



## 2nd Freiburg Sustainability Report 2016 Executive summary

### Introduction

How far is Freiburg on the path to becoming a sustainable city? How do we fulfil the sustainability goals that we set ourselves and how can we measure their success? Two years after the publication of the first Freiburg Sustainability Report (2014) the current 2<sup>nd</sup> edition provides an up to date view of an excerpt of the City's sustainability process. This report is supplementary to the Budget 2017/18 and provides a goal and result analysis on the basis of the 60 Freiburg sustainability goals. The report is in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

### Target audience

The sustainability report is directed at members of the City Council as a basis for political decision making. In addition, the report serves to provide members of the administration with an overview of activities, a status-quo of the sustainability process and their role in the greater context of sustainable development. Furthermore, the sustainability report is published for interested local authorities, the people of Freiburg and members of the general public.

### Sustainability policy

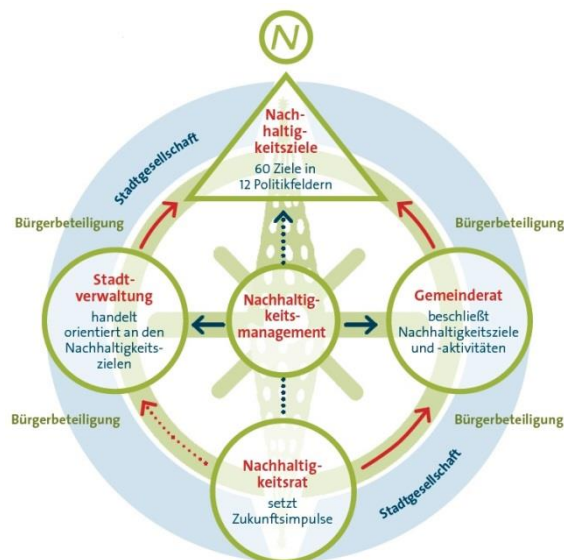
Sustainability in the sense of developing and implementing a comprehensive policy is a long process that takes many years. The city of Freiburg has taken on this challenge in a series of steps and phases. The foundation is an intergenerationally just finance structure. The 60 Freiburg sustainability goals should be both effectively and participatorially achieved (see

City Council resolution G-12/031). Key is also the development of an integrative steering mechanism to ensure measurability of sustainable development in local authorities. This is ensured through the creation of the Office of Sustainability.

### Sustainability governance / Sustainability leadership

The integrated concept of the **Freiburg Sustainability Compass** provides a foundation for development and operationalisation as well as an auditing tool. Within the administration, the Office of Sustainable Development is responsible for coordinating issues and inter-departmental work to ensure an integrated approach. Binding decisions are reached through continual exchange between politicians, administration and external partners. The Mayor sees sustainability as a matter for the boss and is personally committed to the implementation of the 60 Freiburg sustainability goals. Improved management ensures that political guidelines are implemented.

Freiburg's Sustainability Compass:



### Implementation of the sustainability goals

In 2009 the City Council adopted 60 sustainability goals, previously passed by the Freiburg Sustainability Council. The 60 goals are classified into 12 political fields and provide the foundation for all political action. For reasons of manageability, the Freiburg Sustainability Report focuses on six city departments and with them nine political fields and 16 Sustainability Goals.

#### 1. Governance

- 1.2 Community engagement reaches a cross-section of the city population not just those previously involved.
- 1.4 Community engagement conducted in accordance with guidelines such as fairness, transparency and equal opportunities.

### **3. Common natural resources**

- 3.1 Preserve local biodiversity and ecosystems.
- 3.5 Promote organic farming – increase the proportion of organic land use and forestry.

### **5. City planning and development**

- 5.1 Step-by-step reduction of green-field surface use towards zero combined with a moderate level of brown-field development to accommodate living and industrial needs.
- 5.5 Good provision of attractive, urban green open spaces in the whole city area with equal access and use for all.

### **6. Improved mobility, less traffic**

- 6.2 Strengthen public transport and increase proportion of cycling in the inner-city and commuter traffic.
- 6.4 Strengthen bicycle traffic, development of cycle paths and reduction of road traffic accidents involving cyclists.

### **7. Health & Wellbeing**

- 7.3 Protect the population from health hazards, in particular noise, pollutants and accidents.

### **8. Dynamic and future proof local economy:**

- 8.2 Support job-creation for non- or low qualified individuals.

### **9. Social Justice**

- 9.1 Fight poverty, generate job opportunities and prevent social exclusion.
- 9.4 Ensure equal opportunities and access to education, support children in their abilities and resources age-appropriately and enable their personal and social development.

### **10. Education**

- 10.4 Early support in language competency, for all children, so that each child reaches the expected language competency for its age, in its mother tongue, by the time it enters the school system.
- 10.5 Promote, develop and institutionalise education for a sustainable future (BNE) and intercultural- and life-long learning. Instil sustainable thinking and behaviour, in a globally responsible context, in both children and adults.

### **11. Climate and energy**

- 11.4 Use all potential renewable energy sources (for example solar roofing, wind and hydro-electric plants) and increase the proportion of renewable energy (electricity, heating, mobility etc.) in general consumption.

## Trends

Sustainability is the foundation of politics in Freiburg. This requires a constant dialogue with interdisciplinary and inter-departmental work, interactions and multifaceted problem solving approaches across the many fields of work of the administration. The Freiburg Sustainability Report is an important tool for controlling and monitoring sustainable development. The present report, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Freiburg Sustainability Report, demonstrates, on the basis of the examples outlined here, that the city, in cooperation with other relevant actors, is successfully pursuing the sustainability goals and further possible courses of action in all areas.

In the field of governance, the Report shows a high level of participation of citizens in local political decisions: a highly relevant indicator for this is the number of sachkundiger Bürgerinnen und Bürger (expert citizen) in committees which is very high compared with other local authorities. Furthermore there is a high level of transparency in political decision making: one example of this is the Ratsinformationssystem, an open, online platform where all public bills, motions, resolutions etc., are published. A further indicator is the high number of public agenda items in Council meetings. The proportion of women in the City Council however is still in the middle regions. The aim is to reach a 50% female quota in the City Council by 2014 in order to better reflect the city population.

The many interdependencies between the 60 Freiburg Sustainability Goals represent a challenge to the city of Freiburg, in particular, goal 3.1 to retain biodiversity. The range of measures for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is high. Among them are ecological forestry, ecosystem management, public education and so forth. At the same time, Freiburg has a fluctuating need for surface area to accommodate living space. It is to be anticipated, that compensatory measures will become an increasing challenge. This is why the City Council has generated the strategy Kommunales Handlungsprogramm Wohnen as basis for future city planning. The policy outlines both qualitative and quantitative methods of providing living space taking account of ecological and economical interactions.

Freiburg is a pioneer in mobility. The excellent public transport network (and concept) were developed in the 1970s and are continually being improved. The current focus is on increasing bicycle transportation. With 27% of inner-city journeys being made by bike (in 1999), Freiburg has one of the highest proportions of cycling of all cities in Germany. The goal is, through the building of "bicycle highways", to reach over 30% by 2020. There are already three pilot routes for cycling highways in Freiburg today. The development has outreached all expectations: the aim was an annual increase of 2% on the base level 2014. The realised values were 2% and 6% on the Dreisamweg (lower due to partial closure for building works) and other two routes respectively. At the measuring station on the Wiwilibrücke, the increased is greater: between 2014 and 2016 by more than 16%.

In the field of sustainable development, there are also new challenges for the city of Freiburg. One example is the accommodation of refugees: The issues of integration and (im)migration and their interdependencies with the areas of education, social justice and city

planning have marked the city since 2015. If one examines the trends on the basis of the examples in the present report, one is confronted with a picture of a city, in politics and development that is increasingly orientated toward effective, indicator based sustainable development.