldwide. Its PV system in Augsburg with over 1,000 modules covering an area of 2,100 m² generates an annual energy output of 440,000 kWh. The company meets additional electricity needs in Augsburg by purchasing green electricity. The KUKA vehicle fleet worldwide will be converted to **electric vehicles** by 2030. By the end of 2024, the company had 170 charging points installed at its Augsburg site alone, 50 more than in the previous year.

GRANDEL: hydroelectric power

Since January 2021, **GRANDEL** has been using **electricity from 100% hydropower** generated by regional hydropower plants on the Lech, Wertach and Iller rivers. In addition to purchasing green electricity, GRANDEL has been generating electricity at its headquarters at the Pfladermühle water mill in Augsburg's old town using its own mill wheel since 1994. This covers around 60 per cent of daily requirements at its head office. The energy is fed into the public grid in the evenings and at night.

Everllence: large-scale heat pumps

Everllence offers **large-scale electric heat pumps** that operate efficiently and with low emissions, utilising various heat sources such as lakes, rivers, seas, wastewater, industrial waste heat, geothermal energy or ambient air to provide climate-friendly heating or cooling for district heating networks or industrial processes.



7.3 – Double the improvement in energy efficiency

Municipal heating plan

The **municipal heating plan** shows how the approximately 40,000 heated buildings in Augsburg could be supplied with largely climate-neutral heating. The goal is to achieve a climate-neutral heat supply by 2045 at the latest. The **heating energy use plan** published at the end of 2024 provided an update on the progress to date and answered a number of questions, including: how high is the demand for heating in Augsburg at present and what is it expected to be in the future? What renewable heat sources are available? Where is connection to a heating network realistic, and where will other, more decentralised solutions (e.g. heat pumps) be necessary? Which stakeholders and measures can contribute to the successful implementation of the heating plan in the coming years? The heating plan serves as a guide for the heat transition in Augsburg. It will be updated and further details will be added in the coming years.

City of Augsburg: Augsburg energy standard

To achieve the City's climate action goals, new buildings must be virtually "climate-neutral" and the structure of heat generation must be changed to renewable energy systems. In 2021, the City Council therefore adopted its own **standard for energy-efficient construction and renovation in the city of Augsburg (Augsburg energy standard)** covering municipal residential buildings (apartment buildings), multi-storey residential buildings in state-subsidised housing and non-residential buildings. The Augsburg energy standard exceeds the legal requirements of the German Building Energy Act (GEG) and is an important component of the City's climate action efforts.

Conversion of street lighting to energy-saving LED technology

The City plans to **convert its street lighting to energy-saving LED technology**. Smaller sections have already been upgraded or newly installed (Maximilianstraße, Ulmer Str., Bgm.-Ackermann-Str., Bgm.-Fischer-Straße, Osterfeldpark, Innovation Park, etc.). However, sodium vapour lamps are still mostly in use. In addition, the City is using **demand-based** public lighting to save energy, reduce light pollution and control traffic volume through half-night switching, reduced luminous flux, dimming, etc. The efficiency potential of the lighting technology currently in place has been fully exploited. The upcoming switch to low-energy technology requires significant upfront investment. The Department of Public Lighting and Traffic Engineering within the Mobility and Civil Engineering Office is currently working with manufacturers to develop a **model for assessing the economic efficiency of the switch**. The aim with the street lighting is to strike a balance between environmental, economic and social aspects as part of the requirement to provide night-time lighting. When it comes to artificial light in Augsburg, we operate on the principle of "as much as necessary, as little as possible".

Municipal energy consultation service and Energy Caravan

As part of its *municipal energy consultation service*, the City of Augsburg provides advice on energy saving, renewable energy and energy-efficient modernisation. The energy consultations are conducted by phone, on site or at a consultation location. Interactive energy saving checks provide a quick overview of energy consumption and potential savings. Energy advice for businesses is provided through the EnergiePLUS project. One specific offer designed for owners of detached and semi-detached houses is the *Energy Caravan*, an outreach energy advisory service funded by the City of Augsburg: since 2014, energy consultants have been going to designated neighbourhoods and offering homeowners there a free energy consultation directly at their property.

Energy advice from the municipal utilities provider

Stadtwerke Augsburg also offers its customers various forms of *energy advice* to help them optimise energy consumption and thereby minimise energy costs in the home. Customers can choose anything from quick phone or personal consultations through to comprehensive on-site analyses. Questions regarding the energy efficiency of new buildings or energy-efficient renovations can also be discussed.

2023 municipal energy report

The *2023 energy report* highlighted changes to heat, electricity and water consumption in municipal buildings compared to the reference year 1998. The savings amounted to 16% for heat, 11% for electricity and 19% for water, and have been achieved through consistent consumption monitoring. The consumption information is provided twice a year to the relevant bodies, who can then take quick action if necessary.

Augsburg Zoo: modern cold store

In mid-2024, *Augsburg Zoo* converted what had been the men's changing room into a *modern cold store* for fruit and vegetables. The improved insulation will bring energy savings of an estimated 30% compared with the previous cold store.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg: energy-efficient renovations and district heating connections

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg, the City's municipal housing company, achieved KfW efficiency class EH 55 during the *modernisation of the Hochzoll-Süd 2 residential complex*. A heat pump and a photovoltaic system were installed. The five buildings in the *Am Pfärrle residential complex* were renovated in accordance with the KfW EH 55 level and listed building regulations, connected to the district heating network and modernised in line with current standards for electrical and heating systems. In 2024, Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg was able to connect over 750 residential units to the district heating network; since 2019, it has connected a total of 1,116 residential units in 17 complexes. For many years, *Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg* has been continuously modernising *residential complexes* to make them more energy-efficient and thus more climate-friendly. Between 2019 and 2024, nine residential complexes with 836 units were modernised to improve their energy efficiency.

Everllence: dual-fuel marine engines

Everllence (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions) has developed *gas and dual-fuel engines for ship propulsion* in recent years that can be operated with synthetically produced and more climate-friendly fuels such as synthetic natural gas, methanol and ammonia. In 2023, Everllence delivered the world's largest methanol-powered two-stroke marine engine. At the same time, it established *production capabilities for synthetic fuels*. Its subsidiary Quest One offers integrated container solutions for hydrogen electrolysis.

Developments at local level



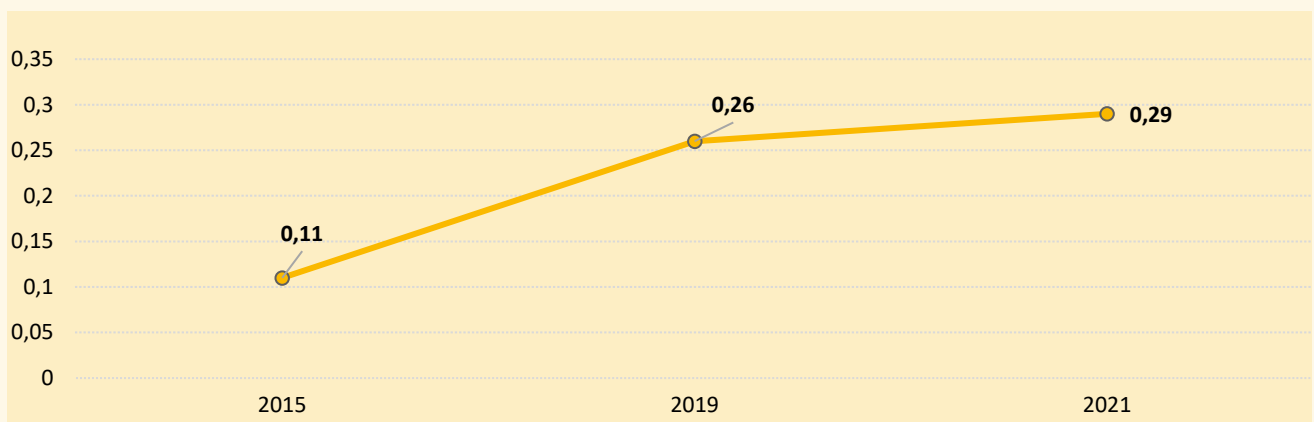
Electricity from renewable sources

2015	2019	2021
0.11	0.26	0.29

Installed net nominal capacity of renewable electricity from biomass, solar radiation energy, water and wind in kilowatts per person

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



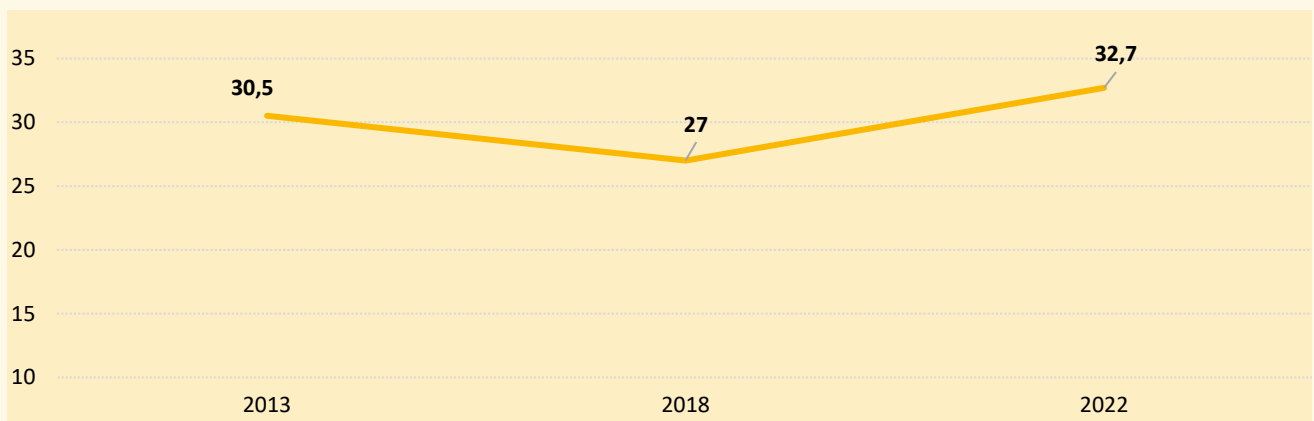
Completed residential buildings with renewable heating energy

2013	2018	2022
30.5	27.4	32.7

Percentage of newly constructed residential buildings with renewable heating energy out of all new constructions per year

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator





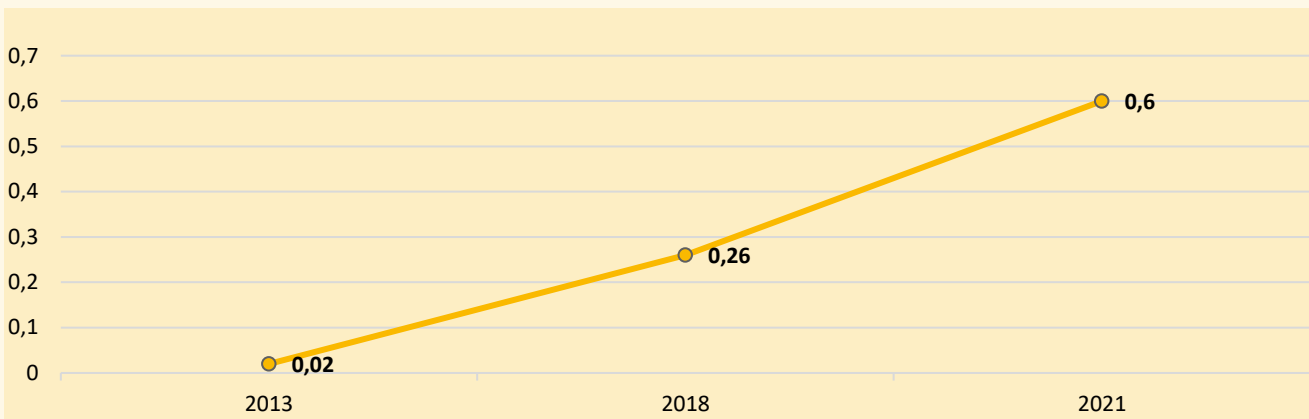
Charging infrastructure

2013	2018	2021
0.02	0.26	0.6

Number of publicly accessible standard and fast charging points from 3.7 kW per 1,000 inhabitants

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



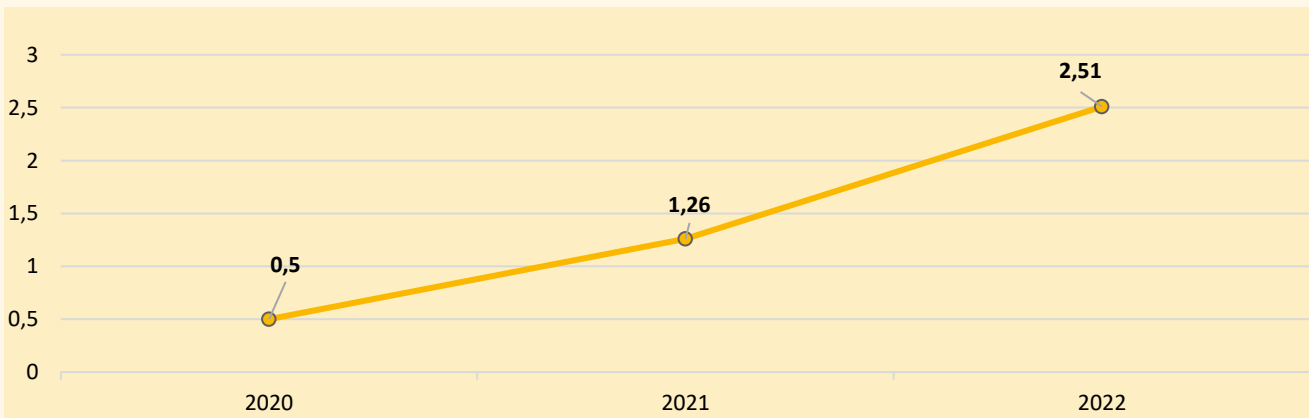
Electric cars

2020	2021	2022
0.50	1.26	2.51

Percentage of registered cars with electric drive out of all registered cars

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Outlook

The installed nominal capacity of all renewable generation facilities within the city area amounted to around 109 megawatts (gross) in 2023. Despite the progress made, dependence on fossil fuels remains high at present. The key challenge in the years ahead will be to gradually replace fossil fuels with renewable sources and significantly increase energy efficiency in existing buildings.

In particular, further district heating expansion, the construction of a biomass cogeneration plant and the growth of photovoltaics, especially in the private and commercial sectors, are expected to result in increased capacity in the coming years. The key targets in the local sustainability strategy are *Ö1.1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become climate-neutral*, *Ö3.3 Reduce energy demand and consumption* and *Ö3.4 Replace non-renewable energy with renewable energy sources*.

With its municipal heating plan, the City of Augsburg is laying the foundation for a climate-neutral heating supply by 2045. Together with the solar obligation for municipal buildings and the municipal solar subsidy programme for private investments, Augsburg is creating key instruments for managing and implementing the local energy transition. The heating energy use plan will be updated for this purpose. In addition, an electricity energy use plan will be drawn up, including a location strategy for ground-mounted solar installations.

Stadtwerke Augsburg is constructing a new biomass cogeneration plant and expanding its photovoltaic systems and use of hydroelectric power plants. The Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries is planning further renovation measures and new or additional facilities, as well as the installation of a power storage system for on-site use of the electricity produced.

Further solar installations are planned on the zoo grounds, e.g. in the new Himalayas complex.

The Forestry Department is promoting wind power in municipal forests outside the city limits (foundation forests). Discussions are underway with local authorities, community participation projects and wind power companies regarding the areas covered by all forest districts. The Forestry Department wants to contribute to the energy transition in this way and continue to financially support the foundations' work.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg is aiming to connect its entire housing stock to the district heating network as quickly as possible or to otherwise provide access to renewable energy.



Photovoltaic system at the Gymnasium bei St. Anna grammar school (source: Ruth Plössel)



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 are significantly hampering economic growth. While 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.²⁷ In the G20 area, growth slowed slightly 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).²⁸



National

With its social market economy, comprehensive employee rights 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 trillion in 2024, Germany is the world's third biggest economy after the US and China. However, the consequences of the global crises are being felt particularly strongly 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.²⁹ The Supply Chain Act (LkSG) 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.³⁰



Augsburg

Augsburg is one of Bavaria's most important business locations, with a focus on mechanical and plant engineering, robotics, AI and environmental technologies. At the same time, Augsburg is strongly shaped by its higher education institutions. In 2023, gross domestic product per capita stood at €50,828, slightly below the Bavarian average. The employment rate among 15- to 64-year-olds has risen steadily in recent years – from 55.4 per cent in 2014 to 62.6 per cent in 2023. The labour force participation rate among 55- to 64-year-olds in particular has improved (2014: 46.5 per cent, 2023: 56.7 per cent). The long-term unemployment rate stood at 1.9 per cent in 2023, slightly above the Bavarian average.

The effects of global crises, energy price developments and structural change in the labour market are also being felt in Augsburg. The City is therefore aiming to ensure the competitiveness of the economic region and to future-proof the jobs there.



Waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg (source: Ruth Plössel)

Relevant SDG 8 targets for German municipalities include

- Sustain economic growth
- Achieve higher levels of productivity
- Improve resource efficiency
- Achieve full and productive employment, decent work and equal pay
- Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



8.3 – Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises

Digitales Zentrum Schwaben: mentoring, coaching and networking

With its networking platform, *Digitales Zentrum Schwaben* (DZ.S) is a competence centre and central information point for knowledge transfer and the implementation of new products and business models in the field of digitalisation. It makes an important contribution to strengthening the local and regional economy. Its services include support, mentoring and coaching, as well as attracting start-ups with business models in the area of digitalisation. Among other things, it supports the development of business models and fundraising (securing funding and investors). The *networking activities* have resulted in recent years in the development of an ecosystem for start-ups and established companies comprising around 200 member and partner companies and research institutions. In 2024, the new *digital start-up centre* was launched as a unique location for initiating, supporting, networking and attracting start-ups, with 50 offices, a spacious co-working area and meeting, collaboration and event spaces. DZ.S also acts as an “*exist*” *start-up network* for Augsburg's universities, supporting students, graduates and researchers interested in starting their own businesses through spin-offs. Sustainability criteria must be met within the funded projects. *NOW2NEXT* is a free, intensive, six-month accelerator programme from DZ.S for start-ups with a digital business model in the early stages of the start-up process. It provides mentoring to start-ups during these phases and helps them to optimise both their business model and offering, guiding them to a successful market launch. The *HerVenture* programme run in collaboration with the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg promotes a culture of entrepreneurship specifically among women.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg: regional companies

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg attaches great importance to strengthening Augsburg's economy and deliberately chooses *service providers from the region*, to the extent permitted by law.

Funding programme advice and screening

Business, science and research must be closely networked to drive the dynamic development of a location. This networking requires platforms that facilitate information exchange, the development of knowledge and forward-looking collaborations. The City of Augsburg therefore offers *funding programme advice and screening*, which involves screening and targeted communication of relevant funding programmes.

Transfer of expertise between the City and young entrepreneurs

An annual *transfer of expertise* takes place *between the City of Augsburg and the Wirtschaftsjuvenen Augsburg e.V. association for young entrepreneurs in Augsburg*. Young leaders from the regional business community work alongside City of Augsburg representatives in this. This exchange plays a key role in ensuring that politics and business not only coexist, but actively collaborate to shape the city's successful future.

Business succession information

Since 2022, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK), the Chamber of Skilled Trades (HWK) and the City of Augsburg's Economic Development Department have joined forces to further promote and support successful *business succession*. The "Life's Work in Good Hands" event is aimed at both current owners and successors, while the smaller, regular "Be your Boss" event series is primarily targeted at potential successors.

Fostering an entrepreneurial spirit in schools

Various supports are also explicitly targeted at the next generation of entrepreneurs. For example, partnerships with DZ.S and STARTUP TEENS are intended to foster an *entrepreneurial spirit in schools*. One measure is the annual

collaborative brainstorming workshop for school pupils. Furthermore, the Economic Development Department supports formats such as the Five-euro and Swabian business plan competitions. Founders using crowdfunding are also supported with up to €2,000 per campaign.

UTG business incubator for environmental and technology enterprises

The *UTG business incubator for environmental and technology enterprises* provides young companies and start-ups with offices, workshops, production areas and event rooms. The starter package also includes free services such as support in drawing up business plans and establishing contacts with industry partners and universities. In addition to regular exchanges within the organisation and in the regional start-up environment, external partners also enrich the UTG network.

Support for start-up companies at the Augsburg Technology Centre

The Augsburg Technology Centre, the heart of the Augsburg Innovation Park, also provides targeted *support for start-up companies* (through mentoring and suitable space). It brings together small and medium-sized enterprises, global market leaders, start-ups and researchers.

Augsburg Alliance for Jobs

Leading representatives of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), IG Metall, the Employment Agency, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Chamber of Skilled Trades, the Bavarian Industry Association (vbw) and the City of Augsburg meet regularly in the *Augsburg Alliance for Jobs* to discuss labour market developments and crisis situations. When sites are closed and job cuts are planned, the aim is to mitigate the impact of redundancies as much as possible, for example through training opportunities and job exchanges. During the closure of the Fujitsu plant in Augsburg, funding from the Free State of Bavaria was secured for a new AI Production Network. In 2024, the Augsburg Alliance for Jobs took a stand against right-wing extremism and presented open-mindedness, tolerance and international cooperation as factors crucial to Augsburg's success and appeal as a business location.

"Augsburg starts up!" initiative

As a cooperation between the most important institutions involved with start-ups in the A³ economic region, the *"Augsburg starts up!" initiative* has a lot to offer local start-ups – from the delivery of modern infrastructure, the transfer of expertise and provision of individual advice to the organisation of numerous networking events. The offerings are relevant to a wide range of industries. In addition to the City of Augsburg's Economic Development Department, the initiative includes the two start-up centres Digitales Zentrum Schwaben (DZ.S) and UTG, the Swabian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia, the University of Augsburg, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg, the Employment Agency and the Counties of Augsburg and Aichach-Friedberg. One highlight since 2017 has been the annual *"Augsburg starts up!" entrepreneurship and start-up event* with its competition for ideas. This creates opportunities for future entrepreneurs to connect, generates momentum, fosters the entrepreneurial spirit in the region and thus safeguards the Augsburg economic region's innovative strength. A *start-up picnic* has also been held once a month since 2019, offering networking and information opportunities for young start-ups and others interested in starting a business. The aspiring entrepreneurs can connect here and exchange insights and practical advice on the daily challenges of running a start-up. A digital *start-up map* provides a one-stop hub for news, support structures, events and the regional start-up scene itself.

Chamber of Industry and Commerce: business start-ups

The *Chamber of Industry and Commerce* is the point of contact for business start-up and succession planning. It organises start-up workshops and supports companies with financing and funding advice.

SDG 8.5 – Full employment and decent work with equal pay

Augsburg city administration: online part-time job exchange

An **online part-time job exchange** has been in place since 2018 to help employees find job-sharing partners for current job vacancies or to plan ahead for part-time work. It is coordinated by the City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office.

Equal Pay Day campaign

The Equal Opportunities Office has been organising the **Equal Pay Day campaign** for many years. This draws attention to the gender pay gap, which is also linked to the unequal distribution of care work and is another reason why women are at high risk of poverty in old age.

City administration: participation in job fairs for women/increase in the proportion of severely disabled employees

The Human Resources Department has been involved in the herCareer **job fair for women** in Munich since 2023. It also participates in other events, such as Kolping's event coaching in Augsburg, which aims to support women in their professional reintegration. In addition, the **proportion of severely disabled persons** employed by the City of Augsburg is steadily **increasing**.

Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia: advice for foreign skilled workers

Integrating skilled workers from other countries into the local education and labour market plays an important role in ensuring a skilled workforce. Advisors at the **Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia** support trainees, tradespeople and businesses with recognition of foreign professional qualifications, information about funding programmes, intercultural awareness and placement in the skilled trades.

Diakonie HandwerksBetriebe Augsburg (Future Prize 2024)

Diakonie HandwerksBetriebe Augsburg (DHB) is a craft and service company that has been promoting the integration and employment of people with placement barriers since 1985. Inclusion is put into practice through cooperation between employees with and without disabilities in areas such as gardening and landscaping, carpentry and caretaker services. Since 2023, DHB has also been offering care sector training to support disadvantaged or long-term unemployed young people and adults as well as people with disabilities.

A³ return-to-work network

In the context of women and careers/further education, the Equal Opportunities Office (alongside other municipal departments, e.g. the Education Advisory Department) participates in the **A³ return-to-work network**, which, among other things, runs a platform with related offerings.

Equal Pay Day Alliance

The **Equal Pay Day Alliance** provides information on Equal Pay Day and highlights areas for action and shared priorities. Participants include DGB, ver.di, IG Metall, the City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office, SPD Women, Green Women, CSU Women's Union, Kolping, KAB and others.

Developments at local level



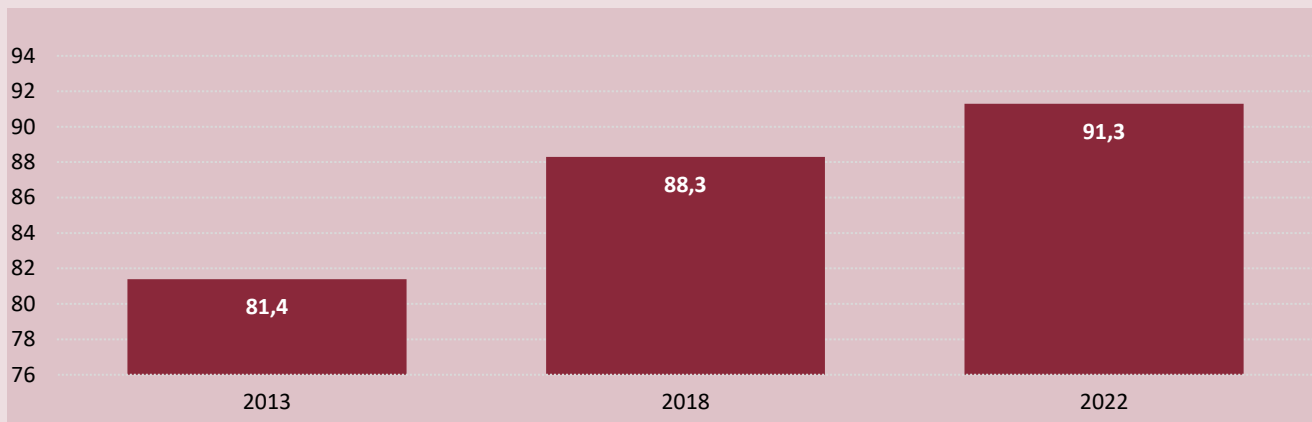
Employment rate – foreign nationals

2013	2018	2022
81.4	88.3	91.3

Ratio of the employment rate of foreign nationals to the employment rate of the total population in per cent

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



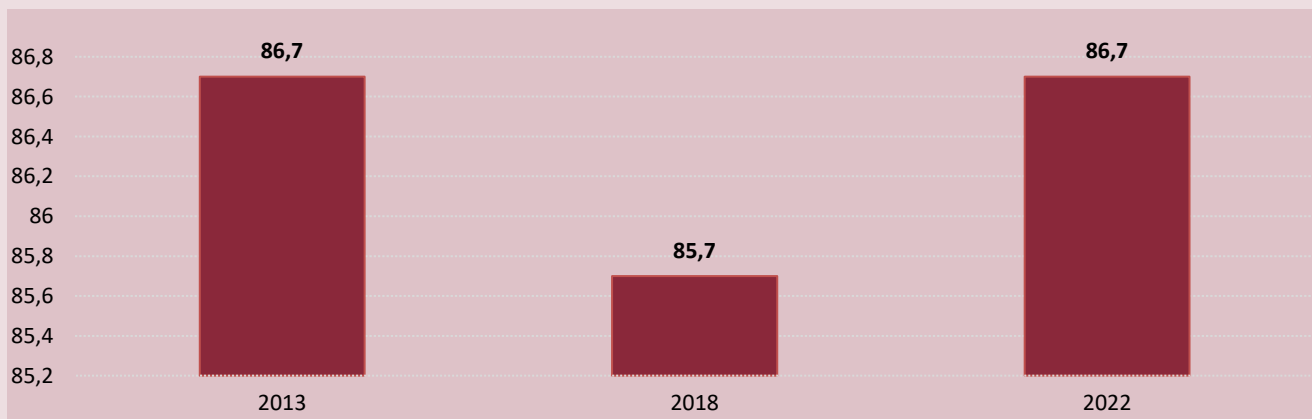
Women in employment (as % of male employment rate)

2013	2018	2022
86.7	85.7	86.7

Women's employment rate as a percentage of men's employment rate

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator





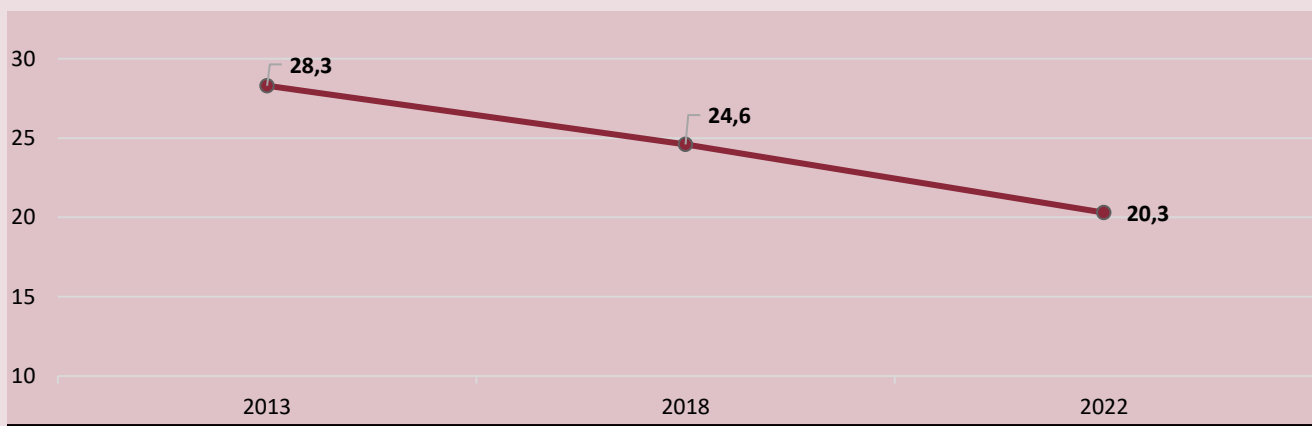
Employed and receiving benefits

2013	2018	2022
28.3	24.6	20.3

Share of benefit recipients in employment as a percentage of all employable benefit recipients

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



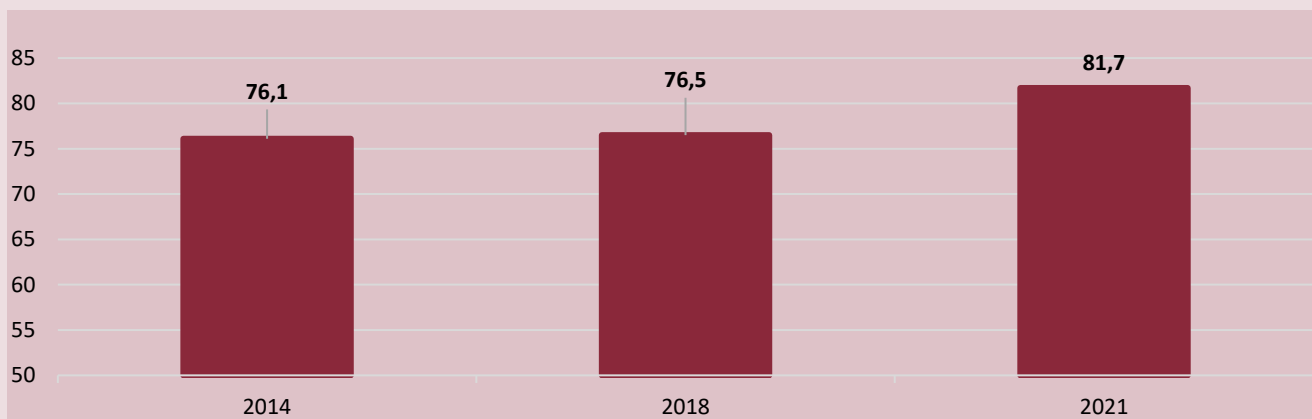
Earnings gap between women and men

2014	2018	2021
76.1	76.5	81.7

Median income of female employees as a percentage of the median income of male employees

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator





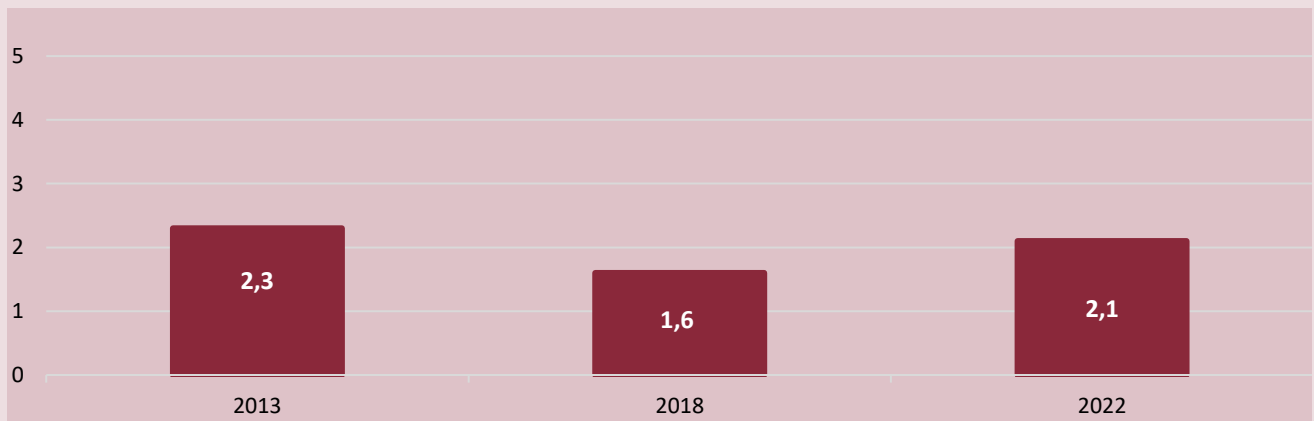
Long-term unemployment rate

2013	2018	2022
2.3	1.6	2.1

Percentage of long-term unemployed persons in the total labour force

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



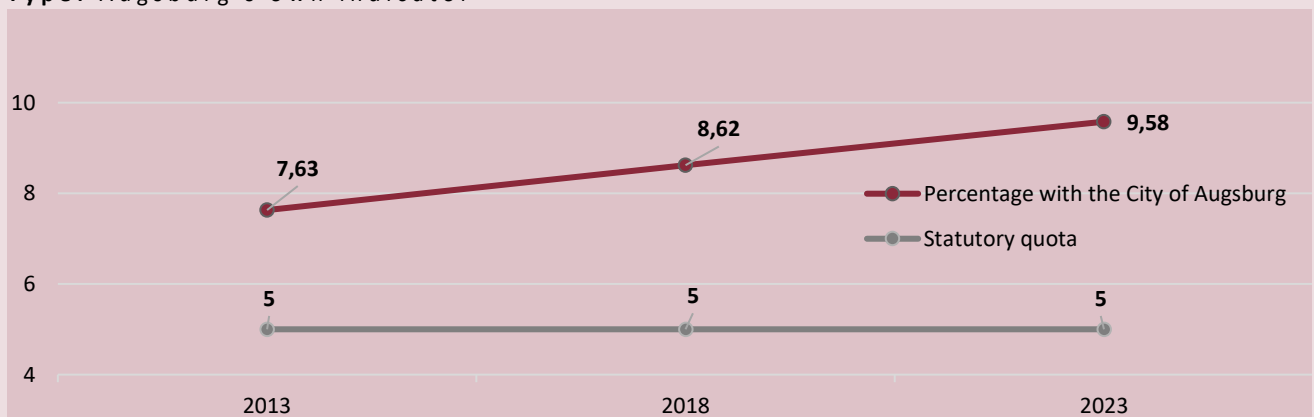
Employees with disabilities

2013	2018	2023
7.63	8.62	9.58

Proportion of employees of the City of Augsburg with a recognised degree of disability of 50 per cent or equivalent

Source: City of Augsburg Human Resources Department

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

The following targets within the Future Guidelines for Augsburg set the direction: *Foster knowledge transfer and innovation capacity for transformation (W1.3), Develop future-oriented areas of expertise (W1.4), Produce responsibly (W3.1), Create fair working, income and development opportunities (W2.1), Prevent discrimination and remove barriers (S4.1) and Strengthen local and regional economic actors (W4.4).*

Close cooperation between industry, the universities and the city administration is actively shaping economic change in Augsburg, particularly in the areas of digitalisation and environmental technology. Digitales Zentrum Schwaben, "Augsburg starts up!", the Augsburg Technology Centre and other initiatives are strengthening entrepreneurship, the start-up spirit and the transfer of expertise. Networks such as the Augsburg Alliance for Jobs and programmes for integrating skilled workers are promoting employment and social participation.

In the coming years, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular will face challenges due to the shortage of skilled workers, rising energy and raw material prices and the transition to climate-neutral and digital production processes. They will require targeted support to upskill their employees and in innovation and investment. Fair working conditions, wage equality and equal participation for all in the labour market also remain key areas for action. By combining the competitiveness of the regional economy with social responsibility and sustainability, the aim is to create decent work opportunities and long-term growth at local level.

The retail development plan, including the city centre plan, is currently being updated, and Augsburg's city market is undergoing renovation. When concluding new framework agreements, the Central Procurement Department takes into consideration the sustainability efforts of contractual partners. *Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH* as well as the *Economy for the Common Good regional group* and Corporate responsibility work group Agenda forums promote sustainable business practices through networking and continuing education.



9 INDUSTRIE, INNOVATION UND INFRASTRUKTUR



SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Background



Global

Since 2015, global progress has been made in expanding infrastructure, fostering industrial growth and boosting innovation. Global manufacturing value added per capita rose by 17.3 per cent between 2015 and 2024. Digital infrastructure is growing, with 51 per cent of the world's population having 5G coverage in 2024. However, stark regional disparities persist, and many countries in the Global South still face systemic barriers to sustainable industrialisation. Emissions trends also remain a concern. Carbon emissions from energy and industry reached a record high of 37.6 billion tonnes in 2024, which is 8.3 per cent above the 2015 level.³¹



National

With its strong industrial and research base, high investment in research and development, and closely integrated science and economic systems, Germany is very well positioned in international comparison. In the Global Innovation Index, Germany ranked ninth among the most innovative countries in 2024, thanks in no small part to technologies in the fields of environmental protection and renewable energy.³² At the same time, there is a significant backlog of investment and modernisation in public infrastructure and the decarbonisation of the economy. A large part of the bridge, road and rail infrastructure will have to be renewed in the coming years. Studies estimate that the government will need to invest around €600 billion to prepare Germany for the future.³³



Augsburg

Augsburg has a growing innovation and research landscape, supported by its higher education institutions, university hospital and innovation park. This is also reflected in the key indicators. The number of start-ups has remained stable for years, above the Bavarian average, underscoring the dynamism of the regional start-up scene. The proportion of highly qualified employees in Augsburg has also been rising for years, from 15.5 per cent in 2014 to 22.2 per cent in 2023, highlighting the importance of research for regional value creation. Augsburg is also above the Bavarian average in digital infrastructure expansion, with around 97 per cent of private households having broadband coverage in 2023.

The Innovation Park, covering an area of 70 hectares in Augsburg's university district, is one of the largest of its kind in Europe and has been established to strengthen synergies between research, development and production. Companies and research institutions are working together here on projects in Industry 4.0, lightweight construction and fibre composites, mechatronics and automation, IT and embedded systems, environmental technology and aerospace. In doing so, they are contributing to the long-term development of an internationally recognised centre for resource efficiency.

In IW Consult's 2024 ranking of German cities, Augsburg ranked 33rd in sustainability and 27th overall among the 72 cities surveyed.

Relevant SDG 9 targets for German municipalities include

- Develop sustainable infrastructure
- Upgrade existing infrastructure
- Strengthen research, development and innovation
- Expand access to information and communications technology

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



9.1 – Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures

Capital contributions to municipal infrastructure investments linked to economic activity

The City of Augsburg provides ongoing *capital contributions to municipal infrastructure investments linked to economic activity*, including Messe Augsburg, the Augsburg Innovationspark company with the Augsburg Technology Centre, the airport company, Regio Augsburg Tourismus, Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft, Augsburger Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund and IT-Gründerzentrum. In doing so, it fulfils its public-law mandate to provide general economic development services: promoting the accessibility of the city, the establishment of businesses and new start-ups, trade and industry, innovation and the labour market.



9.5 – Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies

A³ Innovation Hub/Augsburg Technology Transfer Congress

The Augsburg economic area – the A³ region – is characterised by a high density of actors supporting innovation from scientific and applied research institutions, clusters and networks, as well as technology consultants and business development agencies. These players function as an intelligent regional innovation system within the **A³ Innovation Hub** established in 2023. Companies based in Augsburg benefit greatly from this. Overall, the various local and regional stakeholders provide a coordinated range of innovation consultancy and support services for companies. The **Augsburg Technology Transfer Congress** has also established itself as a regional platform and meeting place since 2012. Every year, the event attracts over 300 participants from research and industry and from far beyond Bavarian Swabia. It offers companies a broad portfolio of cooperation opportunities to encourage them to collaborate with universities and research institutions.

Promoting sustainability research at the AUGSBURG Innovation Park

Sustainability research is specifically promoted within the **AUGSBURG Innovation Park**. This encompasses two key aspects: 1. **Support (in the form of services and space) for projects and companies** conducting research activities for products and services that have a positive sustainability impact (e.g. lightweight construction, wear protection) and 2. **Support for the establishment of research facilities** in the AUGSBURG Innovation Park.

New areas of economic development expertise

One example of the future-oriented development of areas of expertise is the **addition of the "hydrogen technology" area of expertise to the areas already covered by the AUGSBURG Innovation Park**. Since 2021, the regional development of hydrogen technology has been co-initiated and promoted at the Augsburg Technology Centre as an essential element of the energy transition.

The City of Augsburg's Economic Development Department has identified **artificial intelligence as a new area of expertise** for Augsburg as a production location. Artificial intelligence methods offer enormous potential to usher industrial production into a new era. The opportunities and possibilities range from making production more flexible and increasing resource and energy efficiency to developing new business models. All of Augsburg's areas of expertise (mechatronics and automation, fibre composites, information and communications technology and environmental technology) share a focus on resource efficiency. Within this framework, all areas are designed to support long-term, sustainable business activity.

Future Week Augsburg and Rocketeer Festival

Future Week Augsburg is an event organised by the Augsburger Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper and the City of Augsburg. It has been running since 2023. The event aims to increase the city's dynamism as a place of innovation and business and enhance its visibility. It is a platform for companies, start-ups and economic stakeholders to exchange ideas, present new technologies and discuss sustainable solutions. Through workshops, presentations and networking events, Future Week highlights creative approaches to overcoming current challenges and promotes sustainable, future-oriented development. The highlight of Future Week is the **Rocketeer Festival** – a conference for digital innovations and future trends. The City of Augsburg is represented there with its own stand and stage.

sparkscon

sparkscon is a digital and innovation conference that has been held annually in Augsburg since 2022. The event brings together people from various industries to discuss innovation, creativity, digitalisation and more. The focus here is on promoting visibility, knowledge transfer and networking. As co-organiser, the City of Augsburg is actively supporting the city's further development as a place of innovation by providing a platform that focuses on transformation issues. Participants can develop creative solutions together and draw fresh inspiration for the future through presentations, workshops and interactive sessions. The aim is to strengthen the region's innovative power and promote exchange between stakeholders from business, research and the creative industries.

Hackerkiste Augsburg, Forum for Innovative IT Security and Make.IT.Regional

Several initiatives promoting knowledge transfer and innovation through digitalisation have been launched in Augsburg in recent years. **Hackerkiste Augsburg** (established in 2017) is an interactive digital conference and knowledge platform with presentations, barcamp sessions and an intensive exchange on digitalisation, innovation and future trends. Hackathons also give the participants an opportunity to work together on innovative concepts and solutions. The **AUXINNOS Forum for Innovative Security** aims to raise awareness and understanding of IT security through dialogue with industry and research experts. It is organised by the Institute for Innovative Safety and Security (THA_innos) founded in 2017 at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg, Digitales Zentrum Schwaben (DZ.S) and the aitiRaum e. V. industry network. The expert presentations create a space where cooperation and joint learning on safety and security are the main focus. Regional IT companies from the Augsburg economic area have been presenting their key work and project priorities to students at Augsburg's universities through entertaining tech talks at **Make.IT.Regional** since 2019.

AI Production Network

Since 2022, the **AI Production Network** has been working to promote the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in industry. The City of Augsburg acts as the coordinator of the AI steering committee. Among other things, the network brings together research institutions and companies to develop innovative solutions and strengthen knowledge transfer.

Joint projects and interdisciplinary collaboration are intended to improve the competitiveness of industry and promote long-term economic viability through the use of AI technologies. The network also supports the development of new business models and processes.

Hydrogen: Advisory Board, innovation region, regional future conference and Coordination Office

The **Hydrogen Advisory Board** has been initiating, promoting and coordinating all matters relating to hydrogen as the hydrogen network in the Augsburg A³ economic area since 2021. The interdisciplinary group from various institutions is supported by experts and meets monthly. It is driving the region's development as an **innovative hydrogen hub** and supporting companies in the implementation of projects. A **regional hydrogen future conference** is also held once a year. The **A³ Hydrogen Coordination Office** was established in 2023 within the framework of the A³ region. It provides information on all regional activities relating to hydrogen.

Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia: innovation and technology advice centres

The **innovation and technology advice centres** of the **Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia** promote the innovative capacity of skilled trades businesses, offer initial advice on technical developments and provide guidance on innovative energy technologies, digitalisation, IT security, sustainable business management and other topics. With its **Sustainable BusinessFuture** advisory service, the Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia analyses all relevant future issues for skilled trades businesses – market developments, environmental protection, internal employee situation, integration into the region – and develops an individual sustainability strategy for the business.

Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg: HSA_transfer

As part of the **HSA_transfer** project at the **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg**, stakeholders from the then "Hochschule Augsburg" (HSA) university with their diverse specialist and practical expertise worked together with stakeholders from society and business, totalling over 200 people, to develop around 100 transfer projects with social added value. The City of Augsburg's Office for Sustainability, Local Agenda forums and members of the university, as experts in sustainable development, created a network comprising the university, city administration and civil society that has continued to operate beyond the project duration of 2018 to 2022. As part of this, sustainability has been organisationally anchored at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg (THA).

University of Augsburg: research profile and practical applications

All faculties at the **University of Augsburg** and its interdisciplinary centres conduct research and teach on the topic of sustainability. The university has a proven and unique **research profile** in Bavaria, particularly in **climate action**, **environmental and resource research** and **environmental health research**, but also in areas such as **peace and conflict research**. For example, around 900 of the total 3,400 publications released by the university between 2021 and 2023 had a specific sustainability focus and addressed one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to a theoretical focus on sustainability, many of the research projects are characterised by **practical applications**. These are conducted in cooperation with industry, government and, in particular, the City of Augsburg in areas such as sustainable resource efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable urban planning that considers environmental health impact, sustainability management and reporting in companies, environmental law and environmental ethics. In addition, the university participates in practical and exchange networks such as the KUMAS centre for environmental expertise and the Umweltcluster Bayern environmental technology cluster in Bavaria. It is also involved in the City of Augsburg's Sustainability Advisory Board. Research and further education in the form of knowledge transfer in cooperation with schools and other educational institutions is also a central component of the work in the field of education for sustainable development (e.g. living labs, children's universities, teacher training, etc.).



9.c – Universal access to information and communications technology

Augsburg.one: open-access, resource-efficient digital applications

Augsburg.one, part of Transition Town Augsburg and the Local Agenda 21 – Augsburg Network for Sustainability, is an inclusive citizens' network for sustainable digitalisation and digital self-determination. Instead of becoming dependent on paid software, Augsburg.one relies on participation: together, members test, operate and use **free, resource-efficient solutions** for digital collaboration, such as word processing and spreadsheets, video conferencing and cloud storage. Augsburg.one is contributing to digital public services. In addition, the participants are giving **used hardware** a second life by donating it to those in need.

Developments at local level



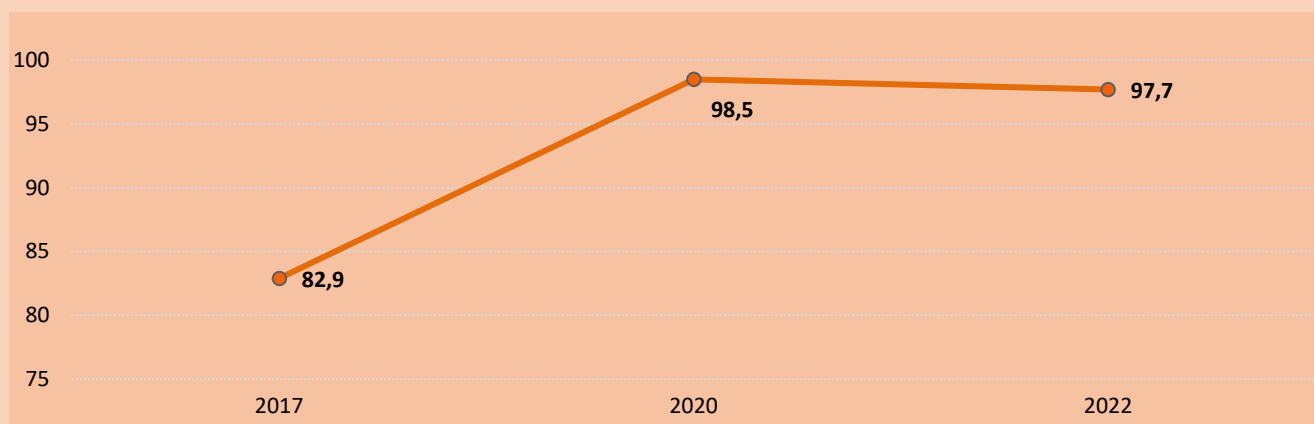
Broadband coverage – private households

2017	2020	2022
82.9	98.5	97.7

Percentage of households with broadband (≥ 100 Mbit/s)

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Outlook

To ensure economic sustainability, Augsburg wants to *Foster knowledge transfer and innovation capacity for transformation (W1.3)* and *Develop future-oriented areas of expertise (W1.4)*. The focus of the targets here is to *Adapt the city to climate change (Ö1.3)* and *Ensure disaster preparedness (S3.1)* as well as *Improve energy and material efficiency (Ö3)* and *Promote digital skills and expand offerings (S2.5)*.

Augsburg has a growing network of academic, business and local government representatives that specifically links research and innovation. The Augsburg Innovation Park is one of the largest technology and research locations in southern Germany and a place where companies and research institutions work together on solutions for resource-efficient, climate-friendly and digitally networked production. Hydrogen technology, artificial intelligence and sustainability research are all areas of expertise that are opening up new perspectives for industrial transformation. The high density of formats for practical application, from the Technology Transfer Congress and A³ Innovation Hub to sparkscon, promotes cooperation and knowledge transfer and enhances Augsburg's visibility. The construction of the new container terminal at the freight transport centre will play a key role in boosting climate-friendly freight transfers between rail and road.



Technology Centre at the Innovation Park (source: Ruth Plössel)



10
 WENIGER
 UNGLEICHHEITEN

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Background



Global

Around the world, opportunities for participation depend heavily on age, gender, origin, disability and economic status. Differences are evident in access to education, health and employment, as well as in political and social participation. Despite progress, labour's share of global GDP is stagnating, while at the same time experiences of discrimination are on the rise. Women, people with disabilities and low-income households are particularly affected by this. The number of refugees from their countries of origin rose to a record high of 37.8 million in 2024. Global wealth remains particularly unequal: the richest one per cent of the world's population owns approximately 44.5 per cent of global wealth.³⁴



National

With the principle of equality enshrined in its constitution and with the General Act on Equal Treatment (AGG) and a comprehensive social security system, Germany has instruments at its disposal to mitigate social inequalities. Nevertheless, social and economic inequalities persist in Germany as well. Wealth inequality in particular is currently at a very high level. The richest one per cent of the population owns approximately 29 per cent of overall wealth, while the richest ten per cent accounts for around 67 per cent of overall wealth.³⁵ Differences are also evident in educational opportunities, access to housing and the risk of poverty. Single parents, people without vocational qualifications and immigrant groups are particularly affected by this. Instances of precarious working conditions and atypical employment have been on the rise in Germany for a number of years. The German Sustainable Development Strategy therefore emphasises the advancement of equal opportunities, the fight against discrimination and the promotion of social cohesion.³⁶



Augsburg

Large social and economic disparities can weaken social cohesion. Reducing such inequalities strengthens participation, trust and equal opportunities. Augsburg sees itself as a diverse, cosmopolitan city. People from 165 nations live here, and over half of the city's population has a migrant background.

The employment rate among foreign nationals has improved steadily since 2014 (82.6 per cent) and, at 92.5 per cent (2023), is now on a par with the Bavarian average. The number of naturalisations is also increasing, with 1.5 per cent of the city's foreign population obtaining German citizenship in 2023. In education, the school dropout rate among foreign pupils is below the Bavarian average (310 per cent), but at 197 per cent it is almost twice as high as that of the German comparison group.

The City of Augsburg implements a broad package of measures designed to promote participation. One key digital tool is the Integreat app, which has now been adopted in over 110 German cities and recorded around 330,000 visits in Augsburg in 2023. In addition, the Integration Advisory Board is an elected body that unites the interests of the

city's diverse communities and develops policy and administration ideas. High-profile campaigns such as "We are all Augsburg" and the "Respect! Augsburg Lives Diversity" series of events send a clear message against discrimination and racism and create spaces for interaction, dialogue and intercultural exchange.

Relevant SDG 10 targets for German municipalities include

- Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion
- Ensure equal opportunities
- Adopt policies that promote social equality
- Facilitate safe, regular and responsible migration

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



10.2 – Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion

Expansion of parenting support and family counselling services through outreach work

In 2021 and 2022, several resolutions aimed at promoting the development of social skills were passed in Augsburg. For example, a **support strategy for children, adolescents and young adults in the city of Augsburg for the expansion of parenting support and family counselling services through outreach work** was adopted. This includes expanding related outreach services in line with the funding opportunities offered by the Bavarian State Government in order to improve accessibility and thus increase the reach of counselling services. Outreach parenting support and family counselling is intended to make the specific services offered by institutions in this area accessible to families as early as possible, directly and in a citizen-friendly manner. Special attention is paid to those target groups that are of particular importance from a prevention perspective (e.g. especially disadvantaged families with multiple and complex problems). The counselling centres tailor their accessible services to the needs of families in the local community. Contact with families as part of this outreach counselling is organised through established structures such as family support centres.

Inclusion action plan

To implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the City Council adopted an **inclusion action plan** for the City of Augsburg in 2019. This was made available in a full version and in a combined short version written in everyday, easy-to-read language. The special feature of the action plan is its perspective: it highlights the different life situations of people with disabilities in five age groups (conception to three years, three to six years, seven to 21 years, 21 to 45 years, 45 years and older) in combination with six thematic areas (health, mobility, housing and living, education and learning, work and employment, and culture and leisure). It considers the needs in each context and describes the current situation and requirements in Augsburg. The action plan contains proposals for action that have been developed by the groups involved (people with and without disabilities, experts and work groups in the advisory boards for inclusion, senior citizens and people with disabilities as well as municipal departments) and 41 measures.

"Respect! Augsburg Lives Diversity" event series

Since 2021, the Office for Social Integration has been organising the "**Respect! Augsburg Lives Diversity**" event series around migration and diversity in cooperation with Augsburg City Library. The series places a strong focus on the diversity dimension of "ethnic origin and nationality". In addition to readings by renowned authors who have published recent works on the subject, there is a Living Library format and film evenings.

Overall plan for child and youth welfare: youth sub-plan

The **overall plan for child and youth welfare** was commissioned by the Youth Welfare Committee in 2021 in accordance with the statutory mandate for youth welfare planning under Section 80 of Book VIII of the German Social Code (SGB VIII). The current status and needs of child and youth welfare facilities and services in Augsburg will be identified in three sequential and interrelated sub-plans developed through broad-based participatory processes. Courses of action for the further needs-based development of the services on offer will also be recommended. The **youth sub-plan** has already been drawn up and its recommendations for action were adopted in 2024. The **parenting support and child protection sub-plan** is currently being developed, and the **family sub-plan** will follow after that.

Progress report on migration, displacement and integration

The first **progress report on migration, displacement and integration** from 2020 aligned with the traditional areas of action for promoting integration at local level, as shaped by previous funding programmes – including education and language, work, participation and intercultural openness. The report currently being prepared, entitled "A future through integration: a guide to integration for municipalities", focuses instead on key issues and social objectives. "Shaping the arrival experience", "enabling participation", "living diversity", "strengthening cohesion" and other topics reflect the actual realities of immigrants' lives and show that integration is a cross-cutting issue. This change in perspective turns the report into a management and communication tool – transforming what had been simply an obligatory document into a dynamic format for this diverse city.

Integration action plan

The **integration plan**, which has been in place since 2020, is continuously updated as an "evolving concept". The plan initially focused on five key areas of action: education and language; training, the labour market and the economy; promoting social and political participation; promoting cultural participation; and fostering intercultural openness within the city administration. Since 2020, three further areas of action have been added to the plan in participatory processes: housing, health and sport. The plan therefore now comprises eight areas of action in which specific needs have been identified in collaboration with the local community and the administration. The **integration action plan** published in July 2025 documents these needs, highlights how concrete efforts have been made over the past five years to meet them and sets out what has been achieved.

Migration and integration coordination papers

Augsburg's migration and integration landscape is colourful and diverse. The four **coordination papers** (responsibilities; projects and contact points; networks; associations and alliances) published by the Office for Social Integration deliver a well-organised summary of information, contact persons, etc. in the areas of **migration, integration and displacement** in Augsburg. These "Migration Yellow Pages" therefore serve as a comprehensive "Who's Who" in the field of migration and integration.

"The Inclusive We in Augsburg" (DIWA) project

The "**The Inclusive We in Augsburg (DIWA)**" project has been running in Augsburg since 2020. A resilient democratic urban society has to have a sense of an inclusive "we". It needs to know that migration and integration were and are natural processes that have strengthened the local community and actively shaped it, and will continue to do so in the future. Migration is not exceptional, but rather, historically speaking, an integral part of development and progress. The aim of the DIWA project is to create sustainable structures for such a narrative with 14 very different sub-

projects. Their titles include "Equal participation in the right to information and exchange", "Making social participation visible – diversity! Fairness! Reflect it!" and "Social participation takes time – intergenerational migration dialogues about arriving and staying".

With DIWA 4.0, the project consortium led by the Office for Social Integration has succeeded in convincing the EU of the submitted concept for a fifth time in a row. The City of Augsburg's Communications Department is a project partner of DIWA 4.0. The aim is to further promote equal participation and the right to information and exchange in the digital sphere. One area of particular attention is on the City's online portal, augsburg.de, which receives almost 14,000 visits per day. The sub-projects focus on incorporating **easy-to-read language on augsburg.de** and offering the most important information in a separate special section with easy-to-read language. Further milestones for augsburg.de include **multilingualism, sign language, explanatory videos** and the integration of the Integreat app.

Peace Office: diversity-sensitive communication

The **Peace Office** emphasises integration in its communications. For example, it uses **diversity-sensitive language** to include gender identities that go beyond the male/female binary (e.g. transsexuality and intersexuality) in linguistic usage as well. It also provides information in multiple languages on events that can be attended even without German or with little knowledge of it (e.g. concerts). In addition, it offers translations (English/Arabic/Ukrainian) of a number of Peace Festival programme items. The fixed content of the friedensstadt-augsburg.de website has been adapted into easy-to-read language so that it is also accessible to people with learning difficulties or limited knowledge of German.

Institutionalisation of the Neighbourhood Mums cooperation

Following the **conclusion of "Neighbourhood Mums" as a project and the establishment of a cooperation agreement**, the cooperation between the City of Augsburg (Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs) and the German Child Protection Association (Augsburg district association) in place since 2004 under the Neighbourhood Mums project was institutionalised. Through the involvement of the "neighbourhood mums", many families are offered a variety of easily accessible services that aim to reduce educational disadvantage and provide integration support. The committed neighbourhood mums – mothers with prior integration experience – are cultural mediators, bridge builders and contacts for other mothers, as well as role models in supporting children's language skills.

Further development of child and youth work in the Bärenkeller district

The decision to **further develop child and youth work, as well as the recommendations for action from the planning project on youth work and youth social work in the Bärenkeller district** are intended to encourage young people's active engagement. This is in response to young people's expressed desire for the City to begin creating open spaces through the relevant property management departments and to examine the establishment of supervised and self-managed youth leisure facilities. The administration has been tasked with equipping young people in self-governed organisational forms (e.g. youth association work) to absorb and implement further related findings (e.g. open-air cinema). An overall concept for planning youth work/youth social work in the district will also be developed with the broadest possible participation of children and young people and with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders.

Financing of an initial reception facility for the temporary care of unaccompanied minor migrants

The City has taken the decision to **finance an initial reception centre for the temporary care of unaccompanied minor migrants**. A plan for such a facility has been developed as part of this. It will be operated jointly with two counties in order to minimise empty beds.

Weeks against Racism

The **International Weeks Against Racism** take place every year for two weeks around 21 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The **Office for Social Integration** has been participating in the nationwide project since 2021. In addition to the municipal administration, associations in particular are invited to participate with their own formats, which are then included in the joint calendar of events. For example, the programme consists of presentations, workshops and activities on the subject of racism (and anti-racism). The aim of the events is to address forms of racial discrimination, raise awareness about them and overcome them as far as possible.

Strategy against racism and hatred directed at administration staff

The **Komma – Municipal Alliances and Strategies Against Racism and Hatred** project is a joint initiative of the Office for Social Integration, the Central Anti-Discrimination Agency and the Office for Community Safety and Prevention. The aim is to develop a practical strategy that will be automatically triggered when administration staff are confronted with discrimination, racism, homophobia or acts of right-wing extremist. This structured approach is intended to enable clear and effective action and promote a safe and non-discriminatory working environment.

Youth centre Happy Kids project

For over 15 years, the **Happy Kids project** at the Kosmos youth centre run by the City Youth Council has been offering primary school children from the university district a safe space for social learning, personal development and a warm lunch. Many of the children come from families in which daily life is characterised by financial difficulties, shift work and/or single parenthood. Happy Kids offers them reliability, structure and a sense of security: with healthy food, help with homework and plenty of space for play, exercise and creativity. The project is laying the foundations for social participation.

Municipal charitable foundations

The City of Augsburg's Office for Foundations currently administers 49 foundations with legal capacity and one trust foundation. All foundations fulfil charitable purposes recognised by the tax authority and share the goal of achieving positive outcomes for people and social cohesion, particularly in the city of Augsburg, in line with their respective founding purposes. The City of Augsburg's Office for Foundations offers citizens the opportunity to support causes that promote the common good and thus improve coexistence within the urban community by establishing their own **municipal charitable foundation** under the administration of the City of Augsburg or by making endowments or donations to existing foundations.

Culture social ticket

People recognised by Augsburger Tafel e. V. as being in a financially difficult situation can use the **Kultursozialticket** to attend events and access institutions and museums such as the Puppenkiste marionette theatre, the Fuggerei housing complex, art collections and museums, the City Library and various state and independent theatres for a symbolic admission price of €1.

Accessible pricing and programming at the Naturmuseum

The **Naturmuseum** offers families of all shapes and sizes a more affordable way to visit its permanent and special exhibitions with its discounted **family ticket** (for parents or guardians with children up to the age of 17). There are also discounts for adults with children and young people at **municipal art collections and museums**. In addition, families can take advantage of the free admission to municipal museums on Sundays.

AUX – Augsburger eXkursionen project

The Bildungshaus Kresslesmühle education centre has been running the **AUX – Augsburger eXkursionen project** since April 2022. This is targeted at integration course participants and builds their skills for everyday life through joint activities. It aims to encourage them to break out of their routines and discover what Augsburg has to offer in terms of mobility, leisure, advice and education. Participants can apply and expand their language skills in a practical way. The project comprises two sub-projects: a digital "city rally" (scavenger hunt) app and guided activities. These

aim to get the participants actively using the city as a place for living, working and leisure. By the end of 2024, 2,270 people had taken part in the activities.

Peace Office: involving different target groups in planning the Peace Festival programme

The City of Augsburg's *Peace Office* takes a participatory approach to organising the cultural programme for the Augsburg Peace Festival. It ensures the *explicit inclusion of different target groups* according to age, gender, religion, physical and mental state, origin and more so that their interests and perspectives are considered. *Sign language is used* at Peace Office discussion events.

Babel pool of interpreters

The *Babel pool of interpreters* in Augsburg provides volunteers who offer language support at government offices, schools, nurseries and social institutions. They help to overcome language barriers and facilitate clear communication between people of different backgrounds. In total, Babel in Augsburg covers over 40 different languages.

Disability Advisory Board

The *Disability Advisory Board* represents the interests of people with disabilities in the city of Augsburg. Its task is to advise the City Council and the city administration on all matters concerning the interests of people with disabilities. It comprises 36 voluntary members.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

The City of Augsburg's *Senior Citizens' Advisory Board* has set itself the task of representing the interests and concerns of older residents. It is committed to ensuring that the needs and wishes of senior citizens are taken into account in urban policy. In doing so, it aims to improve the quality of life of older people and enable them to lead active and independent lives. Since 2002, the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board has been offering a wide range of activities in cooperation with various partners as part of its half-yearly programme.

"Beherzte Menschen" Augsburg Community Foundation

The *"Beherzte Menschen" Augsburg Community Foundation* is committed to a social, peaceful, culturally diverse and future-ready Augsburg. It is part of the Augsburg sustainability process. With the income from its endowment and funding, the foundation finances a *large number of small local projects* such as reading time, "maths is fun", the Peace Summer School at the University of Augsburg and a climate camp, and provides support to asylum seekers in the Friedberg-West volunteer group.

Integration Advisory Board

In a city where over 50% of residents have a migrant background, the City of Augsburg's *Integration Advisory Board* plays an important role in building bridges between the general public and the city administration. Since 2021, the Integration Advisory Board members have been selected through an anonymous election process that is unique in Germany. The 30 members are involved in three areas: education, culture and sport; social affairs, asylum, health and law; and business, labour, urban planning and the environment. The advisory board is one of the oldest in Germany and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024.

Queer Table

The City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office is committed to gender diversity, among other things – that is, to the rights of people of all genders and sexual orientations. Every six months, the various Augsburg-based associations, initiatives and groups from the LGBTIQ* community meet at the *Queer Table* to network and exchange ideas on current topics.

City Youth Council: inclusion

In 2023, the *City Youth Council* developed an *inclusion plan for the Modular Festival* with the help of, among others, two funded inclusion officers and the inclusion work group, consisting of Modular Festival volunteers. A site plan for accessibility, a website in simple language, the Community Ticket, various on-site programme offerings to raise awareness through interaction and more were created. The festival crew was also made more inclusive. A *guide to inclusion at large events* was published in autumn 2024. Every year, the City Youth Council organises *inclusion action days at the h2o youth centre*. These offer around 140 Oberhausen schoolchildren the opportunity to immerse themselves in the lives of people with disabilities at interactive stations. The event is organised as part of the Augsburg-Oberhausen inclusive region (IRO), a model region in which schools and the h2o youth centre are working together to make inclusion a reality in the district.

Change-In for school pupils

Year 8 pupils from all types of schools are involved in the *Change-In* youth project in their free time. Through this, they develop self-confidence, participate in learning outside of school and take part in various forms of engagement. Many continue to be involved or re-engage as adults. Some also return to the project as adult mentors. The regular quality circle in the project brings all stakeholders, mentors, project managers, institutions, schools and pupils together around one table.

Start with a Friend Verein(t) (Future Prize 2022)

Start with a Friend Verein(t) was founded nationwide at the end of 2014 to break down prejudices and promote a diverse, inclusive society through *interactions between refugees and locals*. The Augsburg branch also brings together local residents and immigrants so they can expand their social networks and forge new friendships.

German Café run by Tür an Tür-Integrationsprojekte GmbH (Future Prize 2023)

The *German Café* run by Tür an Tür-Integrationsprojekte GmbH offers refugees and immigrants aged 16 and over in Augsburg free *opportunities to learn German*. Volunteers support learners in one-to-one tandems or mini-groups to accommodate individual language levels and interests. This offering complements traditional German courses and helps the participants to maintain and further develop their language skills.

Maltese rickshaw (Future Prize 2024)

The *Maltese rickshaw* of Maltese Hilfsdienst e.V. enables the elderly or people with health challenges to participate in society through excursions on a specially equipped electric bicycle. Volunteer rickshaw operators offer free one-to-two-hour trips during which their passengers can enjoy the fresh air and surroundings. With over 120 trips per year, the volunteers make an important contribution to social integration.

"Augsburg unites" charity gala

Augsburger Panther Eishockey GmbH, together with *FC Augsburg* and *Schwabenhilfe Augsburg*, hosted the first *"Augsburg unites" charity gala* with around 300 guests in August 2024. This raised €150,000 for charitable causes in the region. The aim is to send a message of solidarity and cohesion. Donations from the Augsburg Panther club have been used to support projects run by the Ulrich School, the Augsburg environmental education centre and the St Vinzenz hospice. The other two partners have supported a further six social projects.

h2o youth centre in Oberhausen (Future Prize 2021)

For almost 40 years, the *h2o youth centre* has been a lively meeting place for youth in the Oberhausen district, offering support for children and young people. Intercultural cooperation in particular is promoted through projects such as *I'm who?! – And you?!* and the *H2O TV film club*, which tackles social issues such as migration, racism and democracy. Young people have the opportunity to get involved creatively and socially, using their photographs and videos to promote diversity, equality and respect.

QUEER THE NIGHT (Future Prize 2023)

Every four months, Nadine Bauer and Matthias Oswald organise the **QUEER THE NIGHT queer cultural mini-festival** at Cosmopolis, which gives queer artists a stage for diverse cultural formats. Their aim is to promote queer culture in Augsburg and showcase its diversity. They are also planning a queer café called "POLY", which will serve as a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies.

Mini-CSD queer action day

In 2024, the **City Youth Council** organised the **Mini-CSD**, the first full-day **queer action day** by young people for young people. The idea originated from teenagers and young people who are actively engaged in their communities. The programme ranged from workshops on coming-out experiences, information stands and games to a colourful stage with queer artists and a closing party. Cooperation partners included Queerbeet Augsburg, diversity@school, the Centre for AIDS Work in Swabia and the City of Augsburg's Equal Opportunities Office.

KUKA: diversity principles and practices

As a signatory to the Diversity Charter, **KUKA AG** has structurally embedded diversity within the company. Diversity, respect, acceptance and appreciation are firmly integrated in the company through a corporate policy. **Diversity aspects** are taken into account when creating new guidelines and processes and adapting existing ones. KUKA's diversity principles applicable in Germany and internationally emphasise the positive attitude to diversity within the company. The principles are intended to ensure equality, equal opportunities and respect for all and prevent discrimination. Potential violations are dealt with consistently. A diversity manager coordinates the relevant areas, and there are various diversity networks within the company.

Digital accessible map of Augsburg city

A **digital accessible map of Augsburg city** designed to make everyday life easier for people with disabilities has been available since November 2024. This provides information on accessibility, such as access to tourist attractions, government offices, sports facilities and event venues. There are also plans to add eateries and shops in the medium term.

Integreat app (Future Prize 2020)

The **Integreat app** provides simple and accessible information and guidance for migrants and newcomers to the city of Augsburg. It offers important insights in several languages on topics such as housing, work, education, health and legal issues. The app helps users quickly find local services and contact points and facilitates access to integration services. It can be used offline and is regularly updated to ensure the information is relevant and topical. 110 cities in Germany have now adopted the app.

Easy-to-read texts

Access to administrative services is also being enhanced through **easy-to-read texts**. For example, citizens looking to apply for housing benefit can use online forms written in simple language from the Office for Social Services. The City of Augsburg's Peace Office also attaches great importance to providing content in easy-to-read language.

German as a Foreign Language (DaF) symposium

The Office for Social Integration organises the annual **DaF symposium**. This provides language course teachers with valuable information from the administration and strengthens them in their role. Teachers are empowered as multipliers and are encouraged to pass on locally relevant information about the city's important services and structures to immigrants in their courses in a targeted manner.

Augsburg Migration and Asylum Forum

The **Augsburg Migration and Asylum Forum (AFFA)** is a network of full-time and volunteer workers involved in migration and asylum. The main focus is on a two-month exchange on current topics. Since 2016, AFFA has been working with Tür an Tür to coordinate **RefugeeWeek**, a week of local activities centred around World Refugee Day on 20 June, with some 20 events taking place each year. In the **"Practice Meets Politics" series** held since 2023, AFFA has been discussing both political and practical issues with politicians at federal, state and municipal level to bring about concrete improvements for asylum seekers and refugees. AFFA is also a cooperation partner in municipal and civil society formats such as the asylum policy brunch and the "NO to Violence Against Women" campaign.

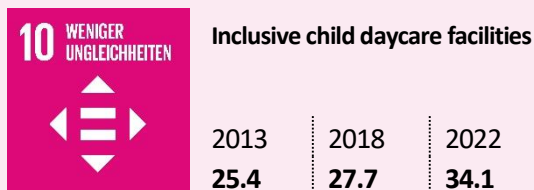
Liquid Funds Forum: DialogueSpaceMoney

With **DialogueSpaceMoney**, the **Liquid Funds Forum** initiated a humane, joint development path towards monetary and systemic change between late 2019 and late 2024. Its aim was to establish a new attitude towards money. Protected dialogue spaces were created where humanity and social development could find a way forward into the future. Existing monetary reform initiatives were taken into account and acknowledged. A 93-page final report on the project is available.

KUKA AG: Orange Care e.V.

As a signatory to the Diversity Charter, **KUKA AG** has structurally embedded diversity within the company. Diversity, respect, acceptance and appreciation are firmly integrated in the company through a corporate policy. **Diversity aspects** are taken into account when creating new guidelines and processes and adapting existing ones. KUKA's diversity principles applicable in Germany and internationally emphasise the positive attitude to diversity within the company. The principles are intended to ensure equality, equal opportunities and respect for all and prevent discrimination. Potential violations are dealt with consistently. A diversity manager coordinates the relevant areas, and there are various diversity networks within the company.

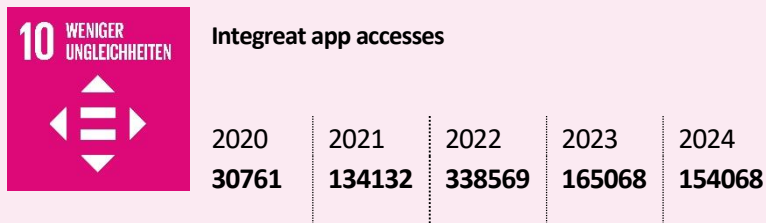
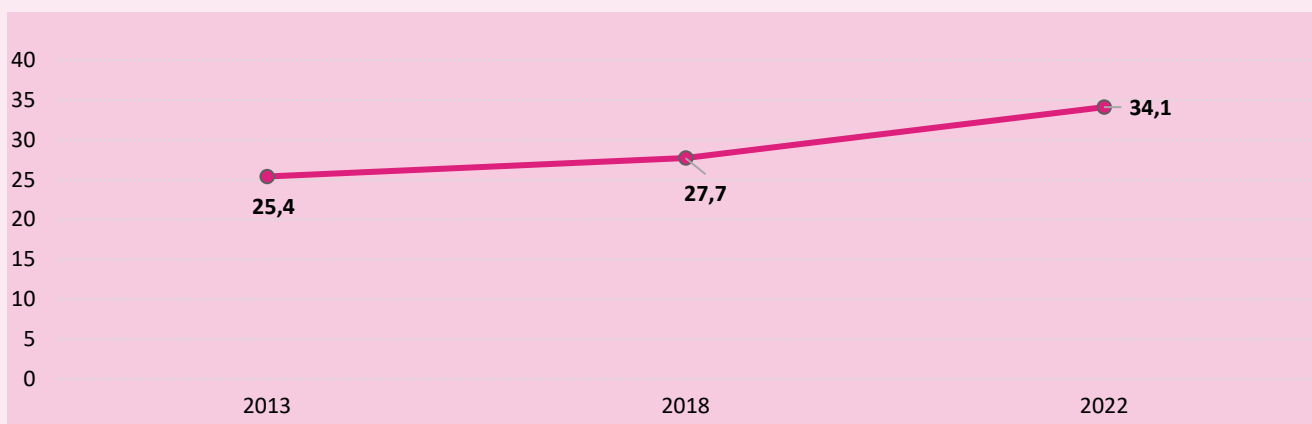
Developments at local level



Percentage of inclusive child daycare facilities

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

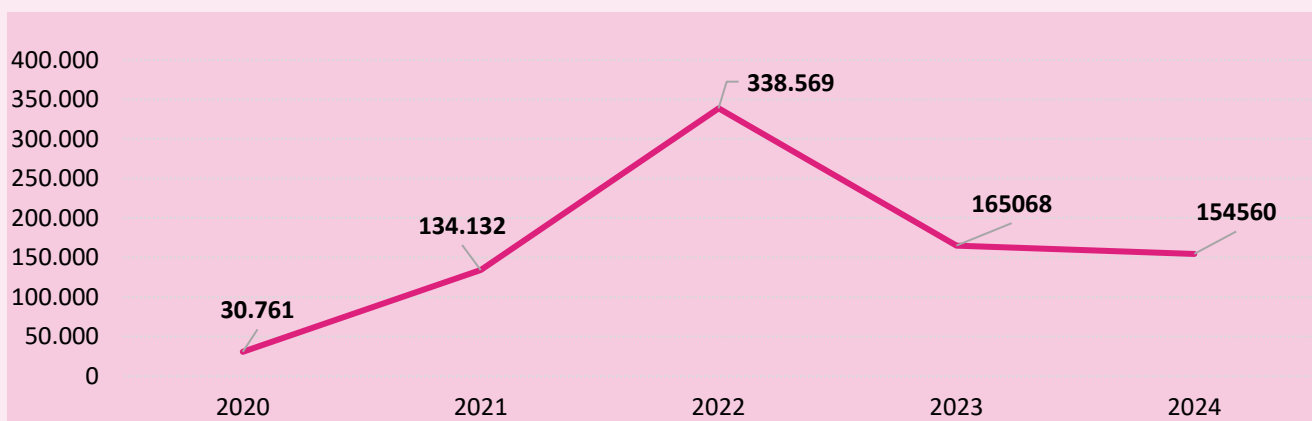
Type: national indicator



Number of times the Integreat app was accessed each year (note: the high figure for 2022 is due to the war in Ukraine and increased use of the app by refugees)

Source: Office for Social Integration

Type: Augsburg's own indicator





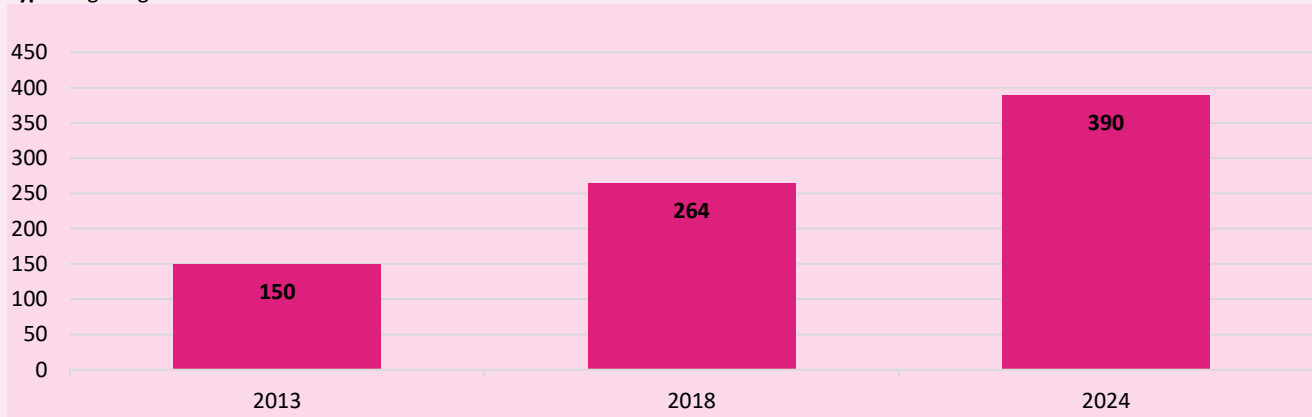
Guidance sessions conducted on recognising foreign qualifications (Tür an Tür)

2013	2018	2024
150	264	390

Number of guidance sessions conducted on recognising qualifications obtained abroad. The sessions are held by the Tür an Tür institution and are intended to help make qualifications acquired abroad usable in the labour market, thereby making it easier for people to start working.

Source: Tür an Tür

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

Augsburg sees itself as a diverse, cosmopolitan city that is active in reducing social and economic inequalities and promoting equal opportunities. Corresponding targets can be found in Future Guidelines *S4 Enable participation in society*, *S5 Create social balance* and *K3 Embrace diversity*.

People from 165 nations already live together in Augsburg today. Diversity is a defining feature of Augsburg's urban society given the high proportion of citizens with a migrant background. This presents opportunities and challenges for local policymakers in terms of fostering inclusion, participation and anti-discrimination and laying the foundations for a society based on solidarity.

The wide range of projects and initiatives in Augsburg, such as DIWA 4.0, the Integreat inclusion action plan and the Integreat app, promote information equality, accessibility and social participation. Public campaigns, cultural programmes and local initiatives send a clear message against discrimination, racism and exclusion, and highlight the value of interaction, diversity and mutual respect.

The inclusion action plan will be updated in 2026. In the area of integration, unlike many other municipalities that rely on a static integration plan and/or report, the City of Augsburg has embraced a dynamic system that can be continuously developed. With an integrated action plan, report and coordination papers, it facilitates strategic management as well as operational implementation and ongoing refinement. Within the overall plan for child and youth welfare, the *parenting support and child protection sub-plan* and the *family sub-plan* are being developed.

In the coming years, it will be important to further reduce social inequalities within the city's communities and to give everyone – regardless of their origin, age, gender, disability or social status – equal opportunities for education, work and participation. The demographic shift towards greater age diversity and new immigration trends pose fresh challenges for the City of Augsburg.



Families celebrate World Children's Day 2025 (source: City of Augsburg)



SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities

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

Background



Global

Already today, over half of the world's population lives in cities – with a continuing upward trend. While cities are engines of economic development, they also account for around 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, consume more than three quarters of all resources and generate billions of tonnes of waste.³⁷ They are 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. Strong civil society involvement in urban planning is only evident in about a fifth of cities worldwide so far – which jeopardises equitable participation and resilient infrastructure.³⁸ At the same time, the housing situation remains precarious for many people. 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: in Burkina Faso, for instance, the proportion has fallen from over 80 per cent to below 30 per cent since 2000.³⁹



National

In Germany, almost 78 per cent of the population lives in the cities and conurbations.⁴⁰ Rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing are shaping urban development, as is the need to make cities climate-proof. Added to this are challenges relating to air quality, traffic and adaptation to extreme weather events. Alongside expanding public transport, the promotion of cycling and walking also plays a key role. At the same time, rural areas must be more closely involved in order to harmonise quality of life, mobility and infrastructure between urban and rural areas and thereby counteract demographic pressure on cities. The German Sustainable Development 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.⁴¹



Augsburg

The population of Augsburg has been growing steadily for years, exacerbating the challenges in the areas of housing, mobility and environmental quality. In 2023, the living space per person was 38 m², which was below the Bavarian average of 47.1 m², illustrating the increasing pressure on the Augsburg housing market. The City of Augsburg is responding to demand with measures such as the construction of subsidised housing, income-based housing support and projects by Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg, the City's municipal housing company, which manages over 10,000 rental flats in Augsburg. In 2024, 1,075 flats were completed in Augsburg. The guiding principle for spatial urban development here is the concept of the "compact city", which promotes diversity of use and good accessibility in neighbourhoods and reduces car dependency.

In the context of the mobility transition, the central challenge is to help shift travel away from private car use in favour of eco-friendly modes of transport (public transport, cycling and walking). To achieve this, the City of Augsburg is focusing on its *master plan for sustainable and zero-emission mobility*, its cycling agreement and new offerings such as the *swaxi* ride-sharing service and the *swabi* bike-sharing system. The interests of pedestrians have been strengthened through the introduction of a pedestrian representative. It is positive to note that the proportion of households without their own car rose from 22.8 per cent to 26.6 per cent between 2018 and 2023. However, car density has been increasing for years: from 444 vehicles per 1,000 residents in 2014 to 463 in 2023. This shows that Augsburg is making progress in the mobility transition, but that further steps are still needed.



Central interchange hub at Königsplatz (source: Ruth Plössel)

Relevant SDG 11 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- Ensure access to sustainable transport systems
- Enhance sustainable settlement planning
- Reduce environmental impact and ensure access to green spaces

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



11.1 – Safe and affordable housing

Concept-based land allocation for building groups

In 2020, the City Planning Office initiated and implemented a pilot project at Sheridan Barracks involving a **concept-based land allocation for building groups, cooperatives, etc.** In each case, contracts were awarded according to the best concept, not the highest purchase price. The selection was made by a diverse jury. Each building group creates added value for the neighbourhood, for example through communal areas. The projects are often very environmentally friendly, with a higher level of design ambition than other developers. The effort involved and resources required for such projects are considerable on both sides. Specialised knowledge and expertise had to be developed in the Building Department and City Planning Office to ensure they could provide the required support. Further plots of land are to be made available through concept-based allocation procedures. The municipal building authority will need additional staffing resources for such projects.

Residential vacancy management

Known vacancies are recorded by the **Vacancy Management Department** at the Office for Housing and Housing Support, and the owners are contacted if they can be identified. Where possible, the Vacancy Management Department advises owners on how to address a vacancy. The main reason for vacancies is that houses or flats are (or need to be) renovated. Investigations into reported vacancies often reveal obstacles such as disputes (including inheritance disputes) between owners over the use or intended alternative use of the property, e.g. as storage space or a rarely used second home.

Westendorfer Weg housing project

The City of Augsburg has broken new ground as part of the Free State of Bavaria's municipal housing promotion programme (KommWFP): within the **Westendorfer Weg housing project**, it built 38 flats for homeless people and low-income households who would find it very difficult or impossible to secure accommodation on the private market. The apartment buildings were constructed in the Oberhausen district. They were allocated to individual households by the Office for Housing and Housing Support under private tenancy agreements and were ready for occupancy in June 2024.

Shared accommodation for municipal trainees

Since 2022, *Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg* has been renting out an apartment in the Anton residential complex as *shared accommodation for municipal trainees*.



11.2 – Affordable and sustainable transport systems

Augsburg mobility plan

A new *Augsburg mobility plan* currently being developed will serve as a general point of reference for sustainable mobility. The City of Augsburg and its citizens is thereby responding to the question of how future mobility should be planned. The concept is a direct result of intensive public participation in the Augsburg mobility plan in 2022. It focuses on the goals of accessibility, low-carbon mobility and making Augsburg a better place to live, which have been derived from the urban development plan (STEK) and the Future Guidelines for Augsburg. The concept's five themes show how these goals are to be achieved in the coming years. The content of the new mobility plan will be incorporated into the revised land usage plan.



Transport Expert Forum: environment and mobility facts

The *Transport Expert Forum* (under the chairmanship of physicist Tom Hecht) has compiled and analysed extensive *environmental and mobility facts*, e.g. in its twelve-page report on mobility and the environment in Augsburg released in March 2024. This put the *annual environmental costs of car traffic* in Augsburg at €100 million, with a clear upward trend. Counting methods, e.g. measuring how many people choose which mode of transport, were also presented and critically compared. For monitoring to be effective, it is important to also take into account other information beyond the representative SrV survey conducted every five years (SrV = system of representative transport surveys conducted by Dresden University of Technology, which has been used by many municipalities since 1972).

Local transport plan update

The Augsburger Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund GmbH (AVV) transport association awarded the contract to *update the local transport plan* for the Augsburg 2015plus local transport area in summer 2021. Work on this is currently underway. A functioning public transport system is a core element of sustainable urban development.

Augsburg cycling agreement

Specific targets for cycle path expansion, car parking space reduction, parking space regulations and investments in cycling were agreed in 2021 in the *Augsburg cycling agreement* between the City and the "Fahrradstadt jetzt" (bike city now) action alliance.

Master plan for sustainable and zero-emission mobility

The **master plan for sustainable and zero-emission mobility** is a continuation of the clean air plan, which was drawn up following detected exceedances of the relevant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limits in Augsburg in the reference year 2016. The master plan includes measures to reduce NO₂ levels.

Bicycle City project

One of the goals of modern urban planning is to establish walking, cycling and public transport as the primary modes of transport. As part of its ongoing **Bicycle City project**, the City of Augsburg is therefore aiming to become an increasingly bike-friendly municipality. Bicycle parking facilities are being continuously improved and **cycle paths** expanded: between 2019 and 2024, 4.5 km of cycle lanes, 3.5 km of advisory cycle lanes, 50 m of separated footpaths/cycle paths and 3.2 km of mixed footpaths/cycle paths were newly constructed. In addition, 2.8 km of bike-priority streets were added (Pfersee, Konrad-Adenauer-Allee, Postillionstraße, Schießstättenstraße). 600 m of existing cycle lanes, 350 m of separated footpaths/cycle paths and 1.9 km of shared footpaths/cycle paths were upgraded.

Bike-friendly municipality

In 2015 and 2022, the City of Augsburg was certified as a **bike-friendly municipality** by the Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Building and Transport. **Augsburg Bike Week** is also organised every year to promote cycling. In 2024, the second **Augsburg city centre cycling criterium race** was held as part of Bike Week. In addition to the sporting appeal of the races, the event is also intended to raise awareness of alternative forms of mobility. The **"Getting Around By Bike" cycling project** is another initiative. Since 2021, a pool of 25 rental bikes has been made available at the "oase" recreational sports facility. Schoolchildren, groups and organisations use these for training sessions and excursions. A pilot project with rental bikes from Stadtwerke Augsburg (Nextbike) had already been conducted there in 2020. Maintenance, rental and training are organised by staff at Löweneck School in collaboration with the Oberhausen neighbourhood management team. The bicycles were purchased by the Department of Education and Migration.

Creation of the position of pedestrian representative

In the area of pedestrian traffic, a questionnaire-based **survey of pedestrians** was organised in 2023. The **position of pedestrian representative** was created based on the results of this.

Sozialticket

Since 2015, Augsburg has had a **Sozialticket**, which is intended to make it easier for people with lower incomes in the city to use public transport. It is a voluntary subsidy from the City of Augsburg towards the reduced purchase price of the monthly *Deutschlandticket*, currently €44 (as of May 2025).

Stadtwerke Augsburg: swaxi ride-sharing service and swabi bike-sharing system

Supplementing local public transport services in Augsburg, **swaxi – a flexible ride-sharing service** from Stadtwerke Augsburg (swa) – has been in operation since 2020. swaxi is a carpooling service, where passengers with similar destinations share the ride. The aim is to combine journeys for several passengers and reduce private transport for more sustainable travel. The public transport services offered by swa, including local rail (SPNV), buses, trams, dial-a-ride (AST) and swaxi, provide a comprehensive range of options that make it easier to switch from cars to public transport. In 2024, **swabi – swa's new bike-sharing service** for easy and flexible mobility in Augsburg – was also launched. The modern rental bikes are available around the clock at over 350 locations. Since October 2024, up to 700 non-motorised bikes can be booked throughout the city. In spring 2025, 240 e-bikes were added.

City administration: Jobticket, bike sharing, cargo bikes

Further *measures for promoting sustainable mobility* are being implemented within the city administration. Since 2023, municipal employees can obtain a subsidised *Jobticket* or *Deutschlandticket* public transport pass. The introduction of a salary sacrifice *bicycle scheme* gives civil servants and employees covered by collective agreements the opportunity to make more journeys by bicycle, both privately and for work purposes. Since autumn 2024, there has been a *bike-sharing system* in cooperation with Stadtwerke Augsburg. A *cargo bike* has been purchased for employees of the Bildungsmittelpunkt Lechhausen education centre. Staff of the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care travel by foot, bicycle or public transport for work-related trips (and are making increased use of digital media as an alternative to off-site visits).

City administration and municipal holdings: conversion of the vehicle fleet to alternative drive systems

In accordance with the vehicle purchasing guideline, the individual departments of the city administration and its wholly owned and affiliated companies are pushing ahead with the *conversion of the vehicle fleet to alternative drive systems*. For example, the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries is gradually converting its vehicle fleet to electric mobility – and now has 15 electric vehicles. The waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg currently has nine electric vehicles in use. In addition, it has been deploying its first vehicle with fuel cell technology for zero-emission refuse collection since June 2024. Airport operator Augsburg Flughafen GmbH is also promoting electric mobility – two EV charging stations have been provided for the electric-powered service vehicles of the customs administration at Augsburg Airport. Since 2024, Augsburg's municipal drainage company has been operating a fleet of vehicles for transport and for the maintenance of its facilities (the fleet is being centralised and will gradually be replaced with vehicles with alternative drive systems and with bicycles).

Municipal utilities provider: car-sharing system

Since 2015, the *Stadtwerke Augsburg car-sharing system* has made it easy for people in Augsburg to use vehicles without having to own them or assume the acquisition, maintenance and servicing costs. Stadtwerke Augsburg now provides around 350 vehicles in five different classes at over 120 fixed locations, ensuring the right vehicle is available for every occasion. The location-based service is also supplemented by vehicles available on a flexible basis in the city centre.

Cargo bike hire: Lech-Elephant sharing scheme

A *project to promote cargo bike rental* has been implemented in Augsburg since 2023. The Lech-Elephant sharing scheme is a joint project of the City of Augsburg and Elephant Cargo, a specialist cargo bike shop that also runs the rental system. The Free State of Bavaria (State Ministry of Housing, Building and Transport) has provided funding for the bikes and the rental system. The project is built on engagement: from the cargo bike enthusiasts who developed the concept and the Office for Sustainability, which coordinates the project, through to the company Elephant Cargo, which looks after the maintenance and coordination, and the volunteers overseeing the individual locations.

Max & Moritz cargo bike hire

Max & Moritz, part of Transition Town Augsburg, is a voluntary sharing project that has been providing bicycles since 2015. Max & Moritz lends out various types of cargo bikes in exchange for a donation. The focus is on the DIY market: the bikes are designed to transport large, bulky items.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg: free cargo bike at the Sheridanpark 2 residential complex

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg provides tenants at the Sheridanpark 2 residential complex with an *electric cargo bike* free of charge.

Transport Expert Forum

The **Transport Expert Forum** is made up of various individuals and members of organisations and administrations who use this **open platform** collectively as an inclusive space for exchange. This is intended to foster transparent cooperation in the common interest, without any one dominant player. The forum wants to promote mobility as part of the transition to sustainable transport in the greater Augsburg area, e.g. by counteracting the bias against cycling in favour of car traffic. Meetings were held monthly until 2025. The expert forum is a networking platform that has the potential to be more effective with broader transport stakeholder involvement. It runs the menschen-und-wege.de website.

Mobility Advisory Board

The City of Augsburg's **Mobility Advisory Board** was established in 2019. It serves as a forum for exchange between politicians, public administration, businesses and associations on mobility issues as well as transport policy and planning. It also advises the City Council and city administration, for example by making recommendations on transport and mobility issues. Members include transport initiatives and associations, the advisory boards for people with disabilities and senior citizens, the municipal utilities provider and chambers of commerce. It meets publicly at least once every three months.

Stadtsparkasse Augsburg (municipal savings bank): promoting carbon-free mobility

A significant proportion of the **CO₂ emissions in Stadtsparkasse Augsburg's business operations** that can be directly influenced by it result from mobility. Employees are encouraged to choose more sustainable ways of getting to work and elsewhere through a subsidised Jobticket public transport pass and JobRad bike leasing offering. The Stadtsparkasse's vehicle fleet has been predominantly electric since 2024. Its headquarters at Königsplatz in Augsburg has been a certified ÖKOPROFIT business for many years.

University Hospital Augsburg: employee commuting and travel

A mobility survey conducted by **University Hospital Augsburg** in 2023 revealed that around 50% of its employees were using their cars to get to work, while 25% cycled and 15% travelled by public transport. To reduce CO₂ emissions in the transport sector (5,446 tonnes per year in 2023), UKA set itself the goal of increasing the share of public transport use by at least 10% for **employee commuting and travel** and introduced a company bike leasing scheme from 2025.

Municipal utilities provider: accessible stops

Stadtwerke Augsburg is also committed to **accessible stops**. The municipal utilities provider maintains the city's tram and combined tram/bus stops. As part of the BAHA project, Stadtwerke Augsburg's project entity is working to expand the number of accessible stops based on the Passenger Transportation Act (PBefG) and addressing the tasks set out in the local transport plan so that all citizens can use local public transport.

App for reporting hazards

The City of Augsburg **launched an app for reporting hazards** in 2021 as part of its digitalisation process. This is used to identify hazards on public roads as well as provide a means for reporting them and documenting the relevant repair work. This encourages citizen and business engagement and improves community life and safety in Augsburg.

Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH: promoting workplace mobility management

With their vehicle fleets, companies play an important role in making motorised transport more environmentally friendly. Against this backdrop, Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH is addressing **operational mobility management** in companies in the Augsburg economic area – the A³ region. This covers, for example, the conversion of vehicle fleets to alternative drive systems. Regional authorities are participating in an exchange on this topic. In addition, information on workplace mobility is provided and events and round tables are organised.



11.3 – Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation

Public participation in urban land use and specialist planning procedures

The law states that the public must be involved (at an early stage) in **urban land use and specialist planning procedures**. During a defined period for stakeholder participation, impacted parties and those interested in the planning process can find information on the internet and on the City Planning Office's public noticeboard regarding the aims and purpose of any particular planning, the intentions behind this and, where applicable, possible alternatives. They are welcome to submit suggestions and justified requests for planning changes. In addition to this, the City Planning Office conducts voluntary **informal participation procedures**. Information events, workshops, planning workshops, neighbourhood walks, etc. are also held if necessary. All this serves to ensure the early and ongoing involvement of the public and other authorities.

Revising the land usage plan and urban land use planning

Climate action is systematically integrated into spatial planning. The aim of **urban land use planning** and the preparations for **revising the land usage plan** with integrated landscape plan is to adapt the city to climate change. This is based on the urban development plan (STEK) adopted by the City Council in 2019 and the spatial planning vision adopted in 2021. These serve as a strategic framework for the City of Augsburg's overall development plans and provide the essential basis for all decisions made by the City. The environment is addressed in detail in the STEK, including development goals and fields of action (biodiversity, water and soil, urban climate, environmental protection/supply and disposal).

Compact city

Preserving a small-scale settlement and land use structure in Augsburg is a key priority of the **urban development plan** and is therefore the basis for **urban land use planning**. The small-scale mix of uses and the infrastructural connectivity contribute to vibrant, socially mixed and diverse urban districts, avoid urban sprawl and promote efficient use of infrastructure and a high quality of life. As a compact city, all of the main places people need to get to on a daily basis are conveniently close and quickly accessible, which keeps traffic levels low(er). As a key element of modern urban planning and neighbourhood development, the "compact city" concept is firmly anchored in the City of Augsburg's urban land use planning.



11.6 – Reduce the environmental impacts of cities

Promoting electric mobility in Augsburg

The City of Augsburg is actively committed to **promoting electric mobility**, which is an important component of sustainable urban and transport development. Augsburg is expanding the charging infrastructure on public land in line with demand.

Augsburg Zoo: electric mobility

Augsburg Zoo has been committed to **electric mobility** for several years now: its electric fleet currently comprises a car, a wheel loader, a forklift truck and two small vans for transporting feed and materials around the zoo grounds. Further acquisitions are planned.

Traffic and parking guidance system optimisation

Optimising traffic and parking guidance systems and parking space management is an important step towards making motorised transport more efficient and environmentally friendly. The City of Augsburg updates and expands

its traffic and parking guidance system on an ongoing basis as part of sub-projects. Modern parking space management – for example, through mobility hub planning – is also important when drawing up development plans.



11.7 – Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces

Green and open space development plan

The development of valuable land and biotopes is a key element of urban land use planning and is also central to the current revision of the **land usage plan with integrated landscape planning**. Protecting and developing existing ecological networks is one aspect of the 2022 **green and open space development plan**. This is based on information gained through the species and biotope protection programme.

Tree Protection Ordinance

Trees shape the cityscape and perform important ecosystem functions. They provide a habitat for various animal species, improve the urban climate, play a key role in carbon storage and support urban greening. The **Tree Protection Ordinance (BSVO)** aims to protect and preserve urban greening to maintain these positive effects.

Opening up schoolyards for community use

Cities often lack open spaces where children and young people can play and exercise. The steady densification of residential areas is exacerbating this shortage. Schools have play and sports areas that usually go unused outside of school hours. The initiative of opening up schoolyards for the community is intended to make use of these areas in a targeted way combined with an educational strategy. Young people are supported in their personal development through meaningful, guided leisure activities and, where needed, easily accessible counselling services. At the same time, the schools get to open themselves up to their local communities and become a place for learning and interaction over time. The initiative is geared towards young people from the immediate vicinity of the respective school who (regardless of which school they attend) share experiences and learn together through leisure activities, extra-curricular education, participation and voluntary engagement.

Creating Public Spaces that Work for Young People project

Informal meeting places and spaces for physical activity are important and indispensable for healthy development. Shelters/covered areas have been built in the Firmhaberau and Bärenkeller districts with the participation of young people as part of the **Young People in Public Spaces – Creating Public Spaces that Work for Young People** project. Building on this, a city-wide master plan for covered meeting places in public spaces, including a tailored spatial and technical concept, will be drawn up.

Office for Social Integration: children's neighbourhood plans

The **Office for Social Integration** organises the participatory development of **children's neighbourhood plans**, where children design the city from their perspective. In class workshops held at their school, they identify places in their neighbourhood that are particularly important to them. The project strengthens their participation and highlights their perspectives – for other children and for adults.

Sense of safety survey

Safe cities are great places to live. Augsburg is Germany's second-safest major city. At the same time, personal experiences, media reports and other aspects can impact perceived safety. Between 2023 and 2024, a **survey on people's sense of safety** was launched in Augsburg under the slogan **"How do you feel about your city?"**. The survey will help to create attractive and safe spaces for Augsburg.

Urban gardens work group

The **urban gardens work group** is a loose association of community gardens in Augsburg. The garden initiatives across various districts are hands-on learning environments for adults and children and help establish a culture of engagement. The gardens are cultivated organically. The network, which is coordinated by Pareaz e.V., works together with the Augsburg environmental education centre, the State Bird Protection Society and the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries, and is part of the Local Agenda 21 for a Sustainable Augsburg process.

Pareaz e.V.: gasworks community garden

Pareaz e.V. is a member of the urban gardens work group and has converted part of the park on the grounds of the Augsburg gasworks into a **community garden** for cultural and horticultural activities and as a meeting place for neighbours and artists. The gardening group continues to maintain and preserve the insect habitat previously created by the Landscape Conservation Association, featuring a pond, sand and gravel mounds, flower beds and fruit trees.

Accessibility inspectors

Accessibility inspectors organised by Augsburg's volunteer centre conducted inspections to determine the condition of various buildings in Augsburg. This information was incorporated into Augsburg's digital accessible city map, which can be used to find out whether and how buildings are accessible. People with and without disabilities are working together here to promote accessibility and inclusion.



11.b – Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction

Disaster preparedness

The **City of Augsburg's disaster preparedness** is an essential part of municipal risk management and includes a wide range of measures designed to protect the public and infrastructure from the effects of disasters and serious emergencies. Disasters can include both natural events (e.g. floods, storms and earthquakes) and man-made crises (e.g. chemical accidents, power failures and terrorist attacks). Being prepared for disasters means the consequences can be minimised and public life restored as quickly as possible.

The City carries out various preventive, operational and follow-up measures to ensure the effectiveness of the activities, such as conducting hazard analyses and risk assessments, preparing disaster preparedness plans, establishing and training emergency services, using technical and organisational measures, developing early warning systems and information campaigns, and maintaining emergency infrastructure.

The City does not work in isolation in its preparations in this area, but cooperates closely with various stakeholders at local, state, federal and international level. These include municipal stakeholders, aid organisations and volunteers, as well as national and international partners. In view of a number of challenges that will need to be addressed in the coming years (such as climate change and the further development of technological infrastructure), disaster preparedness planning will have to remain dynamic and be continuously adapted to new circumstances. To create structures with long-term resilience, sustainability is increasingly being taken into account when planning, designing and implementing measures.

Emergency management

The task of securing the City's critical infrastructure and ensuring its administration can operate effectively falls short of the legal threshold for a disaster, but is still extremely relevant to safety. Through **emergency management** (specifically, business continuity management), system-relevant processes have been identified, prioritised and assigned to scenarios in order to ensure the city administration can function even in the corresponding crisis situations.

Fire service requirements plan

The **fire service requirements plan** is a strategic planning tool used to analyse the operational capacity of the fire service and determine how it can respond to local hazards and risks. It is the basis for policy decisions, investments and organisational measures. The aim of the fire service requirements plan is to ensure a safe, efficient and effective response by the fire service to hazards, based on local risks.

Construction of the West fire station

One example of disaster preparedness is the **construction of the West fire station by the Office for Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness**. This is intended to ensure that the City of Augsburg can continue to fulfil its statutory duties, including fire protection across the city, particularly in the west of Augsburg. This helps to create and maintain safe and healthy living conditions.

Wastewater drainage and treatment in disaster scenarios by Augsburg's municipal drainage company

The City of Augsburg's municipal drainage company is responsible for **wastewater drainage and treatment in disaster scenarios**. In cooperation with the Office for Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness, the city's municipal drainage company has plans in place to ensure that wastewater can be drained and treated in various disaster scenarios.

Additional topic for SDG 11

Recognising civic engagement: "For each other" campaign and volunteer recognition reception

The **"For each other" recognition campaign** with its new, low-threshold format builds on the Office for Civic Engagement's existing recognition initiatives, including **annual volunteer recognition receptions** and more. The "For each other" campaign recognises even small contributions by everyday heroes and heroines, showcasing them in the media as inspiring role models for participation.

Developments at local level



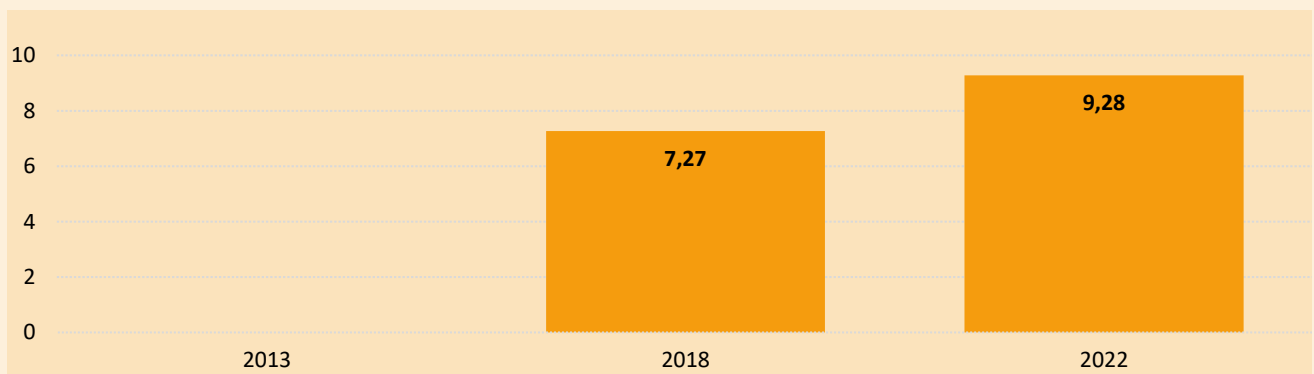
Rent

2013	2018	2023
--	7.27	9.28

Average local comparative rent (net rent) regardless of all housing quality features in euros per square metre

Source: Qualified rent index for the City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



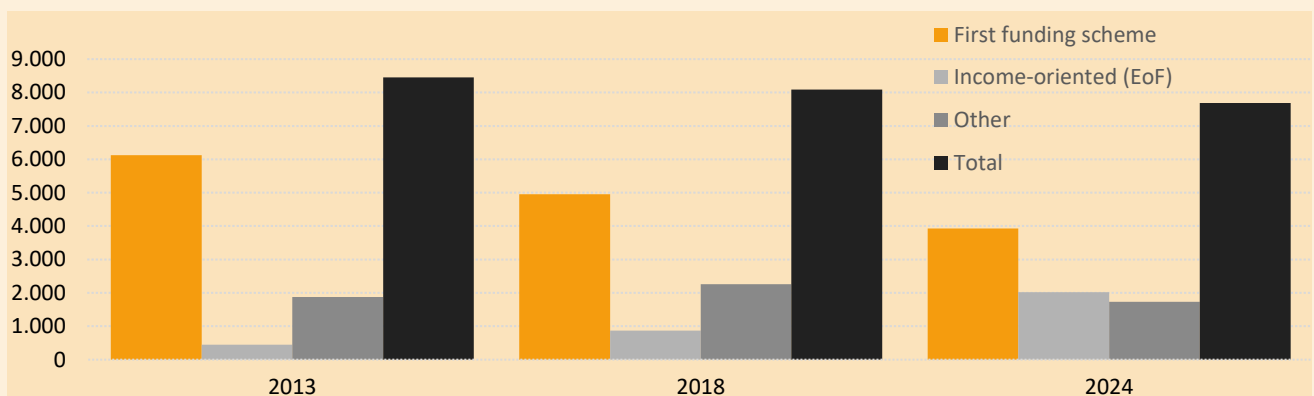
Subsidised housing

	2013	2018	2024
First funding scheme	6120	4955	3931
Income-oriented (EoF)	452	872	2021
Other	1877	2264	1731
Total	8449	8091	7683

Number of subsidised housing units co-financed through funding from the first funding scheme (1. Förderweg), income-oriented funding (EoF) and other sources of funding.

Source: Office for Housing and Housing Support

Type: Augsburg's own indicator





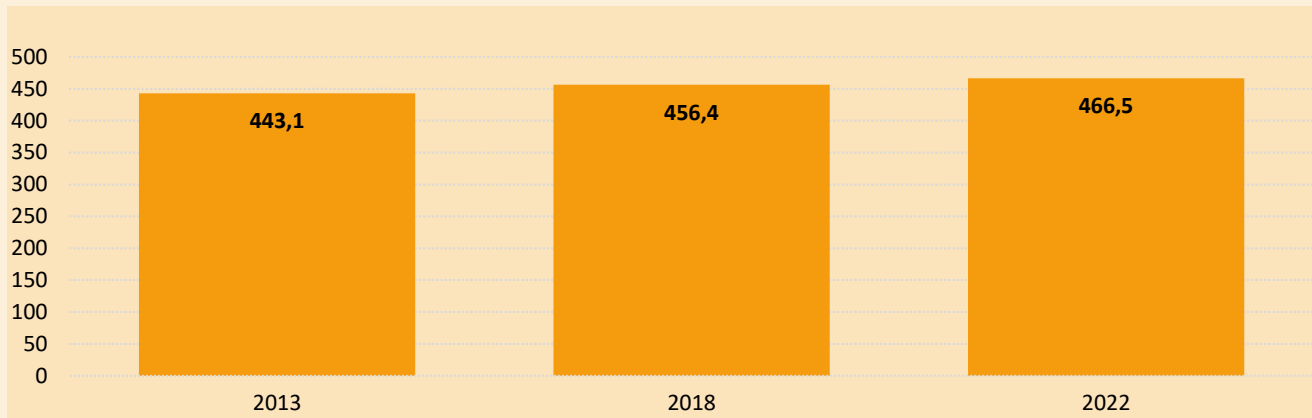
Car density

2013	2018	2022
443.1	456.4	466.5

Number of cars per 1,000 inhabitants

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Modal split

	2014/15	2018	2023/24
Motorised private transport (MPT) overall	34.5	33.7	29.8
MPT – men	38.1	34.1	30.3
MPT – women	31.5	33.4	29.4
Total pedestrian traffic	31.6	31.3	34.8
Pedestrian traffic – men	29.2	30.2	33.9
Pedestrian traffic – women	33.5	32.4	35.3
Local public transport (LPT) overall	16.9	15.5	13.8
LPT – men	14.3	12.9	12.6
LPT – women	19.1	17.8	14.8
Cycling overall	17.0	19.4	21.8
Cycling – men	18.4	22.9	23.2
Cycling – women	15.9	16.4	20.5

Proportion of different modes of transport used for daily journeys within city limits (internal transport). The data is usually collected every five years by means of a year-long survey conducted from January to December. The last survey was conducted by Dresden University of Technology between April 2023 and March 2024 ("Mobility in cities – SrV 2023")

Source: Mobility and Civil Engineering Office, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



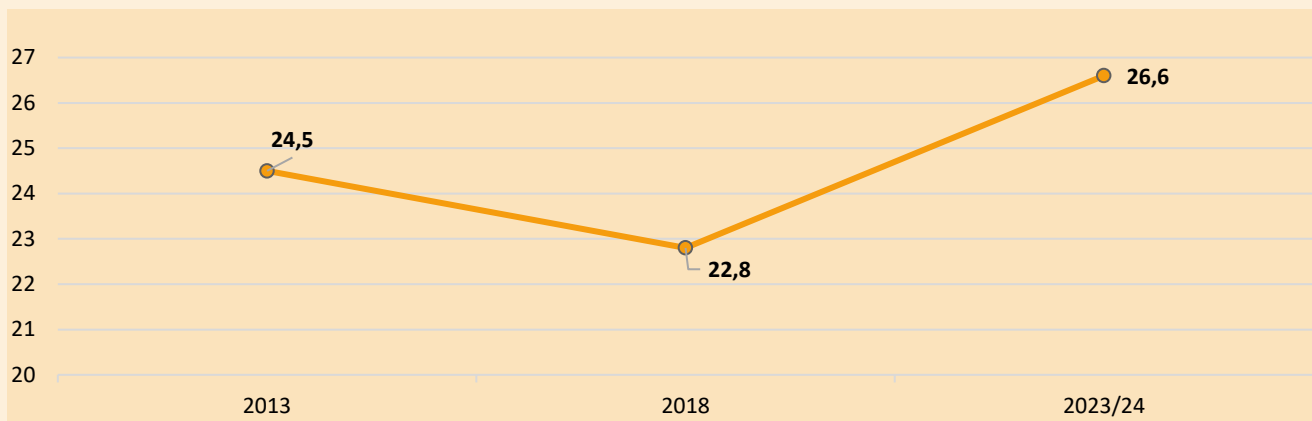
Households without a car

2013	2018	2023/24
24.5	22.8	26.6

Percentage of households without a car

Source: Mobility and Civil Engineering Office, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



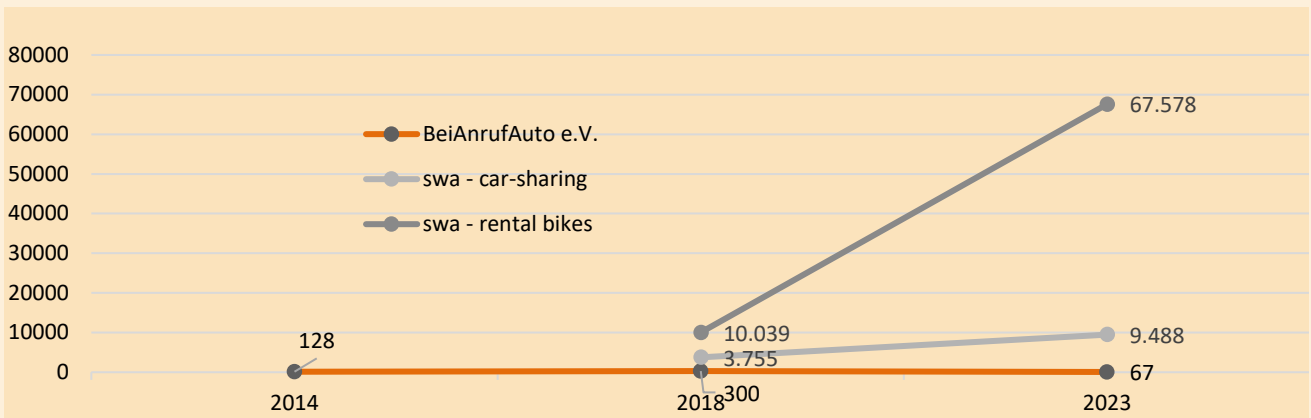
Car sharing and rental bikes

	2014	2018	2023
BeiAnrufAuto e.V. users	128	300	67
swa car-sharing users	--	3755	9488
Hiring of swa rental bikes	--	10039	67578

Number of users of the BeiAnrufAuto e.V. and Stadtwerke Augsburg car-sharing services as well as the number of rentals of Stadtwerke Augsburg rental bikes

Sources: Stadtwerke Augsburg (swa), BeiAnrufAuto e.V.

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Access to basic services – supermarket



429 metres
(2021)

Population-weighted straight-line distance (metres) to the nearest supermarket or discount store

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



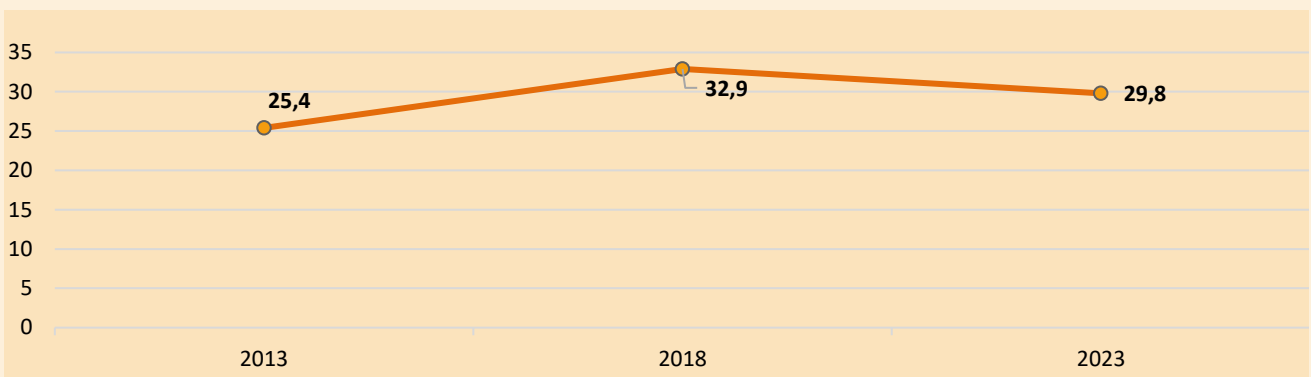
Subjective sense of safety

	2013	2019	2023
"somewhat safe" or "very safe" during the day	94.10	95.00	95.20
"somewhat safe" or "very safe" at night	71.00	72.80	69.60

Percentage of respondents who feel "somewhat safe" or "very safe"

Source: Office for Statistics, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



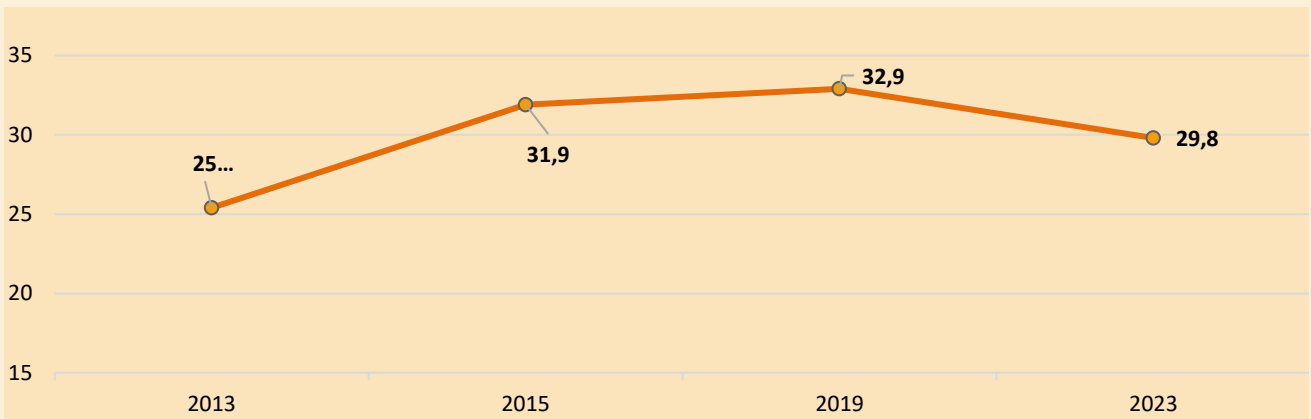
Volunteering

2013	2015	2019	2023
25.4	31.9	32.9	29.8

Percentage of Augsburg residents who volunteer

Source: Office for Statistics and Urban Research, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

The tight housing market remains one of Augsburg's key challenges. Low- and middle-income households are particularly affected by rising rents. The City of Augsburg is responding to this with targeted housing support and by strengthening Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg, the City's municipal housing company, to ensure the supply of affordable, yet still high-quality housing – see Future Guideline target *W5.1: Provide affordable housing*. It wants to create a compact urban structure with mixed neighbourhoods, short distances and a high quality of life, in which living, working and local amenities are closely interlinked.

It is also revising the land usage plan to pursue target *W5.3 Provide publicly accessible meeting and recreational areas in neighbourhoods*.



The mobility transition is another key focus of the City of Augsburg's sustainable urban development and planning. The City wants to significantly increase the share of eco-friendly transport and reduce motorised private transport – see Future Guideline *Ö2 Make sustainable mobility accessible to all* with the targets *Ö2.2 Prioritise walking, cycling and local public transport* and *Ö2.3 Make motorised transport more efficient and environmentally friendly*.

To this end, it is implementing further steps in Augsburg's mobility plan – currently supply planning and demand management. One key project for the future is the completion of Augsburg's mobility hub, with direct access to various tram lines at the main railway station. The City is taking important steps with the Augsburg 2026plus local transport plan for Augsburg and the surrounding region, the City's master plan for sustainable and zero-emission mobility, the Augsburg cycling agreement, the expansion of sharing services and accessible stops, and the promotion of pedestrian traffic. The biggest challenge remains creating attractive alternatives to cars while ensuring accessibility across all city districts.



One key Future Guideline is *S3 Live safely*: the City of Augsburg is currently drawing up a civil protection requirements plan to ensure it is prepared for disasters. This is focused on specific resource requirements, while the tactical approach in the event of a disaster is described in separate disaster preparedness plans. Civil protection encompasses all non-police and non-military measures to protect the population and their livelihoods from disasters, serious emergencies and the effects of war and conflict. In addition to preventive measures, strategies for damage mitigation and incident management also fall under civil protection. Civil protection and disaster preparedness form a central pillar in this regard. One key objective of the plan is to conduct a city-wide potential analysis for active community participation in disaster preparedness and civil protection. This will involve strengthening networks and civic engagement and utilising existing structures, such as neighbourhood initiatives, advisory boards and educational institutions. The network of healthcare providers, religious communities and volunteer groups also plays an important role. Educational measures will be designed to support the community in building disaster management knowledge and skills, and will strengthen resilience and raise awareness of crisis situations. Instead of relying solely on state-led mass media messaging, the City wants to place a greater emphasis on strengthening individual resilience and on public empowerment. Closer integration between state institutions and civil society is considered necessary for sustainable civil protection. The civil protection requirements plan will also set out specific indicators and measures for implementation. The recommendations for action and planning objectives will encourage a holistic, interdisciplinary and collaborative approach.



SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Background



Global

Global raw material consumption has almost doubled over the last 20 years. Volumes of food, electronic and other types of waste are reaching new highs every year, while consumption continues to increase the material footprint.⁴² Earth Overshoot Day landed on 25 July in 2025 – in 1987, it fell on 19 December.⁴³ This indicates the increasing pressure on the climate, resources and ecosystems worldwide. Despite the proliferation of international agreements, corporate sustainability reports and political measures, so far there has been little success in translating this institutional progress into an actual reduction in global consumption and resource use.



National

Germany has a framework that is far advanced by international standards, with its well-developed waste management system, high recycling rates, established deposit scheme and the Circular Economy Act (KrWG). Nevertheless, per capita consumption of raw materials is above both international and EU averages. In Germany, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 3 May in 2025.⁴⁴ According to the Federal Statistical Office, around 380 million tonnes of waste were generated in Germany in 2023.⁴⁵ If the whole world lived like the people in Germany, three planets would be needed to satisfy the demand for resources. The 2025 German Sustainable Development Strategy has therefore identified sustainable consumption, resource conservation and the circular economy as key areas for action.⁴⁶



Augsburg

For years, Augsburg has been pursuing strategies that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and conserve resources. Per capita waste generation was reduced from 480 kg in 2013 to 440 kg in 2022, which is below the Bavarian average. Augsburg is also below the state and national averages for domestic drinking water consumption, at 117 litres per person per day.

Augsburg has been a certified Fairtrade City since 2010 and is expanding regional value chains as a member of the Bio-Städte organic food network. In municipal nurseries, the proportion of organic food now stands at 77 per cent. Projects such as the *Library of Things* are developing sharing models that create alternative forms of consumption for the local community. Civic engagement is also on the rise. For example, the number of foodsharing pickups rose from 547 in 2015 to almost 14,000 in 2024. Augsburg is also home to the Recycling Atelier, an internationally unique facility for innovation in high-quality textile recycling. In addition, the City has adopted a sustainable procurement policy with binding social and environmental criteria as well as waste prevention guidelines.

Relevant SDG 12 targets for German municipalities include

- Achieve sustainable use of natural resources
- Reduce food waste and waste generation
- Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices
- Promote sustainable public procurement practices

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



12.1 – Implement the 10-year sustainable consumption and production framework

Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH activities

Launched by *Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH*, the "*Nachhaltigkeitsatlas*" (*sustainability atlas*) online platform has been coming up with ideas for sustainable business practices for companies in the A³ region (City of Augsburg, County of Augsburg and County of Aichach-Friedberg) since 2021. The platform combines examples of good practice with experts and services from the region. The Augsburg economic area boasts a wealth of expertise among its companies, projects, networks and institutions. The online platform aims to highlight this and facilitate collaborative efforts towards tackling the current challenges in the region. Every autumn, Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH organises **Sustainability Weeks** in the A³ region. For ten weeks, a focus is placed on events, projects and good examples from the Augsburg economic area. The **A³ Business Sustainability Day** also takes place as part of the Sustainability Weeks. The City of Augsburg's Economic Development Department and Office for Sustainability have been organising the event since 2017 in collaboration with Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH. Sustainability Day focuses on a different theme each year, offering keynote speeches, themed tables and networking opportunities.

Stadtsparkasse Augsburg (municipal savings bank): sustainable financial services

The *Stadtsparkasse Augsburg* bank is working with its customers to shape the transformation towards a sustainable region. Customers are supported in their transformation efforts through *financial services related to sustainability* and subsidised loans. In 2024, Stadtsparkasse provided training in sustainable finance to around 100 employees.



12.2 – Sustainable management and use of natural resources

AUGSBURG AICHACH-FRIEDBERGER LAND solidarity community (Future Prize 2024)

The **AUGSBURG AICHACH-FRIEDBERGER LAND solidarity community** promotes regional value creation and the preservation of livelihoods by marketing regional food products. It also focuses on business practices serving the common good. The UNSER LAND (our land) guidelines prohibit the use of chemical pesticides. Logistics are small-scale and climate-friendly, with fair payment and long-term contracts for producers. Through voluntary work, commitment and regional cooperation, the solidarity community is strengthening the region's future viability and protecting its biodiversity.

Construction of the new environmental education centre

The architecture competition for the *environmental education centre (UBZ)*, which opened in April 2023, was the first in Germany to integrate efficiency, consistency and sufficiency strategies. The "environmental costs" were internalised as early as the planning phase to keep the construction project's resource consumption as low as possible. The building's life cycle assessment was not based solely on energy consumption during its operational phase; construction and the materials used (their manufacture and disposal) also had to be considered in the overall context. The UBZ was awarded the Swabia region's architectural prize in 2024 for this highly sustainable approach.

Temporary use of vacant retail space

In the summer of 2023, the premises at Maximilianstraße 9 in Augsburg was put to temporary use as a *space for culture*. The Department of Culture rented the vacant premises for six months, creating a place for exchange, interaction, networking, experiments, art and culture, new ideas, opportunities and much more. This temporary use is a way to revitalise vacant properties through art, culture and the creative industries and make those visible. This contributes to cultural urban development and provides an open platform for temporary art experiences and creative experimentation.

The City of Augsburg's Economic Development Department is also actively working on preventing vacancies and revitalising empty shop premises through an appealing temporary or subsequent use. One project is the municipal *"Zwischenzeit" pop-up store* at Annastraße 16. The 100 m² retail space in a prime shopping location provides a platform for innovative and creative concepts and products from Augsburg and the surrounding region. During the run-up to Christmas between October and December, for example, 20 regional start-ups move in every year and run a shared design department store. As part of *active retail space management* and to boost the variety of offerings, the City also engages with owners and the real estate industry in the city centre (e.g. through a city centre real estate dialogue initiative) to find ways of supporting long-term sustainable occupancy.

Transport crates

Energy consumption at the *City Archives* is being reduced by switching to LED lighting technology. Reusable transport crates have also been purchased for sending deaccessioned material to the City Archives via the City's Central Dispatch Office.

Municipal nurseries and schools: paper consumption and IT equipment

Municipal nurseries and schools are encouraged to use paper sparingly (online forms for registration and application; digital file management; reusing printer paper). IT equipment is used in schools until it can no longer be repaired. It is also automatically decommissioned and circulated for further use or recycling via online marketplaces. As part of carbon offsetting measures for printers and multifunctional devices in schools, the ecological footprint of municipal schools is being reduced by supporting four climate action projects (Gold Standard).

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg (*housing association Augsburg, municipal participation*): sustainable new buildings

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg is aiming to achieve *QNG Sustainable Building Certification Plus* for the residential complex in the Prinz-Karl district, which is scheduled for completion in 2025. For example, sustainable wood has been used, particular attention has been paid to avoiding harmful substances, circular economy criteria have been taken into account and a life cycle assessment with the associated CO₂ equivalents has been carried out. The City's municipal housing company is leading the way in this area as one of the first companies to strive for the practical implementation of the QNG standard. When *constructing its new headquarters*, Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg prioritised the economical and efficient use of resources and, for example, used a high proportion of recycled steel. The new building meets the Efficiency House 40 EE standard, the highest energy standard for non-residential buildings. The company is also aiming to achieve *Platinum DGNB certification*. The *Michaelipark residential complex* has been

constructed using a streamlined timber structure in a hybrid design with a steel frame, making it particularly material-efficient. At the same time, the layered structure ensures that the materials can be dismantled and separated. When repairs are needed, only the affected slats or wooden parts then need to be replaced.

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg: lawnmowers for hire

Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg provides tenants of the Sheridanpark 2 residential complex with electric **lawnmowers for hire** for use in their garden sections. This saves resources, as the tenants don't need to buy their own lawnmower.

Timber construction network

Companies in the forestry and timber value chain share insights in the local **timber construction network** of Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH, the regional economic development agency. With around 25 members, it aims to promote the use of timber in public and commercial construction, to train architects, engineers and planners, and to reach local decision-makers. The network's activities include the Architecture Meets Timber event series with visits to best-practice projects, the Timber Construction Essentials training series, appearances at trade shows and public relations work. It further links in with the circular construction network, which also comes under Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH.



12.3 – Halve global per capita food waste

Foodsharing in Augsburg: preventing avoidable food waste

A regional **foodsharing group** has been active in Augsburg since 2015. It currently has over 600 members who save and redistribute surplus food from more than 100 regular partner businesses and at events. The group runs a number of public refrigerators ("Fair-Teiler") where any member of the public can contribute or take food. This easily accessible service has been very well received by a broad mix of different population groups. This is a quick and straightforward way of ensuring that food reaches consumers who are glad to have it. The foodsharing group is a forum of the Augsburg Network for Sustainability.

"Knödel und Kniffel" food rescue project

As part of the **"Knödel und Kniffel" project** launched in 2024 by Lebensraum Schwabencenter and foodsharing Augsburg, KUKA donates leftover canteen food to the "Schwabencenter living room" project once a week. There, mostly elderly Schwabencenter residents eat with young people from the neighbouring b-box youth centre and then play together. This project not only helps to save food, but also builds community spirit among local residents.



12.5 – Substantially reduce waste generation

Electronic personnel files and online application process

The city administration has implemented measures as part of its **digitalisation strategy**. For example, its **use of electronic file management** directly reduces paper consumption while indirectly enabling work to be carried out from almost anywhere. This can help avoid many work commutes. Shared use of workstations also allows the resources employed, in particular office space and equipment, to be used more efficiently and flexibly. In the **area of digital administration**, the administration is promoting the digitalisation of administrative processes and reduced resource consumption (especially paper). The **digitalisation of personnel files in the Human Resources Department** (approx. 8,800 case files) through the introduction of an electronic personnel file system at the end of 2024 is also helping the

administration to conserve resources by reducing paper consumption. In addition, this is building digital skills among employees and promoting participation through the accessible digital work environment. The Human Resources Department also introduced the BITE application tool in 2019. Now that this **online application process** is available, the number of paper applications received has been significantly reduced. The city administration also attaches great importance to using sustainable advertising materials for HR and trainee recruitment marketing (examples: post-cards made from seed paper that can be planted or sweet tins made from renewable raw materials).

Waste management plan

The Circular Economy Act (KrWG) puts waste prevention at the top of a five-stage waste hierarchy within the framework of waste management. Waste prevention takes precedence over preparation for reuse, recycling, other forms of recovery, in particular energy recovery, and disposal. Waste prevention and reduction are paramount in everyday work and in the **2020–2029 waste management plan** of the waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg (AWS). The City wants to switch from linear to circular processes, e.g. through waste consulting, environmental education and support for reuse and recycling projects.

Paper consumption

In 2021, the City Council passed Resolution 21/05749 on **paper use**, instructing the city administration, including schools and municipal enterprises and holdings, to reduce paper consumption, switch to paperless electronic working, use 100% recycled paper in schools and, as a rule, use recycled paper with the Blue Angel label, with exceptions for records deemed suitable for archiving.

Use of recycled building materials

The city administration's official instructions on awarding contracts – in particular the City of Augsburg's **official instruction on sustainable procurement** – contain provisions requiring sustainability criteria to be considered when awarding public contracts. Among other things, they refer to the requirement to observe Bavaria's environmental guidelines on public procurement (öAUMWR), which also regulate the **use of recycled building materials** in accordance with Art. 2 of the Bavarian Waste Management Act (BayAbfG). There are no further municipal regulations regarding the use of recycled building materials at this time.

Switch to recycling bins

In 2019, AWS replaced the yellow bins for packaging waste with **recycling bins**. Sorting is carried out by a specialist company using technology and manual labour. Approximately 60% of the content is recycled, while 40% is used to generate energy. Material recycling through the production of recycled materials contributes to the circular economy.

Textile collection and recycling

AWS has set up 277 containers in the Augsburg city area for **collecting and recycling textiles and shoes**. Third parties (e.g. Aktion Hoffnung) selected through a tender process empty these containers and recycle the items. Approximately 1,000 tonnes are collected each year. The proportion of textiles in residual waste has decreased significantly. After sorting by quality, approximately 50–55% of the materials can be reused (second-hand – either resold locally, used for social purposes or distributed as international aid); the rest are used as material (processed into insulation material or cleaning rags) or, in 5–10% of cases, for energy.

Recycling Atelier for used textiles

The **Augsburg Institute of Textile Technology (ITA Augsburg)** at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg has been building up a recycling studio for used textiles since 2022. The NuCollect project, which will run until 2027, sees the **pre-sorting of old clothes** and social engagement by citizens as a way to improve recyclability and

achieve higher recycling rates. This creates the basis for a constant supply of secondary raw materials. The waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg (AWS) is one of the practical partners.

Initiatives to promote reusable packaging and waste prevention

Waste consulting and environmental education focused on waste prevention result in less waste in public spaces. On its website and in individual consultations, AWS provides information on easy ways to avoid waste in everyday life, at school and at work. It supports the *initiatives ("reusable, not disposable")* of the Local Agenda 21's Plastic-Free Forum for Augsburg that encourage people to bring along their own mugs and containers: in all participating businesses, customers can use their own reusable cups for hot drinks or have their own containers filled with food and beverages. With the **Augsburg Cup**, AWS launched a flexible reusable system for cold drinks in summer 2022. This has been used in the city centre, but also at major events such as the 2022 Canoe World Championships, the Modular youth festival and the Augsburg Summer Nights city festival. AWS also supports *further measures to prevent waste*, such as providing information about social institutions that accept and offer furniture, electrical appliances and other items in good condition, promoting reusable nappies and nappy washing services, and supporting mobile dishwashing units in Augsburg that lend crockery and cutlery to avoid the use of paper and plastic tableware.

AuMida collection and meeting place

The **AuMida collection and meeting place** run by the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care inspires wonder and exploration. The focus is on the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy, known as Reggio education, directed here towards recycling and upcycling. Visitors can use upcycling materials donated by companies and private individuals for their own creations.

Transition Town Augsburg

Transition Town Augsburg e.V. connects existing initiatives, collects ideas and launches projects to improve the use of resources, energy and food. Its core objectives are to encourage careful use of resources through recycling, bring about a reduction in carbon emissions and promote networking, which gives rise to new ideas and regional communities. Members of Transition Town Augsburg include the "Schwabencenter living room", City Farm, the Max & Moritz cargo bike hire scheme, the Plastic-Free Forum, Augsburg.one and the League for insect rights. Transition Town Augsburg is part of Local Agenda 21 Augsburg.

Plastic-Free Forum for Augsburg

The **Plastic-Free Forum focuses on paths to a resource-efficient and sustainable life**. It campaigns against unnecessary plastic and superfluous packaging in the public, corporate and private sectors, and promotes the conscious use of resources and their recycling. As a member of Zero Waste Germany e.V., the forum wants to make Augsburg a zero-waste city by establishing material cycles to recover and recycle valuable resources from waste, construction rubble and production. It has been organising regular *get-togethers for a plastic-free life* in and around Augsburg for years. It has developed a **plastic-free certificate** for schools and nurseries and carries out the certification process. In 2024, the **forum** curated **plastic-free educational boxes** that nurseries, schools and other institutions can borrow from the City Library and other places to explore the topic. In addition, the forum's activists have succeeded in getting Augsburg to offer **subsidies for reusable nappy systems** and are campaigning for similar subsidies for menstrual products. With its **Bring it with you** and **Bring your own cup** campaigns, the forum encourages people to bring their own containers with them when they go shopping. It played a decisive role in the introduction of the **Recup deposit cup** in Augsburg.

Augsburger Panther Eishockey GmbH: reducing overall waste

As major sporting events, the home games of the **Augsburger Panther** Eishockey GmbH ice hockey team, played at the Curt Frenzel Stadium, result in significant resource consumption. The operating company has minimised and

optimised resource use, particularly in catering and merchandising – for example, the use of reusable cups saves over 2 tonnes of disposable cups every season. In merchandising, the volume of plastic waste has also been significantly reduced by dispensing with individual packaging and switching to paper packaging. From the 2022–23 season to the 2023–24 season, the **overall waste** generated by the Panthers was reduced by 19%, partly as a result of the measures described above.

BMK Group: repairing electronic assemblies (Future Prize 2020)

BMK electronic services GmbH, part of the **BMK Group**, offers comprehensive after-sales services for **electronic assemblies** and machine systems. Since 2001, the company has been repairing and analysing assemblies at the highest technical level in order to conserve resources and extend the service life of products. Targeted repairs and the use of special tools save around 40,000 assemblies annually, offering both economic and ecological benefits.

Organic farm Bioland-Hof Förg: ecological circular economy (Future Prize 2022)

Organic farm **Bioland-Hof Förg** comprises the Alte Schäferei farm shop and the Rotes Pony organic brewery. The special dual-purpose chickens contribute to **an ecological circular economy** by feeding on beer spent grain, a waste product from the brewery. The farm shop offers regional organic food and everyday products.

Fab City Augsburg – educate, repair, reuse, recycle (Future Prize 2023)

Habitat Augsburg e.V., the largest volunteer-run maker space in the German-speaking world, prepared Augsburg's accession to the global Fab City network as **Fab City Augsburg – educate, repair, reuse, recycle** in 2023. It is establishing a network of repair initiatives.

Architecture. In the District pilot project (Future Prize 2023)

The **Architecture. In the District pilot project** is a collaboration between the State Building Authority, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and the Concular used parts platform. Instead of simply demolishing the old Augsburg City Library, the structural elements were recorded and digitised by master's students at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg for reuse. 78% of the elements were sold, saving around 20 tonnes of CO₂ and significantly reducing demolition costs. In addition, the students tested a design method that is still unusual at this time but will be relevant in the future: designing and creating with existing building materials.

bifa Umweltinstitut: University Hospital waste assessment and packaging assessment system

bifa Umweltinstitut GmbH has helped University Hospital Augsburg make the transition to a circular economy: the **assessment of waste generated by the hospital** showed an increase of approximately 14% between 2014 and 2022. Various waste prevention measures were then recommended. In 2021, bifa Umweltinstitut developed a **system for assessing the recyclability of packaging**. The aim was to ensure that more sales packaging could be sent for high-quality recycling, allowing the raw materials to be recovered. Packaging that can be materially recycled after collection and sorting is considered recyclable; packaging that can only be used for energy recovery is not. Within material recycling, the extent and quality of reuse are taken into account. In addition, consumers should be able to easily assign the packaging to the correct collection system, and it must be possible to systematically sort the packaging from the mixed collection.



12.6 – Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting

Business peer group for the Common Good Balance Sheet

In 2019/2020, **Augsburg's regional group of the Economy for the Common Good** (ECG) organised a **business peer group for the Common Good Balance Sheet** for the third time. The eight participating companies from the Augsburg

area prepared balance sheets based on the values of human dignity, solidarity, environmental sustainability, social justice and democratic co-determination. ECG makes the well-being of people and the environment the primary goal. Using the peer evaluation process, more than 15 companies in Bavarian Swabia have now been able to significantly reduce the costs involved in drawing up the desired Common Good Balance Sheet and establish local networking across a wide range of industries to improve the visibility of sustainable business practices.

Corporate responsibility work group

Since 2013, the *corporate responsibility work group* has been offering *Fokus N*, a platform for businesspeople and leaders to exchange ideas on various sustainability topics and further develop their sustainable approaches. Since 2017, breakfast meetings for businesspeople have been organised to provide inspiration for sustainability and promote networking. In autumn 2023, the concept was realigned by organising breakfasts for company tandems consisting of trainers and trainees. The aim is to empower trainees in companies to work with managers to develop and implement new sustainability activities for their own companies. The work group is a Local Agenda 21 Augsburg forum.

Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH: Ökoprofit

Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH is the regional economic development agency. Together, its three shareholders – the City of Augsburg, the County of Augsburg and the County of Aichach-Friedberg – make up the A³ region. One offering for companies in the Augsburg economic area is *Ökoprofit* – an instrument that companies can use to set up a professional environmental management system. The aim is to balance environmental and economic challenges for businesses. The Ökoprofit award is obtained within a network as part of group consulting in eight workshops. Beginner rounds were supervised and coordinated in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. In addition, four club rounds have been held since 2019 for companies that have already obtained the award and are interested in continuing to learn together and compare their experiences in four workshops.

KUKA AG: 2024 ESG Transparency Award

KUKA AG is working to conserve resources and reduce waste and emissions. It plans to lower greenhouse gas emissions from its own business activities (Scope 1 and 2) by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 2022 and become climate-neutral by 2050. It has also set itself the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions along its entire value chain (Scope 3) by 20% by 2030 and by 90% by 2050. To achieve these goals, KUKA began early on to make its global sustainability performance transparent – not only in respect of emissions, but also waste generation, energy consumption and social engagement. KUKA received the *ESG Transparency Award* in the "Excellence" class in 2024 in recognition of its integration of future-oriented sustainability practices into everyday business and its related transparent communication.



12.7 – Promote sustainable public procurement practices

Guidelines for the efficient operation of municipal IT systems

The *City of Augsburg's digitalisation strategy* adopted by the City Council in 2022 addresses the goal of resource conservation, for instance in the area of *information technology*, through strategic initiatives such as cloud and green IT guidelines. This includes guidelines for the efficient operation of all of the City of Augsburg's IT systems, taking into account criteria such as energy and resource efficiency as well as environmental aspects. As an example, the strategy specifies criteria for procuring and operating IT equipment based on the recommendations of the Blue Angel Energy-Efficient Data Centre Operation environmental label and the Ecodesign requirements for servers and data storage products.

Supplies and services: sustainability criteria for procurement and the awarding of contracts

The city administration attaches great importance to sustainability criteria in **public procurement and the awarding of contracts in the area of supplies and services**. It reviews the use of raw and other materials as part of ongoing procurement processes. It takes particular care to ensure that tenders are structured so that as little waste as possible is generated, especially in the area of packaging. Where it is not possible to avoid packaging, the packaging must be either recycled or disposed of in a manner that has the least possible impact on the environment. For example, it requires that office furniture be delivered using reusable (protective) covers instead of packaging material.

The overall focus is on ensuring suppliers have appropriate certification, meet industry-specific and social standards and use innovative and resource-efficient manufacturing methods. The tenders also place great emphasis on the contracted companies using materials that can be refilled (e.g. office supplies) or repaired (e.g. furniture). Furthermore, care is taken to ensure that manufactured parts do not contain any materials that are harmful to health. Consolidating invoices under framework agreements also helps reduce paper usage. Free external public advisory services, such as those provided through the Sustainability Compass and the Federal Ministry of the Interior's Procurement Office, are used for this.

Implementation of the reuse requirement in the municipal procurement directive

To **implement the requirement to use reusable items contained in the municipal procurement directive**, Augsburg City Council decided in 2019 that municipal departments, schools and enterprises would be obliged to fulfil the City's environmental role model function and the legal requirement to prioritise waste prevention. The use of disposable tableware and cups should be avoided in all of these and must be prohibited in all new rental and lease agreements with business premises and sales outlets.



12.8 – Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles

Online regional organic shopping guide for Augsburg

The online **regional organic shopping guide for Augsburg** has been showcasing local production and retail locations for organic food in the city and county of Augsburg since 2024. The list includes market vendors, artisanal food producers, direct marketers, retailers, restaurants and catering companies with organic offerings. This makes it easier for local people to find places to buy organic products and strengthens the regional organic sector in the city and county of Augsburg. The online shopping guide is independent and free of advertising.

City Library: Library of Things

Libraries are sustainable by nature and can be considered the originators of the concept of sharing: they make books and other analogue and digital media available to a large number of people for repeated use in a long-lasting cycle. With the Library of Things containing leisure and household items and tools that individuals only need occasionally or would like to try out first, city libraries such as Augsburg City Library are expanding their services and encouraging people to buy less and share more.

Lifeguide Augsburg (Future Prize 2019)

Since 2006, **Lifeguide Augsburg** has been providing information on where to shop for organic, fair trade and environmentally friendly products and where sustainable services are available in Augsburg and the counties of Augsburg and Aichach-Friedberg. In addition, it highlights sustainability initiatives in which others can get involved. Lifeguide is run by the Lifeguide steering committee (an Agenda forum) and the Lifeguide Region Augsburg e.V. non-profit association. The Lifeguide Region Augsburg internet portal is a digital magazine, alternative industry guide and calendar.

All content promotes and facilitates a more environmentally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable lifestyle. The first printed sustainable Lifeguide was published in 2018. The criteria for inclusion in Lifeguide are based on the Future Guidelines for Augsburg. In 2020, Lifeguide was also recognised as an exemplary sustainability project for Germany as a whole by Regionale Netzstellen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien, a network for exchange, engagement and impact. In autumn 2023, Lifeguide received the Bavarian State Foundation's Environmental Award.

Fairtrade City Augsburg

Augsburg has been participating in the Fairtrade City campaign since 2010, with the **Fairtrade City Augsburg steering committee** responsible for continuously promoting fair trade. This plays a very comprehensive role in sustainability and the Future Guidelines: by establishing fair economic structures, fair trade helps to combat global poverty, protect the environment and climate, and promote the advancement of women. Every two years, the steering committee ensures that Augsburg is recertified as a Fairtrade City. Regular **city tours on the topic of sustainable consumption and fashion** are offered for individuals and groups of all ages in cooperation with Weltladen Augsburg and Werkstatt Solidarischer Welt. One key successful project is the small **KonsuMensch** information brochure (see SDG 4).

Augsburg's Economy for the Common Good regional group: values self-test

Augsburg's regional group of the Economy for the Common Good (ECG) advocates for greater consideration of the values of human dignity, solidarity, environmental sustainability, social justice and democratic co-determination in the existing economic system. In collaboration with the City's Office for Sustainability, a **values self-test** was developed in 2022 to raise awareness of these values in a playful way at trade fairs, events and presentations. A mobile "banner" (printed on durable film measuring approx. 4 x 3.5 metres) has been created for the values self-test. It is lent out to other ECG regional groups throughout Germany and is available as a data download for reproduction. It can also be accessed online as a self-test.



Exhibition stand for the City at A\FAIR, the public trade fair for the Augsburg region, in 2025 (source: Thorsten Metz)

Developments at local level



Drinking water consumption – private households

2013	2018	2021
116.0	117.7	117.0

Drinking water consumption (households and small businesses) per person per day in litres

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



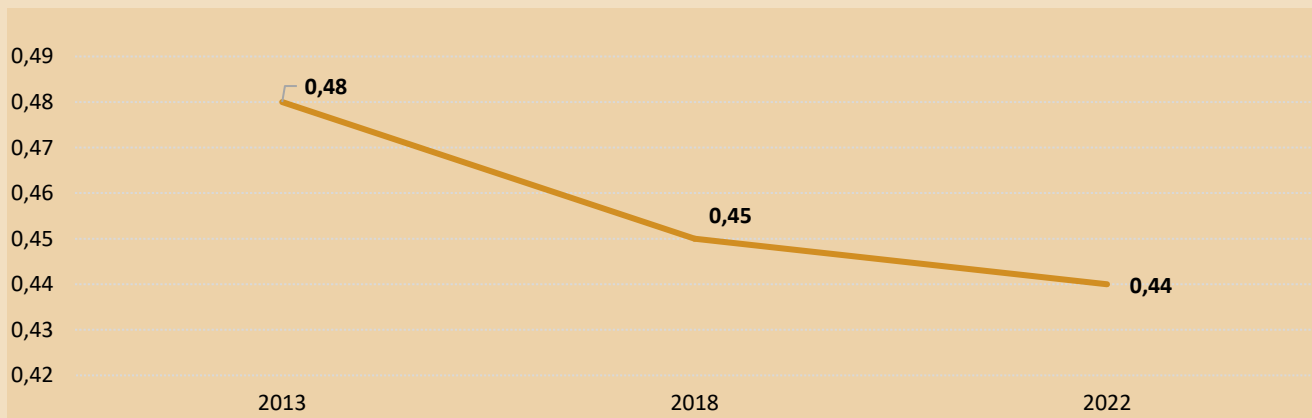
Amount of waste

2013	2018	2022
0.48	0.45	0.44

Household waste generated (excluding e-waste) per person in tonnes (t)

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator





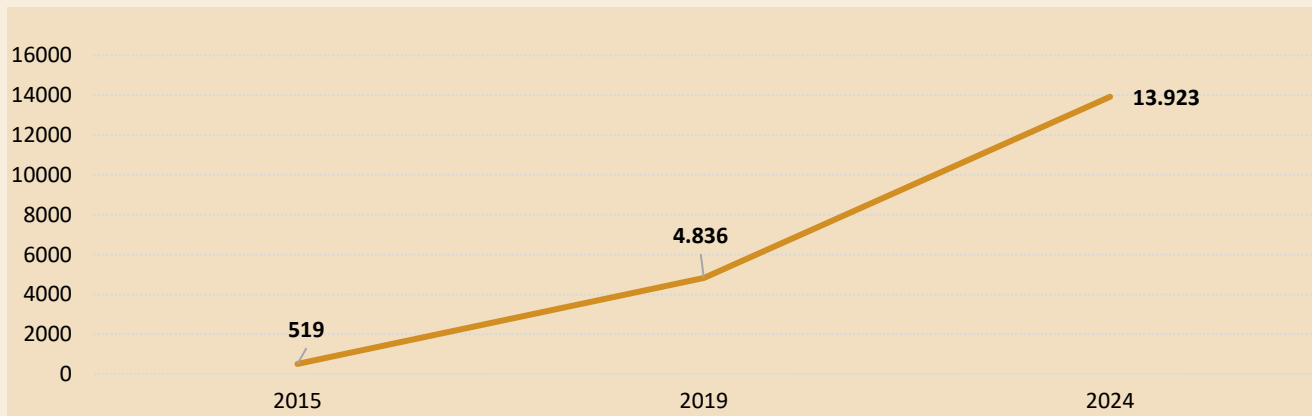
Number of foodsharing collections

2015	2019	2024
519	4836	13923

Number of food rescue activities at cooperating businesses

Source: foodsharing Augsburg/evaluation via the foodsharing platform

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



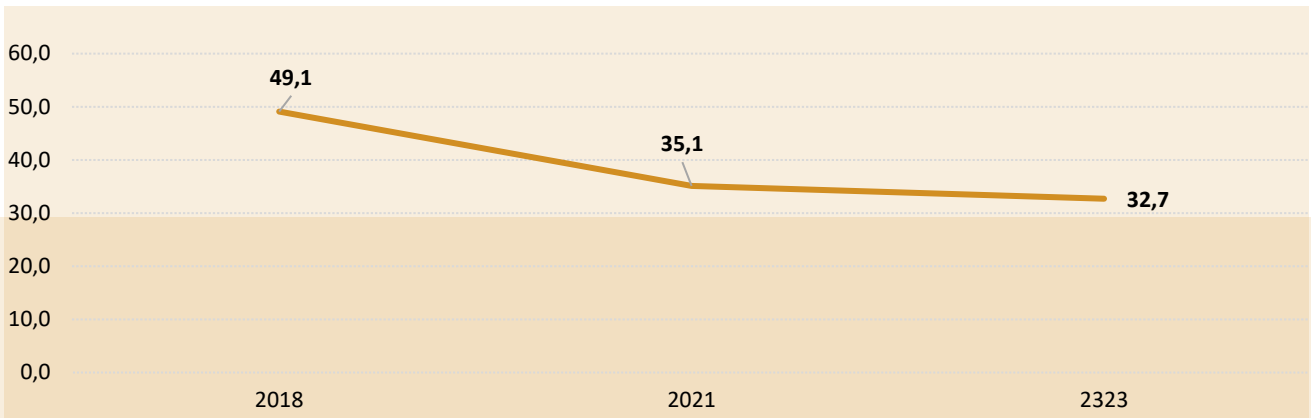
City administration: paper purchasing and recycled paper

	2018	2021	2023
Total amount of office paper purchased (sheets)	49.1 million	35.1 million	32.7 million
Proportion of recycled paper	37%	78%	65%

Total amount of office paper purchased by the city administration and municipal schools and proportion of recycled paper. In 2023, 99 large and medium-sized cities in Germany and 14 of 65 in Bavaria took part in the Paper Atlas survey.

Source: Office for Sustainability, Paper Atlas

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



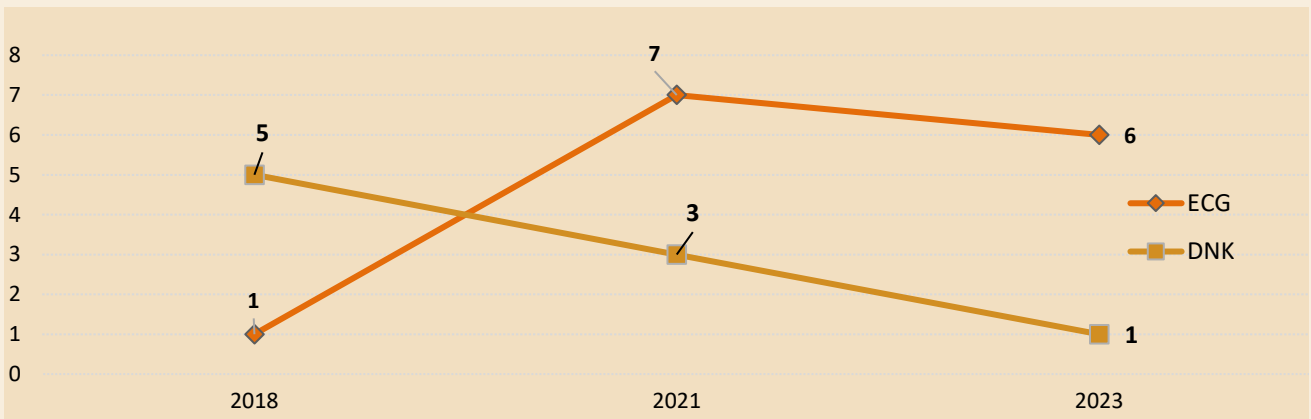
Companies with a Common Good Balance Sheet or sustainability report (DNK)

	2018	2021	2023
ECG	1	7	6
DNK	5	3	1

Companies with a Common Good Balance Sheet as per the Economy for the Common Good (ECG) or a sustainability report as per the German Sustainability Code (DNK)

Source: Websites of Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie Deutschland e.V. (ECG) and the German Sustainability Code

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



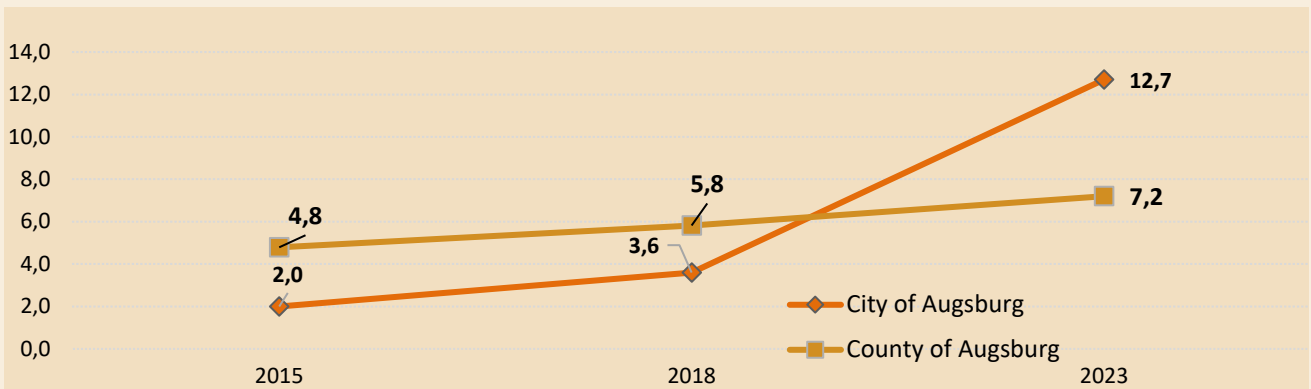
Proportion of organic farms

	2015	2018	2023
City of Augsburg	2.00	3.6	12.7
County of Augsburg	4.79	5.82	7.20

Percentage of agricultural businesses in the City and County of Augsburg that have organic certification and therefore comply with organic farming guidelines.

Source: Office for Food, Agriculture and Forestry in Swabia

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



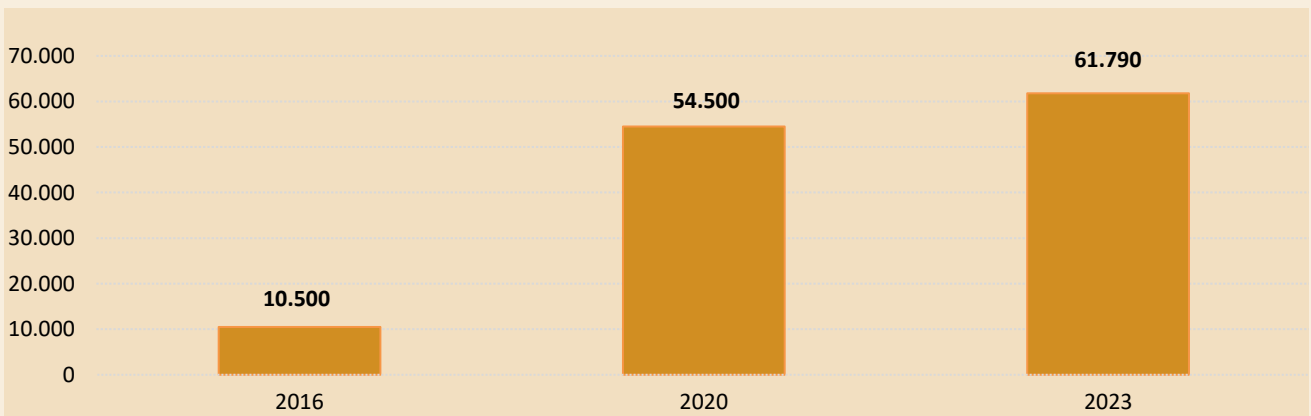
Visits to lifeguide-augsburg.de

2016	2020	2024
10500	54500	61790

Visits to lifeguide-augsburg.de per year

Source: Lifeguide Region Augsburg e.V.

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

Use resources sparingly and efficiently (Ö3.1), Strengthen circular processes and reuse (Ö3.2), Preserve buildings and put them to temporary use (W5.3), Produce responsibly (W3.1) and Shop and source responsibly (W3.2) as well as Use rather than own (W3.3) are key objectives for Augsburg's sustainable development.

Augsburg has a wide range of initiatives, networks and projects dedicated to sustainable consumption, the circular economy and resource conservation. From educational and awareness-raising offerings to sharing models and sustainable procurement structures, a wide range of stakeholders are active in the local community. This diversity shows that there is strong awareness of sustainable consumption and production patterns and this is already having a practical impact at many levels.

At the same time, Augsburg – like many other cities – faces challenges. Rising consumption, a growing population and increasing online trade are structural drivers of high waste volumes. Packaging materials and consumer nondurables in particular make it difficult to further reduce the total amount of waste. Sustainable consumption is often associated with higher prices or increased organisational effort, which results in unequal access across social groups. To effectively counter these trends, the City will have to strategically consolidate its activities to date and support low-threshold, affordable and easily accessible services. This includes promoting reuse and repair structures, strengthening regional value chains, consistently implementing sustainable procurement guidelines and conducting systematic monitoring to evaluate progress. In the long term, it also has to further develop its municipal waste and recycling infrastructure so that it is able to effectively manage increasing volumes and changing material flows.


As early as 2021, the City's Sustainability Advisory Board recommended developing a low-waste/zero-waste city concept, but this has not yet been implemented. There are plans for a fundamental structural renovation and reorganisation of the operations centre of the waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg (AWS). Habitat Augsburg e.V. will develop a city-wide Repair Café calendar to strengthen the network of repair initiatives and promote new Repair Cafés. The city administration is continuously increasing the number of framework agreements in the area of sustainable procurement.



13 MASSNAHMEN ZUM
KLIMASCHUTZ

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 still on the rise. The UN forecasts that the world is currently heading for a temperature increase of 2.7°C.⁴⁷ Investment in emissions reduction must be urgently accelerated if we are to keep the 1.5°C target within reach. At the same time, more financial resources have to be devoted to climate adaptation and resilience to mitigate the already unavoidable consequences of global warming.



National

With its Climate Action Act (KSG) and binding sector targets, and having enshrined in law the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2045, Germany has created a clear and internationally ambitious framework. It intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65 per cent compared to 1990 levels by 2030. 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 2023.⁴⁸ The transport and buildings sectors in particular are still failing to meet the targets. The national climate targets for 2030 are still achievable according to the German Environment Agency.⁴⁹



Augsburg

Climate action is a key future challenge for the City of Augsburg. Between 2016 and 2021, per capita greenhouse gas emissions were reduced from 8.18 to 6.52 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents – a decrease of more than 20 per cent. Augsburg has clearly set out its targets in its climate action programme adopted in 2022: the city administration will achieve climate neutrality by 2035, and the city as a whole will be climate-neutral by 2045 at the latest.

In addition to reducing emissions, adapting to the consequences of climate change is becoming increasingly important. With the climate change adaptation plan for the City of Augsburg (KASA), measures for heat prevention, sponge city development and urban greening are being implemented. Model projects such as the heat action plan and climate-adapted neighbourhoods show how the local community can be made more resilient to the consequences of global warming.

Relevant SDG 13 targets for German municipalities include

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters
- Integrate climate change measures into policies and strategies
- Improve communication and human capacity on climate change

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters

City climate analysis

A comprehensive *city climate analysis* was carried out between 2021 and 2023 to better understand the climate in the city of Augsburg so that targeted measures could be taken to improve it. The resulting maps showed, for example, where the temperature is particularly high in Augsburg during the day and night, where cooler air currents form and where there are cold air corridors. The analysis examined the situation as it stood and also considered a scenario for 2040 with significant climate change, taking into account potential settlement and development areas. The maps provide a basis for planning urban land use and more.

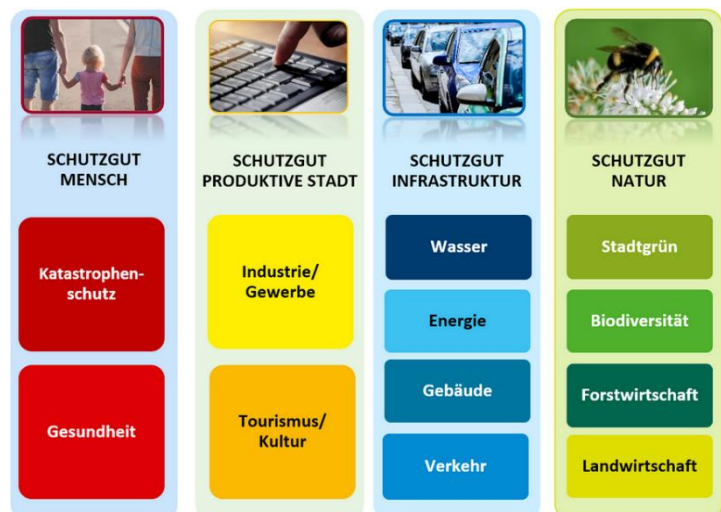
Climate and urban planning guide

One of the aims of the *climate and urban planning guide* is to support heat-adapted urban development. The orientation, position and height of new buildings should ensure there are clear corridors for air movement and allow for good air exchange.

Climate change adaptation plan for the City of Augsburg (KASA)

In 2022, Augsburg City Council adopted the city-wide *climate change adaptation plan for the City of Augsburg (KASA Part 1 and Part 2)*. This cross-sectoral overall concept provides a comprehensive technical basis for climate adaptation measures in Augsburg. The intention is to ensure a climate-resilient Augsburg (linking in closely with the urban development plan and the Future Guidelines for Augsburg). Protecting Augsburg from the consequences of climate change means strengthening or defending the four protected resources – people, infrastructure, the functional urban economy and the city's natural environment – against possible negative consequences.

The core characteristic that needs to be strengthened in respect of all of these is urban resilience, i.e. the city's ability to withstand



Quelle: Grafik und Inhalte: GreenAdapt, GSF Potsdam, LUP Potsdam

shocks. In addition to an overview of climate change in Augsburg and the impacts on twelve identified areas of action, the climate change adaptation plan includes a comprehensive catalogue of measures. The twelve areas of action are in turn assigned to the four main protected resources.

Along with the catalogue of measures, two flagship projects have been defined in the climate change adaptation plan: the development of a city-wide heat action plan and a climate-resilient neighbourhood. The **city-wide heat action plan** (HAP) adopted in 2025 aims to warn and better protect the general population, particularly vulnerable groups. These include, for example, the elderly, children, people with chronic illnesses, people in need of care and outdoor workers. Groups of stakeholders from the health sector (doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, care facilities, etc.) can play their part via the existing Gesundheitsregion^{Plus} network.

For the Climate-Resilient Neighbourhood flagship project, the Rechts der Wertach and Oberhausen-Mitte neighbourhoods were selected as project areas for the **climate adaptation model neighbourhood**. The findings from this project will later be applied to other neighbourhoods. Due to the high level of sealing and relatively few green spaces, the Oberhausen-Mitte and Rechts der Wertach areas are some of the city's heat hotspots. Climate-resilient redevelopment and efforts to raise public awareness are therefore especially relevant measures in this context. There is potential for greening and unsealing in public spaces and on private property, which would have numerous positive effects. In the summer of 2025, a temporary **climate island** was set up at Martin-Luther-Platz in the city centre to illustrate heat adaptation measures.

The City plans to treat rainwater according to the **sponge city principle**, in particular by avoiding sealing, local infiltration and evaporation, and to ensure the utilisation, storage and controlled drainage of the water (e.g. through tree trenches and permeable surfaces). Measures include the targeted use of traffic areas and open spaces (such as green spaces and playgrounds) for the temporary storage of rainwater, as well as roof and façade greening. The City is already incorporating the sponge city principle into plans for new developments and is examining the possibility of applying it to the existing built environment. A sponge city work group has been set up within the administration for this purpose.

Climate-neutral city administration by 2035

Augsburg's city administration is leading by example by putting climate action measures into practice internally. The **goal of achieving a climate-neutral city administration by 2035** was set in 2024. For this reason, an initial greenhouse gas inventory was drawn up for the administration. Based on the available data, the starting inventory for 2019 showed 44,273 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (with, however, significant gaps in the data). In order to achieve the target, reduction pathways of at least 14 per cent per annum are required. The city administration is tasked with further developing interim targets and measures for the reduction pathway and, taking into account the City of Augsburg's budgetary situation, specifying the path to climate neutrality for properties and projects (selected by priority) as quickly as possible. This is also set out in the **2024 climate action report for a path to a climate-neutral city administration**, which was published in 2024.

Smart Urban Management of Green Space project

The **Smart Urban Management of Green Space for a Climate-Resilient Augsburg (SMSA)** project was launched in Augsburg in July 2024. This aims to make Augsburg more climate-resilient and increase the amount of urban green space through smart solutions for the urban management of green space. It contains four sub-projects: tree planting in the city centre, irrigation management, "Zentrale Mitte" green area and climate oases. The following targets have been defined:

- Establish climate-resilient tree sites in the city centre with new plantings (35 climate-resilient/future-proof trees in 2023, 40 in 2024 and 25 in 2025)
- Identify and exploit potential for unsealing
- Enhance public spaces
- Implement ecological, climatic and hydrogeological transformation processes

- Encourage citizen participation
- Create spaces for people and animals (green space, water areas and public squares)
- Incorporate climate adaptation measures (such as climate-resilient tree and shrub species suitable for the respective location, water retention systems and retention areas) into the planning process
- Create climate oases
- Monitor the measures for integration into future urban land use planning
- Partially automate irrigation (e.g. with the help of digital weather data)

Establishing staff positions and a work group

Within the Environmental Department's Climate Action Unit, 1.5 *staff positions* have been created **to deal with climate adaptation**. In addition, a *work group comprising various departments* has been set up within the administration to develop the KASA climate change adaptation plan and coordinate the implementation of measures.

Conversion to climate-resilient forests

When the City of Augsburg's Forestry Department undertakes reforestation, it is essentially **aiming to create climate-resilient forests**. Among other things, it plants native and particularly drought-resistant tree species, such as wild pears, service trees, sweet chestnut trees, wild service trees, rowan trees and yews. In the last survey period, the City of Augsburg planted approximately 500,000 young trees in forests across all districts, with an emphasis on converting them into climate-resilient forests. Several areas have been reforested and new forests have been established in recent years. In 2019, work began on reforesting a community forest in the Hammerschmiede district, with 17,765 trees being planted. FC Augsburg has planted the FCA Forest near the Singold river.

Planting climate-resilient trees

When planting trees (300 to 400 new trees per year), the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries also takes care to plant **climate-resilient trees**. It plants approximately 60 different species and genera.

Round table on urban trees

In December 2024, the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries launched a **round table on urban trees** attended by city councillors as well as associations and organisations committed to nature conservation and trees. Municipal activities in respect of urban green spaces and roadside greenery are presented and discussed at this round table. The first **urban tree report** was published in May 2025.

Centre for Climate Resilience at the University of Augsburg

Established in 2020, the **Centre for Climate Resilience** (ZfK) at the University of Augsburg is an **important interdisciplinary research facility** that focuses on the interaction between humans, the climate and the environment. It primarily conducts interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research into the development of implementable strategies for adaptation to the consequences of climate change for application at regional, national and international level. With ten newly created professorships and the expertise of over 50 scientists across all eight faculties of the University of Augsburg and the University's Environmental Science Centre, ZfK delivers interdisciplinary teaching and knowledge transfer to policymakers, businesses, administration and the wider public in addition to its research activities.



13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning

Blue City climate action programme

With the **Blue City climate action programme** adopted in 2022, the City of Augsburg has laid the groundwork for its efforts to become a climate-friendly city. This programme sets out a climate roadmap for the coming years. It is based on the city's residual CO₂ budget, the results of the 2030 climate action study, the measures adopted by the climate action task force and approved by the City Council in 2021, and the climate action targets at international, European, federal and state level. For its implementation, the City is guided by the objectives and recommendations of the **2030 climate action study** in the areas of electricity supply, heat supply and mobility, and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (cumulative by 2030) presented therein. The climate action programme measures are summarised in a seven-pillar model, which provides a structure for future climate action work.

Energy Expert Forum

The **Energy Expert Forum** is an association of committed citizens who are experts in the fields of climate action and sustainable energy use. Since 1996, it has been driving climate action through **specialist events, energy facts, statements, argumentation aids and recommendations**, and helping to put the climate action debate on a more factual footing. In specialist publications such as "Fakten zur Windenergie im Augsburger Land" (Facts about wind energy in the Augsburg region) (2021), "10 Herausforderungen und Handlungsansätze für effektiven Klimaschutz" (Ten challenges and approaches for effective climate action) (2022) and "Erderwärmung aus Sicht der Thermodynamik" (Global warming from a thermodynamic perspective) (2022), it offers constructively critical coverage of energy policy for the Augsburg region. The topics addressed include energy efficiency, the energy transition, the expansion and system integration of renewable energy and the demand for a coherent overall plan for achieving the desired climate neutrality.

Fridays for Future: demonstrations/climate camp

Fridays for Future Augsburg draws attention to injustice and advocates for the fundamental right to climate protection through various forms of protest, including small and large **demonstrations**. The largest demonstration in Augsburg so far had 6,000 participants. Augsburg also hosted Germany's longest **climate camp** to date, which lasted over four years and reminded town hall politicians of their responsibility in the climate crisis with the slogan "We'll camp until you act".

Climate Advisory Board

The City of Augsburg's **Climate Advisory Board** advises the City Council on the implementation of municipal climate action goals. It supports dialogue between the public, the scientific community, policymakers and public administrators, and promotes expert public discussion of the objectives and criteria of municipal climate action policy. The Climate Advisory Board is appointed by the City Council and consists of four members each from the research community, business and civil society. In addition, there are advisory members from politics and public administration who do not have voting rights: one representative from each of the City Council political groups and the heads of the city administration's Department for Construction and Mobility, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Environmental Affairs, Office for the Environment and Climate Action Department in the Office for the Environment. The Climate Advisory Board was established in 2020 on the recommendation of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Modular Festival: CO₂ calculator for events (Future Prize 2022)

The **Modular Festival** is organised by **Augsburg's City Youth Council** and sponsored by the City of Augsburg. Held since 2019, it attracts around 30,000 festivalgoers over three days at the gasworks site, making it one of Germany's

largest youth culture festivals. The organisers strive to make the event as sustainable as possible and more environmentally friendly every year. In 2022, the Modular team developed a **CO₂ calculator for events** that it can use to optimise its organisation and actions in future years. The CO₂ calculator provides an overview of emissions in various areas, such as energy, catering and mobility, and shows the proportion attributable to visitors, volunteers and service providers, for example. This allows targeted measures to be taken. For example, Modular has been offering only meat-free vegan/vegetarian options since 2023.

Evangelical Lutheran Deanery of Augsburg: reducing greenhouse gas emissions

The **Evangelical Lutheran Deanery of Augsburg** is guided by the Evangelical Regional Church's new climate action policy, which sets a target of achieving net greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045. For example, **annual greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 10%** in each of the first ten years to reach this target. The measures take particular account of the environmental, social and economic impacts.

The **Evangelical Lutheran Deanery of Augsburg** is on the path to climate neutrality. The Evangelical Regional Church's new climate action policy sets the target of achieving net greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045. For example, **annual greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 10%** in each of the first ten years to reach the targets set. The measures take particular account of the environmental, social and economic impacts.

Blue City climate pact for Augsburg's business sector

The **Blue City climate pact for Augsburg's business sector** is a key component of the Blue City climate action programme and was launched in 2022 by the City's Department of Economic Affairs. With this joint project, the City of Augsburg and the Augsburg business community are facing up to their climate action responsibility. Half of the greenhouse gas emissions generated in Augsburg come from industry, commerce, trade and services. The climate pact is intended to support the municipality in achieving its climate action objectives. More than 80 companies from a wide range of industries and of various sizes are now participating. Decision-makers come together in network meetings and workshops to engage intensively and develop best-practice solutions and innovations. Participation in the climate pact can reduce companies' operating costs and increase their competitiveness.

Chamber of Skilled Trades: carbon footprint and climate action network

The **Chamber of Skilled Trades for Swabia** has been measuring its **carbon footprint** since 2019. In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the emissions were offset through financial support for various climate action projects. Under the motto "climate action is our stock-in-trade", the Chamber's **climate action network** connects over 750 skilled trade businesses and numerous important partners with each other. The climate action network supports the skilled trades with various climate action activities and raises awareness of the importance of energy-efficient construction and renovation among homeowners and consumers.

GREIF Mietwäsche: carbon neutral by 2045

The company **GREIF Mietwäsche** has set itself **measurable climate reduction targets** in accordance with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) of the WWF, the UN Global Compact and others. This ensures that the emission targets are scientifically sound and the measures are effective and verifiable. Each climate target is based on the Paris Agreement on climate change. Since 2017, the company's goal has been to reduce Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions per gross value added by 38% by the end of 2025. It is aiming to reduce its GHG emissions to net zero by 2045. The strategy encompasses all areas of the company, from process optimisation and the use of sustainable technologies to collaboration with partners also committed to upholding the highest environmental standards.

Augsburger Panther Eishockey GmbH: carbon footprint

Augsburger Panther Eishockey GmbH calculated its CO₂ emissions for the first time in 2024, resulting in the ice hockey club's first **carbon footprint** figures for the 2022–23 season. This was also a licensing requirement of the German Ice Hockey League (DEL) for participation in games from the 2024–25 season onwards. Going forward, the

club will strive to reduce its emissions on the basis of this data. Fan mobility accounts for 73% of its carbon footprint and is therefore the largest area for action, while ice preparation at the Curt Frenzel Stadium is responsible for only 2% of emissions. The club released its second carbon footprint figures in 2025 for the 2023–24 season. This included water consumption for the first time.

FC Augsburg: environmental management and carbon footprint

By implementing an *environmental management system in accordance with EMAS* and *conducting an annual carbon footprint assessment*, **FC Augsburg** is establishing a solid data basis for environmental and climate action with a view to steadily improving its environmental performance.

Stadtsparkasse Augsburg: commitment to climate action and sustainable business practices

Stadtsparkasse Augsburg (municipal savings bank) is the leading financial services provider in Bavarian Swabia. With a market share of over 50%, 54 branches, total assets of €8.3 billion and around 1,000 employees, including 90 trainees, it strengthens the regional economy. It promotes the common good through donations, sponsorships and foundations. With its *commitment to climate action and sustainable business practices*, it is following the Paris climate targets: by 2035, it aims to reduce all direct CO₂ emissions under its control to zero. Its lending activities and its own investments are consistently aligned with climate targets. Stadtsparkasse Augsburg is a partner in the climate pact for Augsburg's business sector.

WashTec: transformation plan for carbon-neutral operations

WashTec is the global market and innovation leader in car wash technology. It manufactures vehicle washing systems – from gantry car wash equipment and automatic and self-service car wash facilities through to commercial vehicle wash systems such as those for washing trucks. The company is headquartered in Augsburg and employs over 1,700 people in more than 80 countries. As a company with global operations, WashTec takes responsibility for making its economic activities as sustainable as possible. To this end, it has drawn up a *transformation plan for carbon-neutral operations* in Scope 1 and 2 by 2040. Among other things, this envisages converting heating systems from fossil fuels to sustainable district heating, increasing energy efficiency in production processes, expanding in-house generation capacities in the form of PV systems, sourcing 100% green electricity from hydropower and gradually electrifying the vehicle fleet. WashTec reached the first milestone in its transformation plan by late 2024 with a 34% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to 2019.

Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg: climate action management

The **Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg** established a *climate action management programme* in 2022 and began developing an integrated climate protection concept. In a university-wide process, measures were developed to reduce CO₂ emissions by 40% by 2030 compared to the base year of 2022. Priority is being given to the areas of mobility, energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as education, teaching and knowledge transfer. The measures are being implemented as part of the university's climate action management programme.

University of Augsburg: climate action and energy management

The **University of Augsburg** is aiming to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2028. To this end, *climate action management* and energy management programmes were established as part of a "green transformation" in 2023. Under an integrated *climate action strategy*, the university is not only predominantly sourcing green electricity and climate-friendly district heating, but also commenced installation of *photovoltaic systems for self-consumption* in 2023 to specifically and effectively transform the main campus for long-term sustainable energy provision. By 2026, a large part of the campus is to be equipped with solar installations with a capacity of 2.5 MWp, at a cost of €6.7 million, to achieve a self-sufficiency rate of up to 20% of the current electricity demand. Extensive *roof renovations to improve thermal insulation* are currently being carried out in preparation for the installation of the PV systems: roofs that were previously covered with gravel are being upgraded for energy efficiency and extensively greened for species

protection to limit the heating of the university buildings in summer in a climate-neutral way. This is an important part of the university's implementation of its biodiversity strategy.

University Hospital Augsburg Goes Green (UMAGG)

In an era of climate change, major healthcare institution *University Hospital Augsburg (UKA)* is implementing measures that go far beyond medical care. From low-carbon mobility, sustainable nutrition and ecological landscape planning through to energy-efficient technology and climate-friendly medical procedures, UKA is becoming a more environmentally conscious and sustainable institution with its *University Medicine Augsburg Goes Green (UMAGG)* initiative. Patient and staff well-being is also the focus here. The hospital has been calculating its total annual **carbon footprint** since 2022. With total annual emissions of around 117,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents (2022; slightly less in 2023), this analysis provides an important basis for further optimisation measures. UKA is committed to **reducing the use of anaesthetic gases that contribute to climate change**: since 2021, it has completely eliminated desflurane, which is particularly harmful due to its high global warming potential. Sevoflurane is used instead, as this is significantly less harmful to the environment and has no ozone-depleting impact. This change saves around 370 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents annually. UKA has completely dispensed with nitrous oxide since 2011. It also plans to replace the anaesthetic isoflurane with more climate-friendly alternatives in the future. UMAGG sets out a step-by-step plan for achieving **climate neutrality** by 2040, provided that a new building is constructed.

Developments at local level



Heat island effect: annual average temperature in the city forest

2013	2018	2024
8.2	9.9	10.2

This indicator shows inner-city overheating or the urban heat island (UHI) effect in Augsburg.

(Note: the city market logger's data is included in the "city centre temperature", but this had very frequent measurement outages in 2024. Accordingly, the "city centre temperature" for 2024 is probably somewhat underestimated (and therefore so is the UHI intensity as well).

Source: Augsburg municipal climate measurement network, operated by Helmholtz Zentrum München – Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt and the Chair of Physical Geography and Climate Science at the University of Augsburg, analysis by the Chair of Physical Geography and Climate Science at the University of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



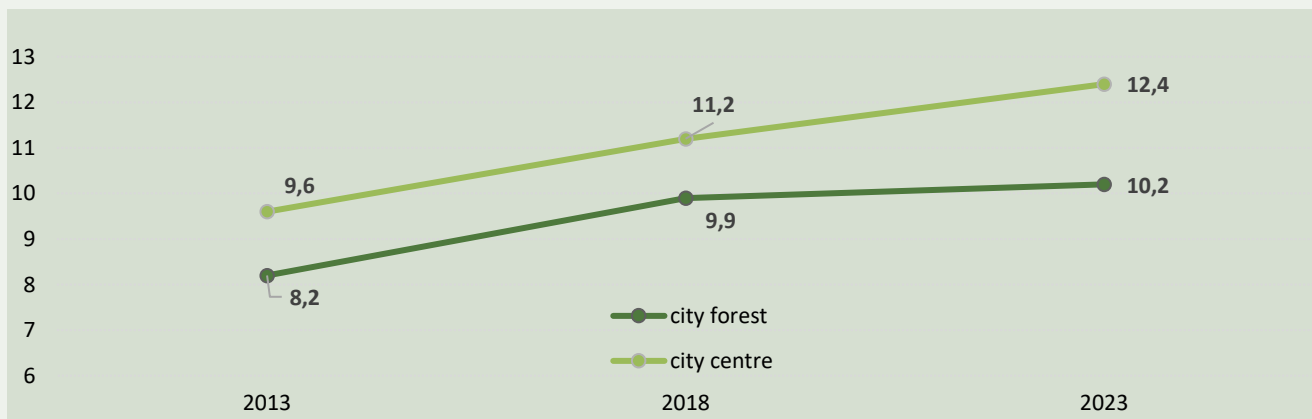
Heat island effect: annual average temperature in the city centre

2013	2018	2024
9.6	11.2	12.4

This indicator shows inner-city overheating or the urban heat island (UHI) effect in Augsburg.

Source: Augsburg municipal climate measurement network, operated by Helmholtz Zentrum München – Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt and the Chair of Physical Geography and Climate Science at the University of Augsburg, analysis by the Chair of Physical Geography and Climate Science at the University of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator





Settlement density in floodplain area

2013	2018	2022
0.2	0.2	0.2

Percentage of built-up settlement and transport areas in the officially designated floodplain

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



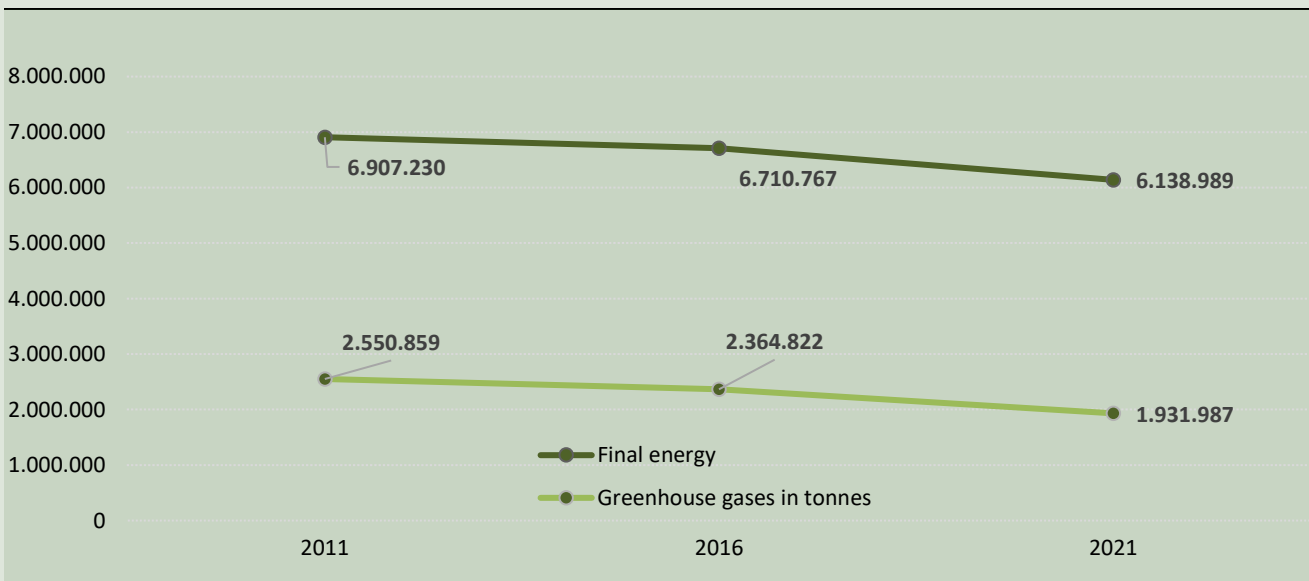
Final energy consumption and associated greenhouse gases

	2011	2016	2021
Final energy MWh	6907230	6710767	6138989
Greenhouse gases in tonnes	2550859	2364822	1931987

Final energy consumption for Augsburg and associated greenhouse gases

Source: Office for the Environment, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Outlook

In Augsburg, ongoing population growth and increasing settlement density present a particular challenge to achieving climate action goals. Rising energy demands in industry, private households and public infrastructure require a significant increase in energy efficiency and the continued expansion of renewable energy. The foundations for this have been laid with the implementation of the Blue City climate action programme, the promotion of photovoltaics and the energy-efficient renovation of municipal buildings. At the same time, climate adaptation and resource efficiency must be considered when planning new construction areas.

Augsburg is serious about the Future Guideline *Ö1 Protect the climate* in all its facets and thus the target to *K2.4 Preserve planet Earth*. One of Augsburg's strengths lies in the close cooperation between public administration, research, business and civil society. Many stakeholders, including universities, the private sector and the hospital, are making important contributions to the achievement of the climate targets with their own climate protection concepts, carbon footprint assessments and efficiency measures, and are having an impact on the city as a whole.

However, increasing heatwaves, dry spells and heavy rainfall events highlight the growing pressure to adapt. The climate change adaptation plan, the sponge city principle, the expansion of urban green spaces and other measures are helping to strengthen the city's resilience. The biggest challenge remains anchoring climate action and adaptation in all areas of municipal action and coordinating measures across departments.

Climate compensation through certified carbon offsetting projects in the region is currently being discussed – this would mean financial resources are kept in the region and used to fund local projects that will have even further positive environmental effects. In addition, a software tool will be introduced for improved climate action monitoring. This should optimise project management and interdepartmental cooperation as well as expand and simplify internal and external reporting on the achievement of climate action targets and the implementation of related measures.



Climate island on Martin Luther Square in 2025 (source: City of Augsburg)



SDG 14 Life below water

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

Background



Global

Oceans and seas are vital to life on Earth. They regulate the climate, sustain biodiversity, ensure food security, enable trade and provide numerous ecosystem services. At the same time, overfishing, pollution, species loss and the consequences of climate change are increasing the pressure on marine systems. Only 8.4 per cent of the ocean is currently designated a protected area, far short of the target of 30 per cent by 2030. Ocean warming and acidification continue, while illegal fishing persists.⁵⁰ Added to this is plastic pollution: an estimated 80 to 150 million tonnes of plastic are floating in the oceans, most of this single-use plastic. Every year, approximately 19 million tonnes of plastic waste are added – if this trend continues, there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050.⁵¹



National

Germany is directly connected to the world's oceans via the North Sea and Baltic Sea and also bears international responsibility through trade and supply chains. An estimated 446,000 or so tonnes of plastic end up in the environment in Germany every year, a significant proportion of which enters the oceans as microplastics via rivers.⁵² With its 2025 German Sustainable Development Strategy, the Germany government has committed to improving marine protection, reducing pollutant inputs and preserving biodiversity. This includes lowering nitrogen inputs into rivers that flow into the North Sea. It is also aiming to minimise the negative effects of fishing. Although the proportion of sustainably managed stocks in the North Sea and Baltic Sea rose from 51.7 per cent in 2018 to 60 per cent in 2020, the goal of fully sustainable management has not yet been achieved.⁵³



Augsburg

Water has shaped Augsburg for centuries. Two large Alpine rivers, the Lech and the Wertach, flow through the city and are part of the Water Management System of Augsburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Both join the Danube and connect the city with the Black Sea. At 2,857 kilometres, the Danube is Europe's second longest river and flows through ten countries before reaching the sea. Any improvement in water quality in Augsburg therefore also contributes to the protection of international waters. Given the presence of trace substances, microplastics, nutrient inputs and other pollutants, protecting tributaries plays a role in keeping international waters clean as well.

"Augsburg – clean is in!" and other campaigns are helping to remove waste from rivers and canals and raise awareness of the link between local actions and marine pollution. Companies are also contributing to reducing emissions and pollutants that enter the seas, such as Everllence with its technological innovations in marine engines.

Relevant SDG 14 targets for German municipalities include

- Prevent and reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities
- Improve conservation and the sustainable use of oceans and their resources

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement

Cross-reference to SDGs 6 and 7

The measures and activities under SDG 6.3, 6.4 and 6.6 make an important contribution to protecting water resources and thus help to preserve marine ecosystems. The same applies to the activities described for SDG 7.2 and 7.3. As these topics are already covered in detail in the respective sections, they are not listed again here. For further information and specific examples, please refer to the relevant sections.



14.1 – Reduce marine pollution

Plastic-Free Forum for Augsburg

The **Plastic-Free Forum focuses on paths to a resource-efficient and sustainable life**. It campaigns against unnecessary plastic and superfluous packaging in the public, corporate and private sectors, and promotes the conscious use of resources and their recycling. As a member of Zero Waste Germany e.V., the forum wants to make Augsburg a zero-waste city by establishing material cycles to recover and recycle valuable resources from waste, construction rubble and production. It has been organising regular **get-togethers for a plastic-free life** in and around Augsburg for years. It has developed a **plastic-free certificate** for schools and nurseries and carries out the certification process.

"Augsburg – clean is in!" litter collection campaign

The **"Augsburg – clean is in!" litter collection campaign** raises awareness among adults, young people and children through participatory activities and encourages them to take the initiative and get hands-on in protecting the environment. The participants collect litter left behind (either accidentally or on purpose) around roadsides, parks, green spaces, public places, paths, areas near nurseries, schools and businesses, green strips along the Wertach and Lech rivers and Augsburg's canals, and particularly dirty areas. The campaigns are organised by the waste management and municipal cleaning service for the City of Augsburg (AWS), either directly or in cooperation with Greenpeace Augsburg and the Plastic-Free Forum. AWS provides cleaning materials such as buckets, gloves, bin bags and litter pickers, and then collects and disposes of the waste that is gathered.



14.3 – Reduce ocean acidification

Everllence: dual-fuel marine engines and marine engine retrofitting

Everllence (until May 2025: MAN Energy Solutions) has developed **gas and dual-fuel engines for ship propulsion** in recent years that can be operated with synthetically produced and more climate-friendly fuels such as synthetic natural gas, methanol and ammonia. In 2023, Everllence delivered the world's largest methanol-powered two-stroke marine engine. Everllence also offers retrofits, i.e. **upgrades to the technology of existing ships**, which increase engine service life and significantly reduce CO₂ emissions. Ships have an average lifespan of more than 25 years. Today, MAN engines provide around half of the propulsion power of the world merchant fleet. About two-thirds of these ships are suitable for climate-friendly retrofitting.

Developments at local level



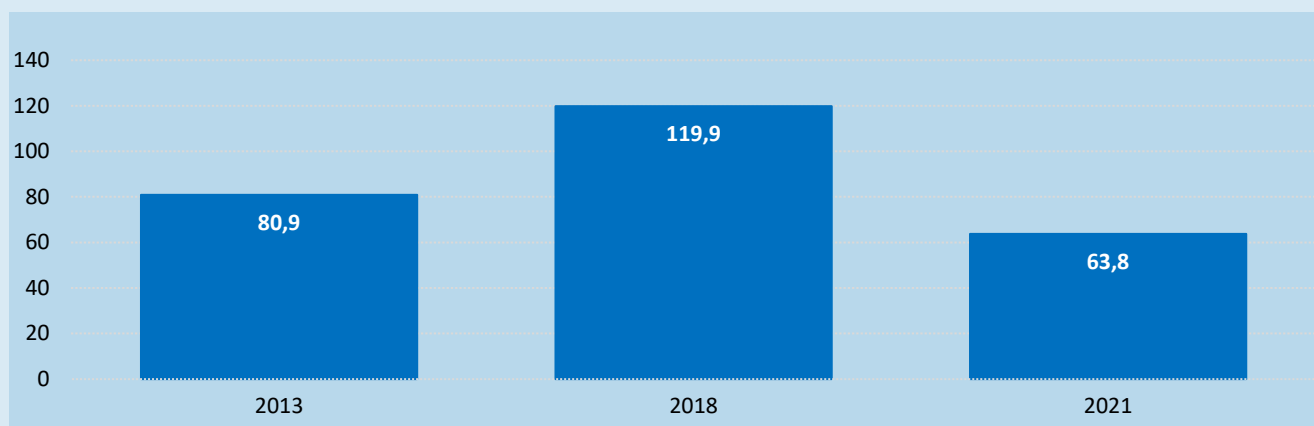
Nitrogen surplus in farming

2013	2018	2021
80.9	119.9	63.8

Nitrogen surplus in agricultural land in kilograms per hectare

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Outlook

Augsburg is aiming to *Improve water body ecology and water quality (Ö5.2)*. It has good structures in place to contribute to the achievement of the SDG 14 targets. The addition of a fourth treatment stage will enable even more efficient removal of trace substances in future, significantly reducing the amount of pharmaceutical residues and other micropollutants entering the environment. Nevertheless, not all substances can be filtered out of the wastewater. This remains a key challenge, particularly in a growing city with an ageing population and increasing consumption of medicines.

In addition, microplastics continue to enter the environment and ultimately water systems from tyre abrasion, textile fibres and waste. This shows that water protection is a cross-cutting municipal task with links to mobility, consumption, waste management and more. Initiatives and campaigns like "*Augsburg – clean is in!*" and the Plastic-Free Forum are raising awareness among the city's residents of the need to further reduce pollutant inputs.

The City is also pursuing innovative approaches to recovering phosphorus from sewage sludge to close material cycles and reduce nutrient inputs.



Augsburg municipal sewage treatment plant (source: City of Augsburg)



SDG 15 Life on land

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

Background



Global

Preserving biodiversity is one of the biggest challenges facing the world. Although global forest loss is slowing, global forest cover continues to shrink. Protection of key biodiversity areas is stalling and species extinction is accelerating. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that more than 47,000 animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, with 150 species being lost every day.⁵⁴ This trend is being driven by increasing land consumption due to global urbanisation, agricultural intensification, excessive resource use, environmental pollution and man-made climate change.⁵⁵



National

With a dense network of nature and biosphere reserves and national parks, as well as the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG), Germany has clear structures in place to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Nevertheless, new land is steadily being used for work, housing and mobility. Over the last 30 years, the land used for settlement and transport has increased by 29.2 per cent.⁵⁶ Between 2020 and 2023, around 51 hectares per day were newly designated as areas for settlement and transport. By 2030, daily growth is to be limited to less than 30 hectares. Around 50 per cent of the country's land area is used for agriculture. A third or so is forest, and its condition is becoming increasingly critical: only about 20 per cent of forest trees are considered undamaged, while 36 per cent show severe crown damage.⁵⁷ Biodiversity is under serious pressure. In addition to land use, the climate and pollutant emissions, the use of pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture is also contributing to the decline in biodiversity.⁵⁸



Augsburg

Augsburg is particularly influenced by its natural surroundings. At its heart lies the city forest – one of the most biodiverse habitats in southern Germany, with over 3,000 documented animal and plant species. Its environmental and cultural significance as a local recreation area was recognised in 2024 when it was named "Forest of the Year". Covering an area of 2,159 hectares, it is also the largest contiguous forest in the city and plays an important role in its climate, biodiversity and quality of life. A total of 15.8 per cent of the city's area is under nature conservation – significantly more than the Bavarian average (11.5 per cent).

In addition, large landscape conservation areas (2,059 hectares) preserve habitat diversity. Overall, the proportion of land used for settlement and transport in Augsburg is 43.6 per cent, which is below the level of many comparable large cities in Germany. While that figure has actually fallen slightly in recent years, managing land development remains a key challenge for the coming years to protect soil, nature and ecosystems in the long term as urban development continues.

Since 2009, Augsburg has been pursuing a biodiversity strategy implemented through projects such as *LIFE city-for-est-streams*) and ecological green space management. The city once again received the "Stadtgrün naturnah" award in gold for this work in 2024. The local community also makes a significant contribution to preserving biodiversity: for example, the City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association manages over 300 hectares of natural habitats, and CityFarm Augsburg combines urban gardening with environmental education.



Wittelsbacher Park (source: City of Augsburg)

Relevant SDG 15 targets for German municipalities include

- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems
- Promote sustainable management of all types of forest
- Preserve and promote biodiversity

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



15.1 – Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems

Green and open space development plan

The **green and open space development plan** (cross-reference to SDG 11.7) adopted by Augsburg City Council in 2022 is a key foundational document. It provides the internal planning framework and serves as a set of cross-cutting recommendations for all departments. Development goals have been defined for the implementation of the "green and blue corridors" concept. Just as rivers, streams and canals run through the city, in future the "blue corridors" are to be supplemented by "green corridors". The concept is intended to provide a tool that will enable the preservation, development and interconnection of green spaces in line with urban development plans. The "green and blue corridors" concept is also divided into the following topic areas: 1. Priority areas for nature conservation and recreation; 2. Open space and habitat networks, watercourse network, dry habitat network and 3. Greening of urban neighbourhoods and preservation of the open countryside, planned avenue concept.

Area connectivity

Area connectivity is important in Augsburg. "Green spaces" is one focal area of the urban development plan (STEK), specifically the long-term preservation, targeted enhancement and connectivity of green and open spaces throughout the city, as well as their balanced distribution. This is the basis for all spatial urban planning. Future Guidelines target Ö4.3 *Develop and connect open spaces, forest areas, green spaces and ecological compensation areas* is therefore one of the main tasks of **urban land use planning** and is important to the **revision of the land usage plan** currently in preparation.

Stadtwerke Augsburg: drinking water protection area activities

Stadtwerke Augsburg maintains water quality in Augsburg through what is known as the **Augsburg model**. Cooperation agreements have been in place with farmers in the drinking water protection area since 1991 to reduce the nitrate content in the groundwater and keep the drinking water free of pesticide residues. Regular testing at groundwater monitoring wells in the catchment area of Augsburg's drinking water fountains shows that these measures will continue to have their desired effect in the immediate future. The use of the Augsburg model here has resulted in farmers completely dispensing with artificial fertilisers and pesticides on many areas.

Renaturation measures at the Augsburg Technology Centre

To develop and protect valuable land and biotopes, ***Augsburg Technology Centre's eastern ornamental planting area was restored to a natural area compatible with the Flugplatzheide heathland in the same region*** in 2022. Unsuitable vegetation was removed, some of the soil was replaced with "Lech wall gravel" typical of the region and a suitable maintenance plan was put in place. The lawns were converted into meadows that are mown twice a year. The low-nutrient grassland on the centre's roof is thriving and diverse in species.

Landscape Conservation Association: wildlife corridors in Augsburg's Schatzwald forest (Future Prize 2019)

As part of the ***New Wildlife Corridors in Augsburg's Schatzwald Forest*** project, the ***City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association*** is ensuring that the drinking water pipelines through the city forest are kept clear. The project is creating ecological networks between the Lech heathlands. The habitat network now covers at least 24 kilometres.

Nature Conservation Advisory Board

The ***Nature Conservation Advisory Board*** provides scientific and technical support to the local nature conservation authority for the City of Augsburg in enforcing nature conservation regulations. It is required by law. The board comprises five experts from the fields of wildlife (fauna), hunting, landscape conservation, fungi (mycology) and forestry for the current term of office in Augsburg.

Bund Naturschutz: protecting and promoting urban green spaces and the flora and fauna

BUND Naturschutz Augsburg actively campaigns for the ***protection and promotion of urban green spaces and Augsburg's endangered flora and fauna***. For example, it comments on development plans, works to prevent soil sealing and maintains unique habitat areas on the Lech and Wertach rivers. It supports projects such as Wertach Vital, the protection of the Flugplatzheide heathland and the Licca liber renaturation effort, but strongly opposes the construction of another hydroelectric power plant on the Lech river as it wishes to preserve the last free-flowing section. It is committed to the sustainable development of wind energy and the designation of suitable priority areas. This local group has achieved successes in a number of areas, for example in preserving the trees on a railway station forecourt and campaigning for high-quality urban green spaces during the construction of the new university hospital. Alongside its policy work, it also gets hands-on, such as in litter collection campaigns on riverbanks and near the exhibition grounds.



15.2 – End deforestation and restore degraded forests

Practising sustainable forestry

Ecologically, economically and socially sustainable forest management is vital to preserving the diverse functions of the forest for people and the environment. The City of Augsburg is therefore committed to ***sustainable forestry***. Under the Bavarian Forest Act (BayWaldG), the municipal Forestry Department is called upon to practise exemplary forest management. Together with the Office for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AELF) in Augsburg and the Forest Conservation Department in Swabia at the Krumbach-Mindelheim AELF, it has taken the new forest management plan as an opportunity to integrate all forest-related topics into medium-term operational planning. The focus here is on incorporating all forest functions, and therefore goes much further than the exemplary implementation of the Natura 2000 management plan. As part of this process, nature conservation officials and volunteers and the Forestry Department were brought together for the first time for a round table discussion on the city forest. They came up with a shared and achievable set of objectives for the individual protected resources. This intensive exchange ensured a high degree of transparency and agreement among all stakeholders. Nature conservation concepts and objectives are translated into forestry activities in such processes. The City of Augsburg's integrated forest management

plan is therefore playing an active role in shaping the transition towards multifunctional forestry. In 2024, **Augsburg's city forest** was named **Forest of the Year** by the Association of German Foresters (BDF) on account of its diverse ecological, social and cultural contributions.

Continuous reforestation

The City of Augsburg is steadily reforesting land. Climate-damaging carbon emissions are sequestered long-term through **reforestation**. In addition, deadwood is left in the forest. On average, there are 22.7 cubic metres of standing and lying deadwood per hectare (ha) in the forest. In Lechau forest, the figure is as high as 26 cubic metres per hectare. In total, the city forest sequesters approximately 307 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare.

Schulwerk der Diözese Augsburg foundation: Educational Trees project

The **Schulwerk der Diözese Augsburg** foundation has planted thousands of trees since 2023 as part of the **Educational Trees project** in cooperation with the City of Augsburg's Office for Green Spaces and the Chair of School Education at the University of Augsburg. This is intended to raise pupils' awareness of global warming and its consequences.



15.5 – Protect biodiversity and natural habitats

Building land development plan and land usage plan

Economical use of land and soil and **reduced land usage** are essential components of the sustainable, environmental, economic and social development of cities. Sustainable settlement development is only possible if the principles of land conservation, infill development over outward expansion and avoidance of urban sprawl are adhered to. In order to achieve these goals, Augsburg's city administration has a **building land development plan** (BAUKO) that is continuously updated. The BAUKO systematically records the potential for residential, commercial and mixed-use building land and estimates future demand for residential and commercial building land. This provides the city administration with an overview of infill development opportunities. The BAUKO is the basis for the present **revision of the land usage plan**.

Biodiversity strategy

The **strategy for preserving biodiversity in Augsburg (biodiversity strategy)** has been in place since 2009. It focuses on the species and habitats in the populated and unpopulated areas of the city of Augsburg. Its two main objectives are to preserve and develop the habitats of existing animal and plant species and those likely to occur, and to educate the public about Augsburg's unique natural environment.

Urban land use planning and environmental report

Protecting flora and fauna in the context of ensuring species protection and genetic diversity as well as protecting and developing valuable areas and biotopes is a key element of **urban land use planning**. It is also central to the **revision of the land usage plan** with integrated landscape planning. In addition, individual protected resources are considered in detail in the **environmental report** required by law.

Hedgerows for Augsburg

Through the **Hedgerows for Augsburg** project, the City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association has been able to compile a **database on the existence and condition of hedgerows, copses and riparian trees and shrubs** in the city. Initial **maintenance plans** and an expertly conducted **potential and site analysis** have been drawn up on this basis to increase the structural diversity of the agricultural land within the city. The use of hedge trimmings **for energy recovery** and the planting of new hedgerows are activities that contribute to climate protection. At a **regional**

nature conservation day on hedgerows and copses, experts and committed members of civil society had the opportunity to learn about the great ecological value of hedgerows.

Biotope preservation projects

Stadtwerke Augsburg has been working with the City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association to implement a wide variety of *biodiversity preservation projects* since 2009. These include, for example, providing land for meadow orchards, creating perennial flowering fields and flower strips, and making "skylark patches" in fields.

Efficient land use at the regional level

Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft GmbH (with its three shareholders – the City of Augsburg, the County of Augsburg and the County of Aichach Friedberg) initiated the *Efficient Land Use at the Regional Level* project in 2021. Local authorities and municipalities from the region were involved in a facilitated process. The aim was to support and inform the municipalities in respect of efficient land use.

Promoting biodiversity

The various departments of the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries are continuously implementing various measures that promote biodiversity:

- **Local nature conservation authority measures:**
 - Hornet, bee and bumblebee hotline
 - Nature conservation wardens
- **Botanical Garden measures:**
 - Pollinator-friendly crop rotation in the Botanical Garden (plant selection prioritising climate resilience, with on-site propagation)
 - Certified organic garden
- **Green space maintenance measures:**
 - Habitat maintenance/ecological compensation areas/extensive mowing with insect-friendly mowers/reduction in soil fertility – no clear-cutting – refuge area/habitat trees/increased structural diversity
 - Resilient tree species/planting of climate-resilient trees in the city – spreading of risk
 - Connection of biotope and ecological compensation areas – creation of corridors

Municipalities for Biodiversity association: "Stadtgrün naturnah" gold label

In 2024, the City of Augsburg was again awarded the *"Stadtgrün naturnah" gold label* from the *Municipalities for Biodiversity association*, which recognises the commitment of cities and municipalities to ecological green space management with labels at various levels. The City of Augsburg was awarded the gold label for the period from 2024 to 2027 in recognition of its excellent work in promoting biodiversity in the care and maintenance of municipal green spaces. The City has thus successfully completed recertification following the initial certification from 2020 to 2023, for which it was also awarded the gold label.

Designing insect-friendly habitats

The insect ranger at the environmental education centre advises nurseries, schools, clubs and companies on *how to create insect-friendly habitats*. She has also provided training to municipal employees in various departments responsible for maintaining green spaces and set up a pilot area on the gasworks site.

Meadow orchards, flowering fields, flower strips and wildflower networks

Stadtwerke Augsburg has been working with the City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association to implement a wide variety of *biodiversity preservation projects* since 2009. These include, for example, providing land for meadow orchards, creating perennial flowering fields and flower strips, and making "skylark patches" in fields. The

municipal drainage company is also implementing biodiversity projects, including **establishing a wildflower network** on the grounds of the sewage treatment plant and pumping stations since 2023. The company's divisions are cultivating the green spaces at the sewage treatment plant and pumping stations to support biodiversity. For example, they are replacing non-native plants with locally adapted plants. They are also transforming the green spaces from patches of grass into wildflower areas.

Nesting boxes at the Michaelipark residential complex

To support the local bird and bat populations, **Wohnbaugruppe Augsburg** installed nesting boxes as part of the construction project at the Michaelipark residential complex. The design for the site preserved as many of the existing trees as possible to ensure its ecological and social quality in the long term.

City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association: biotope maintenance

The **City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association (LPVA)** plays a very important role in species conservation. Founded in 1995, the association now manages more than 300 hectares of **biotope area** in the city of Augsburg. These include some of the most species-rich habitats in Central Europe (e.g. the Königsbrunn and Firing Range Heaths in the Stadtwald Augsburg city forest nature reserve), which therefore enjoy a high level of protection. With great expertise, LPVA and its partner farms carry out measures that help to protect biodiversity (mainly mowing and grazing with different grazing animals such as sheep, cattle and wild horses). Accompanying scientific studies have confirmed the success of these species conservation measures.

Insect biotope areas and roadside greenery

The City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association and the Office for Green Spaces, Nature Conservation and Cemeteries (AGNF) have developed 20 hectares of inner-city biotope areas for insects as part of the **Augsburg Insect Diversity** project. In addition, AGNF has changed the mowing regime for 80 kilometres of roadside greenery.

Augsburg Zoo: ex situ and in situ species conservation

Augsburg Zoo is committed to preserving biodiversity in two ways. Firstly, it practises **ex situ species conservation** away from the animals' natural habitats, i.e. directly on the zoo grounds: endangered species are cared for and bred, and are exchanged with other zoos as part of conservation breeding programmes. Secondly, **in situ species conservation** (the protection of species directly in their habitats) is becoming increasingly important. In 2024 alone, the zoo's own species conservation fund transferred almost €500,000 to projects on four continents, where it was used to protect elephants, chimpanzees, Magellanic penguins and many other animals.

LIFE city-forest-streams nature conservation project

With over 3,000 animal and plant species, Augsburg's city forest is a key site for biodiversity. In 2019, the municipal Forestry Department launched the **LIFE city-forest-streams nature conservation project** with the aim of making the streams and adjacent habitats more attractive to animals and plants again. The project is funded by the EU and the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection and will run until January 2027. The ecology of the Lech floodplain in Augsburg's city forest will be improved through renaturation, the reconnection of streams within the forest, conversion to softwood riparian woodland and public relations work to ensure the long-term biodiversity of the Natura 2000 network. The total budget is €6.6 million.

Community gardens

Valuable biotopes can also be created in urban gardens. In the Neuhoferstraße **community garden**, neighbours maintain a garden together. The Oberhausen neighbourhood management team facilitates and guides the group. Such gardens have an ecological impact on a neighbourhood: they help the urban climate, provide a habitat for insects and, as green oases, make an important contribution to preserving biodiversity.

Traditional Meadow Orchards for Augsburg

As part of the *Traditional Meadow Orchards for Augsburg* project, the City of Augsburg's Landscape Conservation Association joined with Stadtwerke Augsburg Wasser GmbH in planting 500 fruit trees on two large meadows at Ilsesee and in Lechhausen Nord in 2024. The target is 1,000 orchard trees by 2027.

Augsburg carbon offsetting programme

Legally binding development plans and the associated urban development and implementation agreements impose an enforceable obligation to implement carbon offsetting measures. Against this backdrop, the *Augsburg carbon offsetting programme* was established for the first time in 2012. To support clear understanding and orderly implementation of the nature conservation intervention rules, the carbon offsetting programme describes the technical differences, spatial distribution and costs of the measures. It has proven effective in ensuring transparency and effective implementation and will be maintained.

Creation of biotope areas managed in line with nature conservation principles

Another important measure is the *creation of biotope areas managed in line with nature conservation principles*. During the renovation of the Staatstheater Augsburg, for example, a 19-hectare ecological compensation area was designated in the south-east of the city forest, where a permanent logging ban had been imposed. This is a suitable new habitat for the colony of noctule bats at the Staatstheater. An ecological compensation measure was implemented in 2021 and 2022 in the Fuchsmühl forest district for a newly built industrial estate. Nine hectares of former pure spruce stands were converted into woodland with very rare, ecologically valuable and climate-resilient native tree species (around 30,000 trees).

League for Insect Rights

The *League for Insect Rights of Transition Town Augsburg e.V.* draws attention to insect decline through performative forms of protest. Its members take the perspective of insects and shed light on the conflicts of interest within our ecosystem. At the first performance, "Loud humming" in October 2024, a petition was passed calling on the City Council to create habitats. The amateur theatre group have since followed this up with further theatrical performances.

University of Augsburg: ecological campus development and biodiversity management

The green spaces and outdoor areas of the *University of Augsburg* campus (27 hectares) were surveyed for the first time in 2017 as part of an extensive biotope mapping project. These are home to a wide variety of plants and animals, some of which are very rare and strictly protected. A *digital nature guide* helps visitors to the campus to see and experience these. With the support of the Landscape Conservation Association, heathland areas have since been created on what are known as low-nutrient grasslands on the campus as habitats for insects. Together with a bee hotel and an educational garden, these serve as *a hands-on laboratory for school pedagogy and biology education*. The areas are maintained in cooperation with CityFarm Augsburg through extensive grazing by a flock of Skudde sheep. As part of the university's "green transformation", it has been working since 2024 on a comprehensive *biodiversity strategy* with further measures to promote biodiversity on the campus. Its gardeners have undergone certified nature conservation and landscape management (GNL) training, and comprehensive biotope, breeding bird and tree mapping has been carried out for future biotope maintenance and development. Buildings have been assessed for bird strike risk, and high-quality *bird-friendly markers* have been installed on exposed glass façades covering an area of 950 m² – with more planned. The sustainable and environmentally friendly campus design is making a positive contribution to a healthy ecosystem and the creation of a healthy and resilient working environment. It also offers unique potential for research, learning and teaching with students, while helping to support climate action and connect designated walking areas in the biotopes within the city of Augsburg.

Cityfarm Augsburg

Cityfarm Augsburg, part of Transition Town Augsburg and Local Agenda 21, encourages urban farming and communal use of urban spaces. It combines *sustainable horticulture, agriculture and a commitment to ecological diversity*. Sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks and bees live on this mini-farm. The sheep's natural grazing helps to keep the vegetation in check and maintain the toad habitats on Gablinger Weg as well as the areas at the University of Augsburg. The garden preserves old and rare varieties of fruits and vegetables, creates space for nature and restores green diversity to the city. CityFarm Augsburg is a member of the urban gardens work group and has been an official project of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity since 2020. The farm has been a place for people to meet and learn about the environment since it opened its gates in 2011.

Augsburg Protestant Cemetery (Future Prize 2020)

Augsburg Protestant Cemetery is renowned for its biodiversity. Sustainability has been central to its management since 2017, with measures such as planting shrubs and trees, creating insect hotels and installing a photovoltaic system. While still a place of mourning, the cemetery is also designed to function as a public space for recreation and social interaction.

University Hospital Augsburg flowering meadow

University Hospital Augsburg has converted a former football pitch into a species-rich *flowering meadow* that serves as a habitat for insects. Insect hotels provide additional protection for wild bees and other species, while the natural redesign of the terrace at the palliative care unit on the South Medical Campus offers patients and visitors a relaxing environment.

Developments at local level



Landscape quality (degree of hemeroby)

2015	2018	2021
4.85	4.85	4.86

The extent of human impact on the municipality's natural environment is expressed as a degree of hemeroby of x.

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune



Nature conservation areas (in %)

2014	2018	2022
15.7	15.8	15.8

The proportion of Natura 2000 areas, nature conservation areas and national parks in relation to the total area of the municipality is x%.

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune



Toad rescue

2013	2021	2024
865	101	<10

Number of toads rescued by the Augsburg branch of BUND Naturschutz in Bavaria during the annual amphibian migration along the "Zum Fugerschloss" road between Wellenburg and Bergheim.

Source: BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V./Augsburg branch



Land use and re-use

2013	2018	2022
42.7	43.7	44.1

Proportion of settlement and transport areas and change in settlement and transport areas compared to the previous year, based on the total area, in per cent.

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator



Land use intensity

2013	2018	2022
227.0	217.4	215.2

Settlement and transport area (excluding "mining operations" and "open-cast mining, pits, quarries") per person in square metres (m²).

Source: SDG-Portal/Wegweiser Kommune portal

Type: national indicator

Outlook

In the area of *biodiversity (Ö4)*, Augsburg is pursuing the following targets: *Ö4.1 Ensure species protection and genetic diversity, Ö4.2 Develop and protect valuable areas and biotopes and Ö4.3 Develop and connect open spaces, forest areas, green spaces and ecological compensation areas.*

Augsburg has good conditions for protecting ecosystems. The city forest, the Lech and Wertach floodplains and numerous protected areas and biotopes are key natural features of the city and its surroundings, contributing to climate protection, local recreation and quality of life. The City has made significant progress in protecting and developing important natural habitats on the basis of its long-standing biodiversity strategy and ecologically oriented green space management. Over the coming years, the close cooperation between public administration, the Landscape Conservation Association, municipal utilities, the university and civil society initiatives will provide opportunities to establish further measures for the protection of species, soils and ecosystems on a permanent basis and to combine these with climate adaptation, environmental education and urban development.

At the same time, the high pressure on land use within the city remains one of the greatest ecological challenges over the same period. Any additional sealing will reduce biodiversity and weaken the ecological resilience of the urban landscape. Added to this are the consequences of climate change, such as drought, heat and increasing pressure from invasive species, which make it difficult to preserve native vegetation. To curb biodiversity loss, the City will have to consistently limit land consumption, exploit opportunities for unsealing land and ensure the long-term protection of valuable habitats.

As part of the creation of the new land usage plan, a new landscape plan will also be drawn up. A soil protection plan with preventive measures to minimise land use, unseal land and preserve natural soil functions is currently being prepared. A new urban biotope map is expected to be available in 2027.





SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

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

Background



Global

Peace, justice and strong institutions are key prerequisites for sustainable development. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine brought an end to the longest period of peace in the history of the European continent and has shown us that peace cannot be taken for granted. In 2024, there were 27 wars and armed conflicts worldwide.⁵⁹ Globally, nearly 50,000 people lost their lives to conflict – statistically one person every twelve minutes – and by the end of the year, 123.2 million people were displaced, more than ever before. Many countries have significantly increased their military spending as a result of these wars: in 2024, this reached a record high of \$2,718 billion worldwide. Access to justice remains elusive in many places: one in three prisoners worldwide are held without a proper sentence, and risks to human rights defenders and journalists are on the rise. At the same time, there are signs of progress in respect of transparency laws and human rights institutions.⁶⁰



National

With its established democracy, functioning rule of law, low levels of corruption and diverse media landscape, Germany has stable institutional structures. Internationally, it pursues multilateralism and collaborative action. As a major funder of development work and humanitarian aid, it strengthens peace, the rule of law and human rights. The 2025 German Sustainable Development Strategy emphasises the protection of democratic institutions and the involvement of civil society. International cooperation with the African Union, the African Continental Free Trade Area and others is intended to strengthen international trust and enable global challenges to be tackled jointly.⁶¹ Against the backdrop of new security policy challenges, Germany is also investing more in its defence capabilities: with a special fund for the armed forces and increased defence spending, the NATO target of two per cent of GDP was achieved for the first time in 2024.



Augsburg

Augsburg has considered itself a city of peace for centuries. The Augsburg Peace Festival, a public holiday unique in Germany, commemorates the value of peaceful coexistence every year and was further strengthened in 2024 by the City Council's resolution on *Augsburg's self-image as a city of peace*. Augsburg has therefore expressly committed itself to social diversity, taking a stand against violence and extremism and pursuing a value-based foreign security policy.

Safety is a key factor in the quality of life in Augsburg. Having had low crime rates for years, it is the second safest major city in Germany. Augsburg implements a broad package of measures to maintain this level and strengthen all citizens' subjective sense of safety. The municipal public order service (KOD) is present throughout the city, regular

safety surveys are conducted to find out how the people living in Augsburg feel and prevention programmes are used to raise awareness of various types of fraud and other risks, particularly among older people.

Democracy and participation are promoted in Augsburg in many different ways. Events such as the *Long Night of Democracy* and formats such as *Your city. Your democracy.* create spaces for dialogue. Educational programmes make democratic processes accessible, especially for children, young people and immigrants. Citizens can get involved in planning and projects and follow political decisions directly via the *Mach mit, Augsburg* participation platform and livestreams of City Council meetings.



Peace banquet in front of the town hall during the 2023 Augsburg Peace Festival (source: City of Augsburg)

Relevant SDG 16 targets for German municipalities include

- Reduce all forms of violence
- Combat all forms of organised crime
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- Promote inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



16.1 – Reduce violence everywhere

Communities That Care local prevention strategy

The **Communities That Care (CTC) local prevention strategy** aims to minimise risks and problematic behaviours such as crime, substance abuse and dropping out of school by strengthening protective factors that promote healthy and safe growth in children and young people. Following the 2017 pupil survey, the CTC strategy was implemented in the Wolfram and Herrenbach districts as well as in Hochfeld. CTC action plans developed for the districts precisely tailor the prevention landscape in each to the needs of the children and young people there. A second pupil survey was conducted in 2024. CTC action plans are currently being developed for Oberhausen and Kriegshaber.

One specific example is the **Papilio prevention programme and protection concept**. Implemented in an age-specific manner in all municipal nurseries, from crèches to after-school care centres, it helps children develop their social and emotional skills at an early age. This scientifically based prevention programme has shown that prosocial behaviour can be promoted and behavioural problems reduced. **Protection concepts in nurseries** ensure the protection and safety of children and staff in the facilities.

2024 report on the City of Augsburg's public order service

Augsburg's municipal **public order service (KOD)** has been in place since 2005. The 37 employees work hand in hand with the police and other authorities to ensure safe and harmonious interaction in Augsburg's squares, parks and green spaces. The public order service is committed to safety, cleanliness, successful coexistence, prevention and communication in the city of Augsburg.

Peace Office and city of peace formats

One of the City of Augsburg's key institutions is the **Peace Office**, which explicitly promotes social diversity and peaceful coexistence among the citizens of Augsburg and the surrounding region, regardless of their origin, religion, skin colour, age, disability or sexual orientation. All of the Peace Office's activities emphasise the value of multiple perspectives for dialogue and promoting a culture of peace. This is especially evident in the participatory formats in the Peace Festival's cultural programme, but also, for example, in the Augsburg Peace Talks, the DenkRaum collaborative format, the round table of religions and the Peace Office's collaborative and participatory approach as a whole. As part of its cultural programme, the Peace Office develops a theme and coordinates and curates contributions from civil society, including children and young people.

Prominent figures from the worlds of science, politics, culture, sport and religion have been giving presentations and holding discussions on the topics of interculturalism, migration, integration, diversity and interfaith dialogue as part

of the **Augsburg Peace Talks** presentation series since 2019. The Augsburg Peace Talks are inspired by the Religious Peace of Augsburg of 1555 and address current social and religious policy issues. Through these, the cooperation network consisting of the Peace Office, the City of Augsburg's Office for Social Integration, the University of Augsburg with its Chair for Political Science, the Evangelisches Forum Annahof educational institution and Augsburg's adult education centre aims to stimulate political debate and action in this city of peace.

Every year around the time of the **Augsburg Peace Festival**, Augsburg's unique public holiday on 8 August, the Peace Office cooperates with many partners to organise a multi-week cultural programme that is designed to be participatory. An integral part of the festival is the multi-faith prayer for peace, the large peace table in front of the town hall and the children's peace festival. In December 2018, the Augsburg Peace Festival was added to the German UNESCO Commission's National Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Every three years, the City of Augsburg joins with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria in awarding the **Augsburg Peace Prize** to individuals who have done outstanding work in fostering the tolerant and peaceful coexistence of people from diverse cultures and faiths.

Prevention Council

To ensure and strengthen a resilient urban society and safe living spaces, the City of Augsburg, the North Swabia Police Headquarters and Augsburg's judicial authorities decided to work together within the **Prevention Council** chaired by Mayor Eva Weber. The purpose is to jointly strengthen urban safety and prevention in the city of Augsburg. By cooperating with networks of experts, the council can act as a multi-professional alliance for preventing crime and violence and handle high-risk developments in Augsburg's urban society, as well as advise the City Council.

Augsburg Peace Transfer Centre

Since 2024, the **Augsburg Peace Transfer Centre** at the University of Augsburg has been supporting the city and its residents in its aspiration to be a city of peace and the resulting mission to ensure peaceful coexistence in urban society. It contributes to the transfer of expertise from peace and conflict research into practice through various formats and collaborations.

Mulheres pela Paz – Women for Peace

The **Mulheres pela Paz – Women for Peace** women's network uses cultural exchange to empower women. The members carry out small, specific projects in Augsburg and worldwide. In 2020, poems were embroidered onto fabric that was then made into bags, which were sold. A coffee bicycle is used to serve "Augsburg Peace Coffee" at various events. The coffee comes from a small, woman-run fazenda in Brazil. It is imported directly into Europe, roasted in Augsburg and sold in edible cups. Since summer 2022, Mulheres pela Paz has been organising a small peace table in Göggingen.

Modular Festival awareness plan

In 2022, an **awareness plan** was introduced at the **Modular Festival** organised by the **City Youth Council** at the request of the young target group as well. It aims to create a culture of mindful coexistence (prevention) and includes support services for people in distress (intervention). The goal is to assist people when their personal boundaries are crossed, they face discrimination or they feel overwhelmed, and help restore their individual capacity to act. Support is provided by staff engaged in open youth work/streetwork within the City Youth Council. The awareness plan also includes poster and social media campaigns, as well as awareness-raising measures and participation formats for the Modular crew itself. For evaluation, a "Modular for All" survey was conducted in 2023 and received 1,000 responses.



16.2 – Protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence

Coordinated child protection plan

Augsburg's coordinated child protection plan (KoKi) sets out how families with young children in stressful life situations can receive effective preventive support that restores their sense of personal agency. A network of support that can be called upon according to the respective family's needs is outlined for this purpose. The aim is to reach families early on and provide easily accessible support to prevent risks to child welfare in the long term.



16.4 – Combat organised crime and illicit financial and arms flows

Deception and Fraud prevention theatre

One example of a project promoting safety and a sense of such is the **Deception and Fraud prevention theatre** held from 2023 in cooperation with the criminal investigation police department and the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board. The theatre serves to protect older people in particular from fraud. The performers act out scams and then the criminal investigation police provide useful tips and information.



16.5 – Substantially reduce corruption and bribery

Anti-corruption and whistleblower protection progress report

The current **anti-corruption and whistleblower protection progress report** presents the City of Augsburg's approach to combating corruption. Corruption generally refers to the abuse of a position of trust, whereby advantages are gained in the exercise of public, private, economic or political responsibilities. Corruption in public administration is characterised by practices involving the abuse of official functions and the obtaining of material or immaterial advantages while concealing such actions. Combating corruption involves educating employees, raising their awareness and consistently investigating suspicious cases. The report also explains the measures being taken to implement the German Whistleblower Protection Act (HinSchG).



16.6 – Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Communications

The City of Augsburg's Communications Department implements a wide range of measures to enhance transparency in politics and public administration. The **augsburg.de municipal online portal** provides access to all digital municipal services and forms as well as the council information system. It features more than 10,000 pages – including news and press releases: over 150 pages can be accessed directly from the menu, with the centrepiece being an AI-powered search function. Numerous direct links and more have been added to improve accessibility. The municipal WhatsApp channel is another building block in the city administration's **cross-media, citizen-friendly communications approach**. Citizens can subscribe to the channel to easily stay informed, for example through a weekly newsletter, monthly "good news" updates, short notices on current projects and events, and urgent notifications for important incidents. The #RathausTicker format makes the administration and City Council accessible through a low-threshold, concise offering (development plans, school renovations and social projects, as well as the basic processes:

the administration implements what the City Council decides. The City Council is the political representative body for citizens and the city's highest authority. Every six years, Augsburg decides who will sit on the City Council and who will become mayor.) The City of Augsburg has left Twitter/X. The Communications Department is exploring the use of Mastodon and Threads as new channels. Since autumn 2025, a **Stadt Augsburg (City of Augsburg) app** has been providing a clear overview of the city's digital services and offering quick access to the most important of these in many different ways. Events (City Council meetings) are also **livestreamed**.

Up to 2025, in addition to the city-wide town hall meeting, three **district-specific town hall meetings** have been held each year. These give citizens an opportunity to discuss important issues in person with city leaders. In addition, concerns can be brought directly to the City Council for a vote: if a citizens' petition is approved by a majority at the local assembly, the City Council must address the issue within three months. As an alternative to attending in person, citizens can also follow discussions at the **town hall meetings online via the livestream provided** (although only those physically present can participate in the discussions, submit petitions and vote). After the town hall meetings, a **municipal town hall meeting newsletter** is sent as notification that the key outcomes are available on augsburg.de.



16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making

Municipal nurseries: children's conferences and Children's Rights Week

Many of Augsburg's institutions make a point of specifically encouraging the involvement of children and young people. For example, regular children's conferences are held in **municipal nurseries** to promote participation in the facilities. All children have the same rights, which is why children are involved in everyday educational practice at Augsburg's nurseries. This is promoted and communicated as part of **Children's Rights Week**.

"Participation of young people in Augsburg" conceptual framework

The **"Participation of young people in Augsburg" conceptual framework** was adopted in 2022. Participation serves various functions aimed at promoting social engagement and is important for shaping municipal youth policy and urban development. Children and young people have a right to participate. They want to be able to have an appropriate say in decisions that directly affect them and their environment. Children and young people should therefore get to participate wherever they spend their time. This applies both to family life and to all other areas and institutions in which children and young people are active. The youth participation framework creates structures that are low-threshold and inclusive (i.e. easily recognisable and accessible to all young people) so that they can play their part in shaping the environments in which they live. At this time, these structures are for 12- to 20-year-olds.

Long Night of Democracy & LET'S GO BASIC LAW

Numerous activities in Augsburg are specifically aimed at strengthening democracy. The **Long Night of Democracy** took place in Augsburg in autumn 2024. It is part of "We are all Augsburg", Augsburg's commitment to peaceful coexistence. The free event takes place throughout Bavaria on 2 October every two years. By using a variety of formats to help people understand and experience issues surrounding democracy first-hand, the aim is to highlight the importance of democracy and place it at the heart of public debate. The 2024 event, themed "What holds our society together?", provided an opportunity for interaction, discussion and inspiration. For example, workshops and a concert project addressed the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*). Another offering in this respect was **LET'S GO BASIC LAW, a participatory and creative project for children and young people on the topic of the Basic Law**. This culminated in a flash mob performing in front of the town hall.

"Your City. Your democracy." participation format

With the **"Your City. Your democracy."** low-threshold participation format initiated in 2024, the Office for Community Safety and Prevention engages in dialogue with citizens at various events (new residents' reception, Safety Day,

on-site speaker discussions, etc.) to raise awareness of democracy and make it tangible and visible in everyday life. Participants can use posters to visually reflect on where they experience democracy in Augsburg. To mark the 75th anniversary of the Basic Law, Mayor Eva Weber and other members of the City Council visited schools in Augsburg to talk to pupils about the Basic Law, fundamental rights and democracy.

Diverse democracy and diversity projects of civil society initiatives

Each year since 2015, the City of Augsburg has been funding *several projects* that are part of *civil society initiatives to strengthen democracy and diversity*. Until 2024, the funds came from the *Live Democracy federal programme*. 24 initiatives and projects received funding in 2024. The federal programme aims to prevent extremism, racism and discrimination.

Town Hall as a Place of Learning project

The *Town Hall as a Place of Learning project* was launched in 2022. This participatory project run by the Office for Social Integration teaches primary school pupils in years 3 and 4 about political education and democracy. A children's workshop introduces school classes in Augsburg to interesting information and democratic values through play. Children learn how a city works, what happens in the town hall and what a city council's responsibilities are. The highlight is a children's city council meeting with the election of a mayor. The project asks: "What matters to children in the city and what would they do as mayor?"

Augsburg's contributions to historical and political education

Since 2021, the Office for Remembrance Culture has been organising *Augsburg's contributions to historical and political education* in collaboration with numerous partners. The series of events contributes to political education and a stronger democracy by offering experts, media professionals and academics from various disciplines a public forum for discussing historical and current topics.

"Mach mit, Augsburg" digital participation platform

As part of general public participation, Augsburg residents can get involved in town hall meetings, district discussions and surveys. The *"Mach mit, Augsburg" (Join in, Augsburg) digital participation platform* plays a central role here. Participation based on quality criteria enables all people to take part in decision-making processes, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background. Public participation and equal opportunities are closely linked. The platform includes a youth participation page: [Machmit.augsburg.de/machmit-jugend](https://machmit.augsburg.de/machmit-jugend) serves as a direct channel for sharing ideas, suggestions and feedback. The city administration reviews the suggestions and incorporates them into its planning wherever possible.

Work groups within the Augsburg sustainability process

Independent work groups (*Agenda forums*), the Sustainability Advisory Board and the annual Augsburg Future Prize are key participation formats in Augsburg's sustainability process. Committed individuals from civil society, research, business, politics and administration can form work groups for all of Augsburg's sustainability goals, as set out in the Future Guidelines for Augsburg. If these work groups participate in the Agenda process (through representation on the monthly steering committee and a public commitment to membership), they are supported by the municipal office and can access project funds. The Agenda forums carry out around 40 projects each year (e.g. the lifeguide-augsburg.de internet portal, neighbourhood walks, urban gardening, fairtrade campaigns, global food security events, "Fokus N" breakfasts promoting sustainable business practices, cultural salons, the Long Night of Nature, plastic-free nursery/school certification, etc.).

Participatory refinement of Augsburg's sustainability goals

The *Future Guidelines for Augsburg* are refined every six years in a public process involving many of the city's stakeholders and are submitted to the City Council for adoption. The concept of a "cooperative city" is fundamental to the

work involved in the sustainability process and reflects the responsible administration's role as a collaborative partner.

DenkRaum collaborative format

DenkRaum is a collaborative format involving the municipal Peace Office, Augsburg's adult education centre, the Evangelisches Forum Annahof educational institution, the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia and the Staatstheater Augsburg Plan A platform. It gives participants the opportunity to discuss current socio-political issues in a series of participatory talks. Following a keynote speech, the audience can engage in conversation with each other and pose questions to the speaker(s).

Cultural Advisory Board

The **Cultural Advisory Board** was established in 2015 with its rules of procedure. It is another example of how the City of Augsburg promotes early participation in policymaking. The board ensures that the concerns of stakeholders in the cultural scene are incorporated into the political decision-making process at an early stage. It consists of five members who are elected by the independent arts scene in a participatory process and five representatives of Augsburg's cultural institutions. The Cultural Advisory Board can present its opinions on current issues to the Culture Committee. The Culture Committee can also request an opinion from the Cultural Advisory Board.

Democracy and Co-Determination Project Day in vocational schools

The DGB-Jugend youth organisation goes out into Augsburg's vocational schools with its **Democracy and Co-Determination Project Day**. Young employees are informed about democratic rights in the workplace, working life and society, and are encouraged to consciously shape their own working and living environments.

"Vibrant city" sample texts

With the **"vibrant city" sample texts** printed on cards, the CoCreate Forum for the Local Agenda 21 Augsburg shows how stakeholders from different institutions and organisational forms can work together constructively and on an equal footing in urban development. The texts offer prompts and ideas for action and reflection on various thematic areas. They deal with both internal processes and structures within the groups and interactions between the organisations. Possibilities for intervention are also outlined.



16.10 – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Improving the accessibility of administrative services

The **City of Augsburg's digitalisation strategy** (sub-area: information technology – implementation of the 2021 IT strategy) aims to make administrative services more accessible. Participation and involvement, accessibility and freedom to choose between online and offline access are part of the digitalisation goals. The provision of data from Augsburg's city administration (open data) is also helping to make public administration more transparent.

Augsburg City Library: access to information and knowledge

The City Library promotes reading, education, further training and information, scientific work and leisure activities, and also serves a broad cultural role. It is a non-commercial meeting place and community hub in the city and an important part of urban society in terms of civic, social and cultural participation. Against the backdrop of current issues surrounding social cohesion, **libraries as guides for information literacy and evaluation** are becoming increasingly important in forming the basis for a resilient democracy. The City Library is using its resources to enable citizens to participate proactively and at an early stage in the further development of urban society – by expanding its services, involving volunteers and as a platform and place to meet other cooperation partners.

City Archives: improving access to cultural heritage

In recent years, *Augsburg's City Archives* has **made cultural assets more accessible by removing access restrictions** (e.g. reducing retention periods, allowing photography in the reading room, eliminating copying fees, extending opening hours). The **online research portal** essentially provides free online access to cultural assets. In 2024, the **transfer of the building records archive to the City Archives** was also initiated to continue to provide access to it and to make more efficient use of resources based on the existing infrastructure.

Citizens' service portal (online services)/Citizens' service centres

All departments share the goal of making public administration services accessible to everyone. Since 2003, **citizens' service centres** have been a feature, and there are five in total. The online **citizens' service portal** has been available since 2013, and numerous public administration services can now be completed online: personal identification, the provision of personal documents in digital form (upload option), payment and often also the return channel with digital authorisation or service – e.g. by means of registration terminals, citizen terminals, citizen kits and document collection boxes.



16.b – Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

Augsburg's commitment to peaceful coexistence: "We are all Augsburg"

"We are all Augsburg" reflects Augsburg's commitment to peaceful coexistence. The City of Augsburg's Communications Department created a communications framework for this and asked all departments to provide content. The coordinating activity, i.e. gathering all activities and ideas, was initially carried out by the Peace Office. This commitment is evident on badges, in email signatures, on screens in buses and trams, on banners and posters, and so on.

Central Anti-Discrimination Agency (ZADS) focused on anti-discrimination counselling

In 2019, Augsburg City Council decided to **establish a Central Anti-Discrimination Agency (ZADS) focused on anti-discrimination counselling**. This has a varied mission: to expand activities to include cases of discrimination outside the administration, throughout the city; to serve as a platform for coordination and consultation; to coordinate public relations work; to foster the networking and coordination of anti-discrimination agencies (within the city, independent organisations, associations, initiatives); to ensure the continuous involvement of the relevant advisory boards (in particular, the Senior Citizens, Integration and Disability Advisory Boards); to advise committees and elected representatives; to demonstrate legal and empathetic advisory skills; to develop advisory and documentation standards, and to report on a regular basis. ZADS also raises awareness of general discrimination issues (through public relations work and workshops for multipliers as well as by reporting on incidents of discrimination in Augsburg).

Peace Office: anti-discrimination and inclusion activities and measures

Numerous **events** (Peace Festival, Diversity Day, Augsburg Peace Talks and DenkRaum) address and explore the topic of discrimination and barriers based on gender, origin, physical condition, social status, religion, etc. At the end of 2023, the City Council decided to launch a permanent, cross-community programme to prevent and combat group-focused enmity. In spring 2025, an **antisemitism action plan** was adopted as a first step. Under the leadership of the Central Anti-Discrimination Agency, an action plan against group-focused enmity is currently being developed as part of a municipal work group. One important goal for promoting inclusion is requiring an **accessible design** for public spaces, buildings and mobility services. When selecting venues, the Peace Office ensures that they are wheelchair accessible and includes information on wheelchair access and toilets in the overview of venues in the Augsburg Peace Festival programme booklet.

Porajmos public commemoration

In memory of the genocide of the Sinti and Roma peoples during the Nazi era, the City of Augsburg's **Office for Remembrance Culture**, in collaboration with the Regional Association of German Sinti and Roma in Swabia, has been organising a public commemoration on 2 August since 2021, with the further aim of taking a stand against new forms of racism and antiziganism.

Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism

The **Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism** is one specific example of solidarity in action at the local level. The City of Augsburg organises this annual commemorative event in cooperation with the network of initiatives committed to remembrance culture and the Jewish community. A particular focus is placed on the stories of local victims, some of which are compiled by school classes.

Augsburg Remembrance Culture Forum

The **Augsburg Remembrance Culture Forum**, founded in 2024, is a loose association of initiatives, organisations and individuals active in remembrance work in Augsburg. It views remembrance and memorial work as socially relevant and necessary, and seeks to provide historical and political education while fostering the development of democratic skills. The forum aims to improve networking among members, facilitate the exchange of information and promote cooperation on projects and events. The members focus on examining Nazi rule in the Augsburg area, its causes and the lasting effects to this day. Particular attention is given to the solemn remembrance of the Nazi regime's crimes and the commemoration of its victims. The Office for Remembrance Culture acts as the forum's management body, scheduling, facilitating and recording the minutes of joint meetings, and may propose topics and projects.

Alliance for Human Dignity

Bündnis für Menschenwürde Augsburg-Schwaben e.V. (Alliance for Human Dignity in Augsburg/Swabia) coordinates efforts to combat right-wing extremism in Augsburg and Bavaria's Swabia region. It works closely with relevant associations and organisations on this. On 3 February 2024, it organised a demonstration against right-wing extremism and for diversity attended by 25,000 people, the largest demonstration in Augsburg to date.

FC Augsburg: Remembrance Day and 07 Values

Every year, **FC Augsburg** participates in a Bundesliga home match with a programme of activities on **Remembrance Day in German football, organised by the !NieWieder (never again) initiative**. For FCA, active remembrance goes hand-in-hand with a lasting commitment to our democracy and an open society. The association therefore also supports the Augsburg Peace Festival in its aim to strengthen peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. There is no place for antisemitism or any form of discrimination, Islamophobia, racism or group-focused enmity at FC Augsburg or in the stadium. This attitude is embodied in the **07 Values**, including **solidarity, responsibility, diversity and respect** – both on and off the pitch.

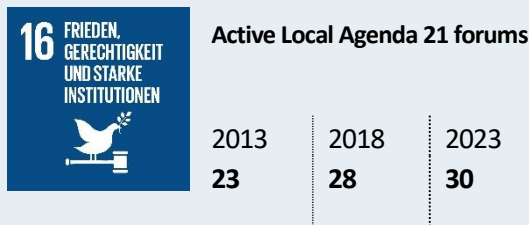
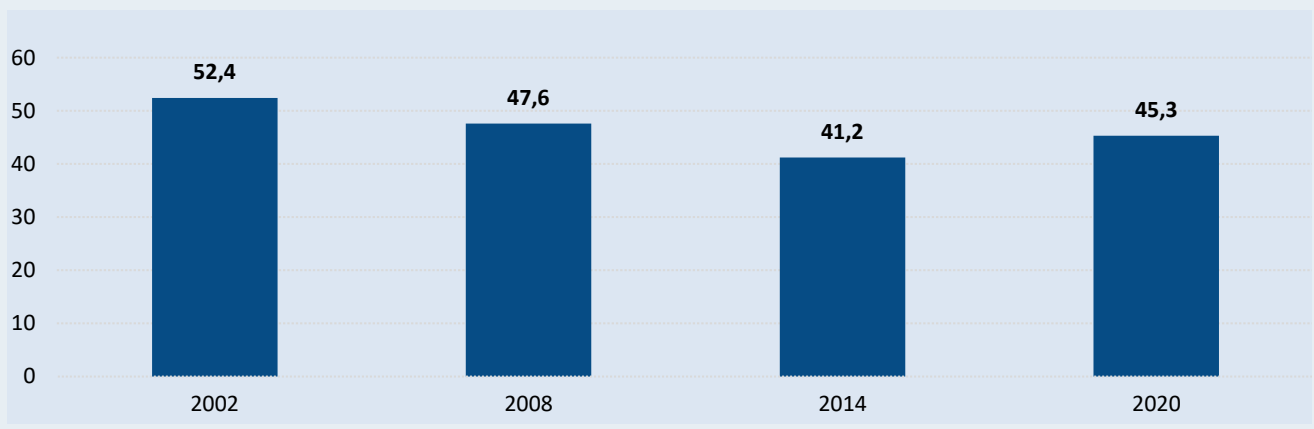
Developments at local level



Participation of the eligible population of the City of Augsburg in local elections

Source: Office for Statistics, City of Augsburg

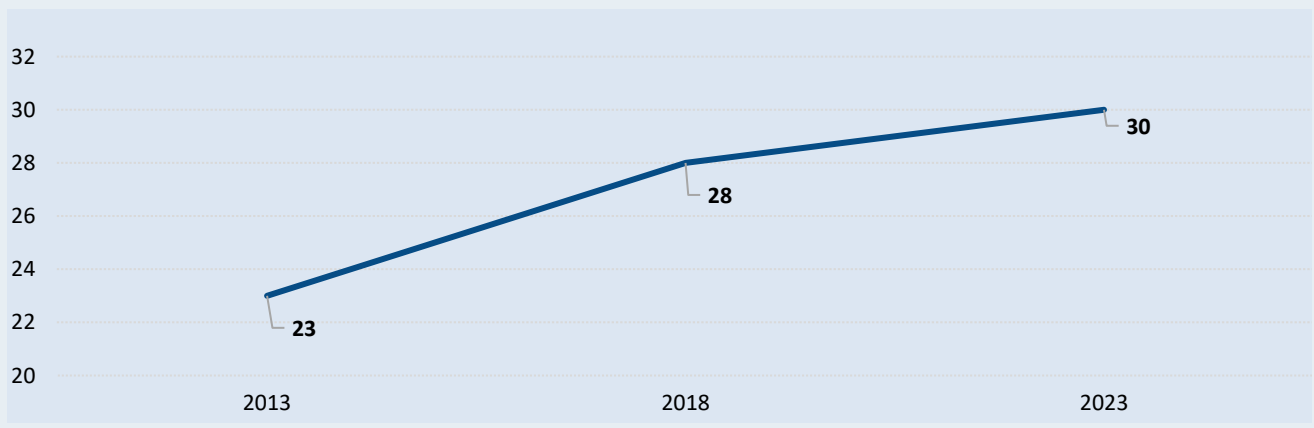
Type: Augsburg's own indicator



Number of active Agenda forums in Augsburg (as of 31 December). Agenda forums are independent, voluntary work groups within the framework of the Local Agenda 21 for a Sustainable Augsburg process. They develop and implement projects on specific sustainability topics.

Source: Office for Sustainability, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator



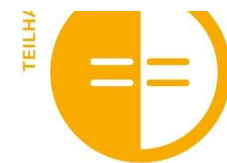
Outlook

Peace, justice and strong institutions are the foundation of every democratic society. Political and social participation at all levels is required for this. The Future Guidelines for Augsburg contain the values: *Live a culture of peace (K2.1)* and *Shape democracy (K2.2)*.

In line with its targets to *Collectively share responsibility (K4.1)* and *Increase openness and transparency in politics and public administration (K4.4)*, Augsburg is committed to using a variety of forms of participation to strengthen involvement, transparency and trust. Digital services and town hall meetings enable citizens to understand political decisions and raise their own concerns. The Town Hall as a Place of Learning, Long Night of Democracy and other formats promote understanding and engagement with democratic processes. In addition, a total of fourteen advisory boards – covering sustainability, climate, mobility, integration, culture, sport and more – ensure the institutionalised participation of civil society groups and bring a wide range of perspectives to policymaking.

At the same time, Augsburg – like many cities – faces new challenges. Increasing polarisation, digital disinformation and declining trust in public institutions are undermining democratic culture and the quality of public discourse. In the coming years, the City wants to consolidate and further develop the existing structures in a targeted manner – with the goal of supporting and protecting democracy education and prevention work and expanding digital participation formats, thereby involving even more people actively in the discourse – regardless of age, origin, language or limitations (Future Guidelines target *S4.1 Prevent discrimination and remove barriers*). A variety of formats are reinforcing and expanding Augsburg's historically grounded identity as a city of peace.

The City Library is increasing the availability of its rooms as part of its 2024–2030 library development plan to enable the city's diverse communities to take action and make themselves seen. The city administration is currently developing an action plan against group-focused enmity. It will also further develop and update the action plan against antisemitism as part of this process. In addition, it is continuously improving its accessibility – through increased online services and the opening of a further citizens' service centre in the Göggingen district.





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, with an annual investment gap of around \$4 trillion annually. At the same time, official development assistance declined 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. While digital infrastructures and data systems are advancing, the divide between wealthy and poorer countries remains wide. Greater international cooperation and innovative financing mechanisms are needed.⁶²



National

Germany is one of the most important industrial nations and is committed to implementing sustainability goals internationally. Fair trade, social cohesion and the transfer of knowledge and technology are enshrined in the German Sustainable Development Strategy. Germany is also one of the largest international development cooperation funders. Development cooperation helps to reduce global poverty, secure peace and alleviate emergencies, while making globalisation fairer and protecting the environment. It is focused on health, education, climate action and good governance, as well as the transfer of technology and knowledge in areas such as renewable energy and digital infrastructure.⁶³ Germany has recognised the need for close, long-term cooperation and therefore works together with a wide range of stakeholders. In 2023, it allocated approximately €35 billion for this, once again achieving the international target of 0.7 per cent.⁶⁴ Municipal partnerships – for example, within the framework of municipal development policy – also play a significant role in strengthening international cooperation on an equal footing and making sustainable development a tangible experience through direct exchange with partner municipalities worldwide.



Augsburg

Global challenges require local responses and strong partnerships. Augsburg has always viewed its sustainability work as part of a global process and is a member of the *Club of 2030 Agenda Municipalities*. By signing the model resolution, the City of Augsburg has reaffirmed its commitment to global responsibility.

International cooperation is particularly evident in city and project partnerships. Since 2023, Augsburg has been supporting the Jordanian City of Ar-Ramtha in establishing a modern waste management system and promoting a sustainable circular economy through exchange programmes and knowledge transfer. Also in 2023, a project partnership was established with Pervomaisk in Ukraine, which initially began with the delivery of relief supplies and is now focused on improving the drinking water supply.

Augsburg also has long-standing city-to-city partnerships (some of more than 60 years) with seven cities on three continents: Amagasaki (Japan), Bourges (France), Dayton (USA), Inverness (Scotland), Jinan (China), Liberec (Czechia) and Nagahama (Japan). The annual youth exchange with the Japanese twin cities is a particular highlight.

Relevant SDG 17 targets for German municipalities include

- Mobilise additional financial resources for countries in the Global South
- Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development or the formation of effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships

Below we highlight just some of the measures and projects that Augsburg is implementing to help achieve these targets.

Our engagement



17.6 – Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation

International city-to-city partnerships and youth exchanges with Japan

Augsburg maintains partnerships with seven cities on three continents, some of which have been in place for over 60 years. Those cities are Amagasaki, Bourges, Dayton, Inverness, Jinan, Liberec and Nagahama. Augsburg fosters **engagement between civil society and the twin cities**. The activities range from reciprocal visits by sports clubs, music ensembles, heritage groups and art and cultural associations to school and student exchanges. Time and again, this regular interaction forges new connections between the communities in the twin cities. One particular highlight is the annual **youth exchange with the Japanese twin cities** of Amagasaki and Nagahama. After the exchange had been suspended due to the pandemic, 14 young adults from Japan were again able to visit Augsburg in 2024 and experience it through a diverse cultural programme. This exchange strengthens the friendship between the cities, promotes intercultural awareness and is a shining example of lived international understanding.

Ar-Ramtha (Jordan) and Pervomaisk (Ukraine) project partnerships

The City of Augsburg also maintains two **project partnerships**. It is providing support to the **City of Ar-Ramtha** (Jordan) in the area of waste management. Specifically, a municipal waste management company will be established and recycling activities expanded in order to strengthen the organisational and processing capacities for waste management in Ar-Ramtha. Augsburg's waste management and municipal cleaning service is providing advice based on its knowledge and extensive experience. Annual exchange programmes with workshops, tours and on-site consultations are promoting knowledge transfer and are supplemented by targeted investment measures. The project partnership was officially confirmed in 2023 with the signing of the corresponding agreement by both parties. Already in the run-up to the decision on the **project partnership with the City of Pervomaisk** in Ukraine, the City of Augsburg delivered aid supplies funded by the federal government, consisting of vehicles and electricity generators, to the Mykolaiv Oblast in January 2023. Two further deliveries of relief supplies went directly to Pervomaisk. On the second anniversary of the war of aggression against Ukraine, Augsburg organised a solidarity event, which also welcomed

guests from its twin city. During discussions on joint project activities, it became clear that the two cities could effectively cooperate on improving the drinking water supply in Pervomaisk given its particularly high need for collaboration in rehabilitating and renewing its drinking water pumps. Any investment measures will be financed through federal funding in future.

Augsburg One World Forum

The **Augsburg One World Forum** links activities related to development policy in and around Augsburg. At the same time, it connects global justice priorities with local decision-making and civic engagement in Augsburg. Stakeholders in the One World Forum include Werkstatt Solidarische Welt e.V., Weltladen Augsburg, Brot für die Welt, the Diocese's Department for the Universal Church, the Catholic German Women's Association (KDFB), Aktion Hoffnung and the Mission Representative for the Deanery of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development model resolution

Augsburg is a member of the nationwide Club of 2030 Agenda Municipalities network. The City has **signed the model resolution "2030 Agenda for sustainable development: shaping sustainability at the municipal level"** organised by the Association of German Cities and the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

Werkstatt Solidarische Welt e.V.: Solidarity for a Better World (Future Prize 2024)

Werkstatt Solidarische Welt e.V. is a non-profit, independent organisation that promotes solidarity across borders. It is committed to tackling the consequences of climate change in the Global South and has been participating in an Erasmus+ school exchange with France, Spain and Romania since 2023 to explore solutions and approaches from young people in Europe. The topics covered include consumer behaviour, solidarity and democratic participation. The aim of the **Solidarity for a Better World** project is to use these experiences in educational work and disseminate them in local and regional networks.



17.17 – Encourage effective partnerships

Local Agenda 21: shared responsibility

The broad and dynamic **Local Agenda 21 – Augsburg Network for Sustainability** process reflects the **shared assumption of responsibility** by stakeholders from civil society, the city administration, city politics, research and business for sustainable development. The collectively developed and supported mission statement, the large number and variety of measures and the joint reporting demonstrate that sustainability is a common cause.

As part of the City of Augsburg's **Local Agenda 21 process**, around 30 work groups (**Agenda forums**) devoted to a variety of topics conduct between 40 and 50 environmental, social, economic and cultural projects offering a wide range of activities each year. They are supported in this by the Office for Sustainability as part of the Local Agenda 21 process.

The Augsburg sustainability goals – **Future Guidelines for Augsburg** – were and are being jointly developed and refined as part of the Augsburg sustainability process by the Office for Sustainability with broad participation from the local community (civil society, administration, politics, business and research). They form the basis for improving coherence in Augsburg's urban policy and public administration work on sustainable development.

Sustainability Advisory Board

Every three years, the City Council chooses up to 25 people from important civil society, business and research institutions to be members of the **Sustainability Advisory Board**. This meets four times a year and its business is managed by the Office for Sustainability. The board discusses current sustainability issues, makes recommendations to the city administration and City Council, and initiates measures within its members' own institutions. In 2021, the members

of the Sustainability Advisory Board and the representatives of the Agenda forums played a key role in updating Augsburg's sustainability goals. Recommendations in recent years have focused, for example, on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 5 t per person per year by 2025, establishing a climate action commission (Climate Advisory Board), partially reallocating public transport space for more sustainable uses, divesting (investing in sustainable financial assets), developing a low-waste/zero-waste city plan, consistently implementing Augsburg's sustainability goal to establish walking, cycling and public transport as the primary modes of transport and conducting a baseline review of usable biomass.

Developments at local level



Number of partnerships with partners in DAC countries that are not limited in terms of time or subject matter

Source: Office for Sustainability, City of Augsburg

Type: Augsburg's own indicator

Outlook

In the cultural dimension of its sustainability strategy, the City of Augsburg has set itself targets to *Practise local and global solidarity (K2.3)* and *Cooperate regionally and internationally (K5.3)*.

It has a strong foundation of long-standing city-to-city partnerships and new international project collaborations, which are supported by broad engagement from the city's community. Numerous clubs, schools, music and sports groups and universities have maintained ties with the twin cities and other international partners for decades. These established relationships promote mutual understanding, intercultural learning and peaceful coexistence. The partnerships and exchanges with Ar-Ramtha in Jordan and Pervomaisk in Ukraine demonstrate how knowledge transfer between municipalities can make a meaningful contribution to addressing global challenges. The city-to-city partnerships provide a solid basis for professional and social exchange on key issues for the future, such as climate action, sustainable urban development and social justice.

Augsburg has many years of experience in municipal sustainability policy and a broadly supported Agenda 21 process that involves the administration, citizens, academia and business in equal measure.

With its UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Water Management System of Augsburg – the City is considered a pioneer in sustainable water management and resource conservation. At the same time, Augsburg can learn from other municipalities that are implementing the mobility transition and expanding renewable energy more consistently or that have developed innovative strategies for affordable housing.

Augsburg is committed to continuing its extensive sustainability work involving the local community. The City's sustainability goals – the Future Guidelines for Augsburg – will be reviewed and refined in 2026/2027.



Members of the Sustainability Advisory Board (2025 to 2027) from 25 institutions (source: City of Augsburg)

4. Summary and outlook

VLR: origin and background

With this Voluntary Local Review, the City of Augsburg is publishing its first sustainability report that gives a systematic account of its local implementation of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By updating the process at regular intervals as part of sustainability reporting, it wants to ensure a permanent link between the *Future Guidelines for Augsburg* and the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals.

The City of Augsburg's VLR is built on many years of municipal reporting on sustainable development in Augsburg. The City already published comprehensive sustainability reports in 2011, 2020 and 2025. Its reporting in this area is guided by the *Future Guidelines for Augsburg*, which have been setting the strategic direction for the City's sustainability activities across politics, public administration, the participating civil society, business and science since 2015. These emerged from the Guidelines for a Sustainable Augsburg developed in 1998.

Further Augsburg sustainability reports are to be published every six years, in the year before local elections (next report: 2031). The indicator data will be updated annually, and Augsburg's own indicators are publicly available as open data at <https://augsburg.bydata.de> (in German only). All Augsburg sustainability indicators will be published on the new nationwide municipal sustainability portal, which is still under development.

This VLR is based on the community 2025 Augsburg Sustainability Report published in July 2025. This contains 783 report items: strategies, plans, guidelines, measures and networks. The information has been slightly abridged and updated. The content in this Voluntary Local Review has been structured according to the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and placed in an international context. With this VLR, Augsburg is one of the first Bavarian municipalities to document its local sustainability work as part of the global VLR initiative and to link its municipal sustainability strategy to the United Nations' international reporting systems. The VLR is not only a baseline review, but also an analysis, communication and control tool. The data and indicators presented create transparency, provide a factual basis for assessing municipal measures and serve as a foundation for evidence-based policy decisions and for dialogue within the city community between the city administration, politics, civil society, business and science.

Augsburg's sustainability policy in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The evaluation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals shows that Augsburg has a broad foundation of strategies, networks and initiatives that address environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability in equal measure. At the same time, it is clear that significant progress can only be achieved in the long term through bold and forward-looking policies, cross-departmental collaboration and cooperation within urban society.

Implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is a long-term process that requires continuous adaptation, innovation and cooperation. This VLR shows where Augsburg is already making a significant contribution to the SDGs and where there is still room for improvement. The various projects and measures planned for Augsburg in the coming years demonstrate the direction of travel: towards an environmentally responsible, socially just, economically viable and culturally diverse city. The following milestones summarise some of the key objectives that will guide municipal action in that period. They highlight high-priority issues and the developments Augsburg intends to pursue in its path towards becoming a future-proof city.

Planned milestones

- Revision of Augsburg's sustainability goals (Future Guidelines for Augsburg) in 2026/2027
- Inclusion of Augsburg in the new nationwide municipal sustainability portal planned for 2026

- Climate-neutral city administration by 2035 and reduction in CO₂ emissions of at least 95% by 2050 compared to the base year 1990 (Climate Alliance target)
- Continuous upgrading of schools and schoolyards towards climate neutrality and resilience
- Expansion of district heating to 40% by 2040
- Completion of the Augsburg mobility plan with the objectives of ensuring accessibility, changing mobility and managing traffic in a sustainable manner and creating great places to live by 2026 or 2027
- Plan: pedestrian-friendly Augsburg in 2027
- Urban biotope mapping in 2027
- New tree planting in the city centre (70 trees) and Innovation Park (Grüne Mitte area, 600 trees), creation of two inner-city climate oases and establishment of irrigation water management – all by the end of 2027
- Forest restructuring and (re)forestation towards structured, climate-resilient, mixed permanent forest stands by 2044
- Addition of a fourth treatment stage at the sewage treatment plant for eliminating trace substances by 2031
- Expansion of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) network and creation of the ESD plan
- Opening of "Forum St. Johannes" in 2026
- City centre strategy by 2035
- Completion of the general renovation and expansion of Staatstheater Augsburg by 2029 or 2030
- Completion of the action plan against group-focused enmity by 2026

Outlook

Sustainable development is a dynamic, collaborative learning process. With its first Voluntary Local Review, the City of Augsburg is further expanding its municipal sustainability management, which is based primarily on transparency, cooperation and continuous improvement. Regular and open reporting makes it possible to measure progress, clearly identify challenges and base policy decisions on reliable data. The City's intention is not only to document success, but also shine a spotlight on limitations, conflicting goals and unresolved issues. This honesty is a prerequisite for credible and effective political action. This VLR is therefore not simply a report – it provides guidance and motivation. It invites administrators, politicians, civil society, business and academia to take collective responsibility for Augsburg's future within the framework of global sustainable development. In an age of increasing complexity and social polarisation, VLRs provide a factual basis for dialogue, trust and cohesion. With this report, Augsburg is therefore not only contributing to the local implementation of the global sustainability agenda, but also demonstrating how cities can become an active shaper of a locally and globally just, climate-friendly and liveable future through transparency, participation and cooperation.



Augsburg town hall with the city symbol, the Swiss pine cone (Roman pine cone), and St Ulrich's Basilica in the background (source: Ruth Plössel)

5. Appendix

Summary of the 169 SDG targets

SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty
- 1.2 Reduce poverty by at least 50%
- 1.3 Implement social protection systems
- 1.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources
- 1.5 Build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters
- 1.a Mobilise resources to implement policies to end poverty
- 1.b Create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks

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

- 2.1 Universal access to safe and nutritious food
- 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition
- 2.3 Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices
- 2.5 Maintain the genetic diversity in food production
- 2.a Invest in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology and gene banks
- 2.b Prevent agricultural trade restrictions, market distortions and export subsidies
- 2.c Ensure stable food commodity markets and timely access to information

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

- 3.1 Reduce maternal mortality
- 3.2 End all preventable deaths under 5 years of age
- 3.3 Fight communicable diseases
- 3.4 Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health
- 3.5 Prevent and treat substance abuse
- 3.6 Reduce road injuries and death
- 3.7 Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage
- 3.9 Reduce illnesses and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution
- 3.a Implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- 3.b Support research, development and universal access to affordable vaccines and medicines
- 3.c Increase health financing and support health workforce in developing countries
- 3.d Improve early warning systems for global health risks

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

- 4.1 Free primary and secondary education
- 4.2 Equal access to quality pre-primary education
- 4.3 Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education
- 4.4 Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
- 4.5 Eliminate all discrimination in education
- 4.6 Universal literacy and numeracy
- 4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship
- 4.a Build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools
- 4.b Expand higher education scholarships for 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 End all violence against and exploitation of women and girls
- 5.3 Eliminate forced marriages and genital mutilation
- 5.4 Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities
- 5.5 Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making
- 5.6 Universal access to reproductive health and rights
- 5.a Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services
- 5.b Promote empowerment of women through technology
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality

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

- 6.1 Safe and affordable drinking water
- 6.2 End open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene
- 6.3 Improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse
- 6.4 Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater suppliers
- 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management
- 6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems
- 6.a Expand water and sanitation support to developing countries
- 6.b Support local engagement in water and sanitation management

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

- 7.1 Universal access to modern energy
- 7.2 Increase global percentage of renewable energy
- 7.3 Double the improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a Promote access to research, technology and investments in clean energy
- 7.b Expand and upgrade energy services for developing countries

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

- 8.1 Sustainable economic growth
- 8.2 Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
- 8.3 Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises
- 8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
- 8.5 Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- 8.6 Promote youth employment, education and training
- 8.7 End modern slavery, trafficking and child labour
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe working environments
- 8.9 Promote beneficial and sustainable tourism
- 8.10 Universal access to banking, insurance and financial services
- 8.a Increase aid for trade support
- 8.b Develop a global youth employment strategy

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

- 9.1 Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
- 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation
- 9.3 Increase access to financial services and markets
- 9.4 Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability
- 9.5 Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies
- 9.a Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development for developing countries
- 9.b Support domestic technology development and industrial diversification
- 9.c Universal access to information and communications technology

SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.1 Reduce income inequalities
- 10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination
- 10.4 Adopt fiscal and social policies that promote equality
- 10.5 Improved regulation of global financial markets and institutions
- 10.6 Enhanced representation for developing countries in financial institutions
- 10.7 Responsible and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a Special and differential treatment for developing countries
- 10.b Encourage development assistance and investment in least developed countries
- 10.c Reduce transaction costs for migrant remittances

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

- 11.1 Safe and affordable housing
- 11.2 Affordable and sustainable transport systems
- 11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation
- 11.4 Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
- 11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities
- 11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces
- 11.a Strong national and regional development planning
- 11.b Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction

11.c Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building

SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1 Implement the 10-year Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework
- 12.2 Sustainable management and use of natural resources
- 12.3 Halve global per capita food waste
- 12.4 Responsible management of chemicals and waste
- 12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation
- 12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting
- 12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement practices
- 12.8 Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles
- 12.a Support developing countries' scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism
- 12.c Remove market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption

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

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning
- 13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change
- 13.a Implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 13.b Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management

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

- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution
- 14.2 Protect and restore ecosystems
- 14.3 Reduce ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.5 Conserve coastal and marine areas
- 14.6 End subsidies contributing to overfishing
- 14.7 Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health
- 14.b Support small scale fishers
- 14.c Implement and enforce international sea law

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

- 15.1 Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems
- 15.2 End deforestation and restore degraded forests
- 15.3 End desertification and restore degraded land
- 15.4 Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.5 Protect biodiversity and natural habitats
- 15.6 Promote access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits
- 15.7 Eliminate poaching and trafficking of protected species
- 15.8 Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems
- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity in governmental planning
- 15.a Increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystem and biodiversity
- 15.b Finance and incentivise sustainable forest management
- 15.c Combat global poaching and trafficking

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 everywhere
- 16.2 Protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
- 16.4 Combat organised crime and illicit financial and arms flows
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
- 16.8 Strengthen the participation in global governance
- 16.9 Provide universal legal identity
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms
- 16.a Strengthen national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and 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 resources to improve domestic revenue collection
- 17.2 Implement all development assistance commitments
- 17.3 Mobilise financial resources for developing countries
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining debt sustainability
- 17.5 Invest in least developed countries

Technology

- 17.6 Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation
- 17.7 Promote sustainable technologies to developing countries
- 17.8 Strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity for least developed countries

Capacity development

- 17.9 Enhance SDG capacity in developing countries

Trade

- 17.10 Promote a universal trading system under the WTO
- 17.11 Increase the exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Remove trade barriers for least developed countries

Systemic issues

- 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15 Respect national leadership to implement policies for the sustainable development goals

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development
- 17.17 Encourage effective partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

- 17.18 Enhance availability of reliable data
- 17.19 Further develop measurements of progress

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