



With history into the future

The International Awards for
Liveable Communities 2004

Competition entry from
Münster, Germany



Münster



In its interaction with the present day Münster's historical backdrop keeps coming back to life. This was the case when the artist Nam June Paik "parked" silver vintage cars in front of the castle for the "Skulptur.Projekte" international exhibition in 1997.

– a brief portrait

Innovation and tradition characterise Münster

Münster's history spanning more than 1200 years is reflected by the medieval ground plan of the Altstadt (old part of the city) and numerous historical buildings. The Altstadt is an exceptional example of the European city tradition with its varied functions in an enclosed space and high urban development qualities. The Prinzipalmarkt with the Lambertikirche (church) and the Rathaus des Westfälischen Friedens as well as the cathedral and the cathedral square represent just a few of the internationally significant constructions of the Altstadt spanning a period of eight centuries. Historical buildings, modern architecture, contemporary sculptures – this composition ensures the Altstadt is a lively central point of the city. In addition the outstanding qualities of Münster include the fact that the city is very green with the Promenade, a green ring around the Altstadt, and the fact it is embedded within the charming park landscape of Münsterland.

The modern city of Münster. Now the Westphalian metropolis presents itself as the city of the universities with outstanding international reputations, which accommodates approx. 50,000 students, and as the headquarters of innovative centres in the field of research and technology transfer. This academic potential forms an important basis for the future-oriented development of the economy. A lot of young people, numerous institutions attached to the university, a varied and exciting cultural life as well as the bicycle as the omnipresent form of transport characterise the city's unmistakable atmosphere. In addition the international sculpture exhibitions and the new Picasso Museum that have attracted a lot of public attention have helped Münster to gain a high profile as a cultural city.

Front page:
Lively centre of the Münster
Altstadt: the Prinzipalmarkt. Guests
and locals love the atmosphere
between the gabled houses and the
arcades.

Münster made a colourful bicycle
into its jubilee logo to celebrate its
1,200 year anniversary – and with
good reason.



Data and facts

- Germany
- The federal state of North Rhine Westphalia
- Higher administrative centre and university city
- 302 km² – of which approx. 26% is made up of developed areas and vehicular infrastructure and 74% countryside
- More than 1/3 of the area is a nature reserve
- 51°57'46.6" degrees North
- 7°37'43.3" longitude East
- 61.3 metres above sea level
- 750 mm precipitation per year
- 1959 hours of sunshine a year
- Maritime influenced climate
- Approx. 280,000 inhabitants
- Population density: 926 inhabitants/km²
- 151,300 employees
- 66,000 commuters
- Approx. 50,000 students
- Approx. 5 million tourists a year
- Modal split (traffic routes): 13% by foot, 35% by bike, 41% by car, 11% local public transport, that represents 60% environmentally sound means of transport
- Approx. 270 km of cycle paths and additionally approx. 255 km of cycle paths on farm paths

(As at 2003/2004)



A bird's eye view of Münster's qualities: The bright roofs of the cathedral in the centre of the Altstadt shine out bright. On its edges the rows of trees of the Promenade, which link up with the Aasee to the left. Directly above the cathedral is the castle behind which the Münsterland park landscape can be seen beyond a few suburbs.



The regional capital. Münster assumes important functions for a region with more than 1.5 million people as the service, trade and administration centre of Westphalia. This is not least the reason why the city has also given the region – Münsterland – its name. Regional cooperation takes on an ever higher status due to the varied links with the surrounding areas.

A city in Europe with links to the outside world. As a result of its open European stance Münster engages in close cross-border cooperation with its Dutch partners, e.g. in the city triangle of “Münster – Osnabrück – Netwerkstad Twente“. At the same time the city is a member in several European city networks, such as EUROCITIES and ICLEI.

Münster has partners throughout the world. The city has entered into eight lively global city partnerships since 1957.

Future sustainability is a tradition in Münster.

Urban development has been promoted with the objectives of sparing resources and environmental compatibility for a number of decades. The evolved city structure – a compact city centre with a lively Altstadt, attractive district centres and a virtually ideal green system – ultimately provides the ideal preconditions to this end and simultaneously constitutes an obligation towards the future. In this process the most important area of potential are the active citizens as a lot of the successes of the sustained urban development would have been inconceivable without their commitment and their initiatives.

Münster is a balanced city. This demand requires that economic, ecological, social and cultural objectives are observed simultaneously and with equal emphasis. The integrated approach of the urban development of Münster consistently takes account of this consideration and is emphatically proved by the many awards and prizes won in national city competitions.





Awards and prizes

- **2004** The most children-friendly city in Germany
- **2004** (and 1991) Bicycle capital city
- **2004** Amongst the top ten “cities willing to make reforms in Germany”
- **2004** and **2003** came second in the Solar federal state league of North Rhine Westphalia for cities
- **2003** Local Agenda Best Practice Project: Renovation of old buildings’ subsidies programme
- **2003** Local Agenda Best Practice Project: Saving energy and waste at schools and day nurseries’ project
- **2003** Local Agenda Best Practice Project: Energy and climate protection inventory
- **2002** Gold medal in the national competition “Gardens in urban development”: Allotment Am Lammerbach
- **2001** National champion with the “münster.mobil” concept at the 13th ADAC cities competition with respect to the issue of the “Accessibility of city centres” in the field of “New approaches, visions, concepts”
- **2001** Gold badge in the state competition “Small gardens in North Rhine Westphalia”: Allotment Am Lammerbach; Silver badges: Allotments Hansa and Lebensfreude Post
- **2000** Award for the best advertising concept with respect to the climate protection 2000
- **2000** and **1999** several awards for the implementation of urban development projects
- **1999** International award for the “Local Agenda 21” process
- **1999** 1st Prize in the “Customer information” assessment category within the framework of the VCD National competition “Royal conditions in trains and buses”
- **1998** Online capital
- **1998** Gold medal in the national competition “Gardens in urban development”: Allotment Münster Ost
- **1997** “Climate capital of Münster” National champion in the area of climate protection (198 applicants)
- **1997** 1st prize as the most bicycle-friendly city

Improve the landscape



– with a system

Münster is a green city



Waterway and leisure area close to the city: the Dortmund-Ems canal

Promenade, botanic garden, the nearby recreational area around the Aasee, numerous city parks and green spaces as well as large landscape parks and recreational landscapes ensure that the city has a pleasant climate and a high quality of life. Not least the city's greenness make it such a wonderful place to live and fall in love with. Münster is backing two planning instruments so that things stay this way:

- the Green Space Ordinance of the city of Münster as an overall city plan for the development of free spaces and recreation,
- the four partial space landscape plans for the development of the natural environment and the landscape.

The Münster Green Space Ordinance. Münster was the first city to create this comprehensive ecological concept in the 1960s, which has had a decisive influence upon urban development.

The Green Spaces Ordinance of Münster, which has constantly been further developed, still forms the reliable basis for politics and administration in terms of decisions with respect to the development and use of green spaces.

The Green Spaces Ordinance guarantees that the ecological and climatic qualities of the city also continue to be preserved and are extended in the future. It ensures the development of green, leisure time and recreational spaces and the extensive provision of playgrounds, allotments and cemeteries. In addition as an important contribution toward the Land Use Plan it provides a basis for making decisions as to which free spaces must be retained at all costs due to their importance for the city and which spaces can be provided for the development of settlements, e.g. for new business estates or residential areas.

Green corridors and green rings. In Münster a systematic approach during the planning of green areas has proved its worth. The Green Spaces Ordinance of Münster defines a green system consisting of three green rings and seven green corridors, which run towards the city centre in a radial manner from the open countryside. In addition the Dortmund-Ems canal pervades through the city area and provides a special “maritime” area of potential due to its proximity to the city centre. This green system ensures fresh air throughout the entire city. In addition people can access the extensive range of recreational areas and open countryside by means of a united network of cycle and footpaths.

Rieselfelder European reservation: Now waders and water fowl take a break during their flights over the continents where Münster's sewage water was once cleaned.





It is affectionately called the "Bike motorway" by the locals: the Promenade, a car-free green ring around the Altstadt.

Due to its **Promenade** Münster has a complete green ring around the city centre, which hardly any other city of this scale can lay claim to. The Promenade with its length of 4.5 kilometres forms the heart of the green system. It was originated as garden grounds from 1764 onwards in accordance with the plans of the Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun following the razing to the ground of the medieval fortifications. It is now an outstanding construction, soil and garden monument due to its green and water spaces. The four row ring of lime trees with the former fortifications integrated within the landscape garden design simultaneously constitutes a connecting link between the Altstadt and the adjacent city centre. Every day the green ring offers thousands of people solitude and relaxation in the heart of the city and the way is clear for cyclists on the cycle paths.

The **Aa** flows through the centre of the Altstadt. Its combination with the Aa side path and the city's ecological educational path makes this body of water a genuine nature experience area. In addition numerous squares and gardens in the Altstadt provide exceptional options of relaxation.

A link is established with the wide-ranging recreation landscapes on the Werse, in the Aatal (Aa valley) and on the Vorbergs hill by means of **seven green corridors**. Based on the natural features and historical path links, they develop into a green wedge from the open countryside into the city centre. The "Westliches Aatal" ("Western Aa valley") green corridor is an ideal example of this, consisting of the Aasee (Aa lake) recreation area spanning more than 40 hectares,



which is directly linked with the Promenade ring. The lake also assumes a central role to ensure a pleasant city climate due to its large water surface and its south westerly location. Additional areas of countryside protrude from outside into the city centre and provide recreation and experiences in the natural countryside that are just a short distance away.

The **second green ring** comprises the free space between the city centre and the outlying city districts. It connects the green corridors on the fringes of the city centre with one another, acts as a climatic ring and secures the link to the Münsterland park landscape. Twelve individual landscape areas, which comprise landscape parks and other parks, are located within the second green ring. The types of parks have been consciously brought in line with the conditions of the natural landscapes. Whilst the landscape parks have characteristic elements in the style of the Münsterland park landscape, the other parks have numerous facilities for games, sports and recreational activities.

The **third green ring** comprises extensive scenic areas on the fringes of the city and thus secures the ecological landscape links.

Art and recreation in the city: The Californian Jorge Pardo built a landing stage in the Aasee on the occasion of the "Skulptur.Projekte" international exhibition in 1997. People still enjoy using it now.



The landscape plans. The landscape plans represent an important tool for the protection and the development of the countryside and the landscape. They give the ecologically valuable areas a protected status and make statements amongst other things with respect to the enhancement of the landscape's appearance as well as the optimisation of the interlinked biotopes and biodiversity, e.g. by planting, by the construction of stretches of water and also by means of the ecological optimisation of flowing bodies of water. Parts of Münster that have not been urbanised or developed will be included in four separate landscape plans in the near future, i.e. approx. three quarters of the municipal area. Their model is the Münsterland park landscape, which has evolved historically, with changes of use over short spaces of land ranging between arable land, grassland, orchards, forests and hedges.

For instance, it was possible to safeguard the internationally significant "Rieselfelder" bird sanctuary by means of a landscape plan in the north of the city. 228 hectares of the European reserve that is registered in accordance with the "Ramsar Convention" have been given protected status as the resting and moulting place for waders and waterfowl. 126 additional hectares are used for the purposes of research, to guide visitors and to develop ecological diversity.

Münsters green areas at a glance

- 300 hectares of public green spaces
- 90 hectares of green areas along the streets
- 60 hectares of green areas of municipal buildings
- Approx. 100 hectares of sports areas
- 305 playgrounds over an area of 56 hectares
- 3,840 allotments
- 150 hectares of cemeteries
- 340 natural monuments
- Approx. 50,000 individual trees along the streets
- Professional support of the municipal green areas by a municipal organisational unit with 125 employees and additionally 2,000,000 euros of funds
- Municipal tree nursery

(As at 2003/2004)

Overview – reserves as proportion of the municipal area:

Total municipal area	30,200 hectares	100%
Nature reserves	9,800 hectares	32,5%
Conservation areas and protected sections of the landscape	960 hectares	3,2%
Reserves in accordance with the European directive (FFH and bird sanctuaries)	1,700 hectares	5,7%
Flowing bodies of water	230 km	
Redevelopment of hedges and embankment hedges	75 km	

The **Green Spaces Ordinance of Münster** and the **landscape plans** are outstanding planning tools for urban development that saves resources and is environmentally-friendly. Comprehensive plans are available for the long-term spatial development of the city in conjunction with the **Land Use Plan 2010**, the **Functional Space Concept Münster 2010**, the **Altstadt Framework Plan** and the **Environmental Plan**.

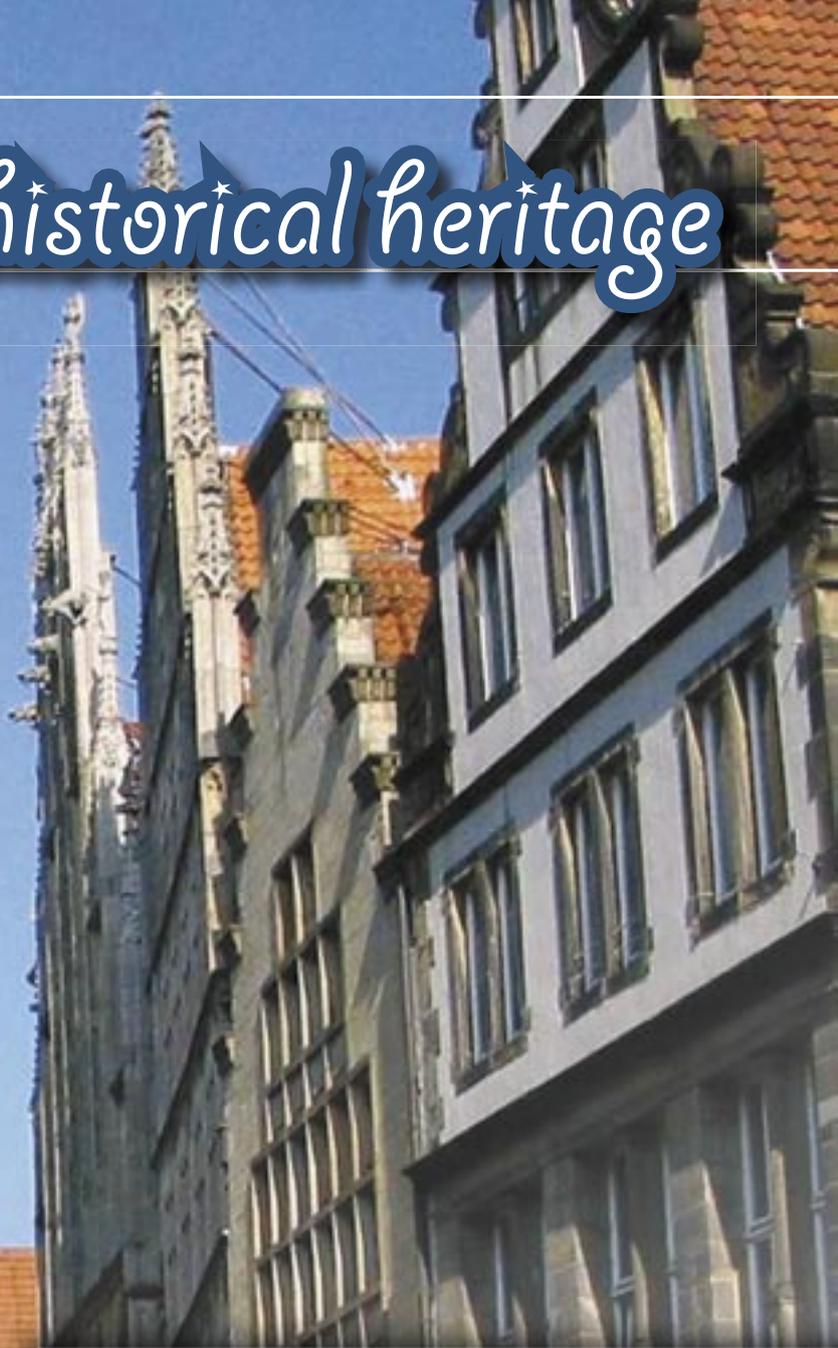
Green Space Ordinance – Sections

- Guiding plan for the green system
- Guiding plan for leisure time and recreation
- Guiding plan for the area of unspoiled nature
- Actions plan (landscape management measures)
- Guiding plan for the playing areas
- Guiding plan for allotments
- Guiding plan for cemeteries

Seven green corridors, three green rings, one system: the Münster Green Space Ordinance



Designing the historical heritage



– using a good eye

The historical heritage ...

... of the city of Münster is simultaneously the foundation for the future. The careful interaction with history and tradition determined the actions taken in the past and forms the basis of all future plans.

As long ago as the 18th century Münster laid down the foundation stone for a far-sighted and careful form of urban development, which paid particular attention to the city's historical and cultural heritage. The most important milestone was the razing of the medieval city fortifications and the wise decision to landscape this former fortification ring. Münster has preserved its historical city ground plan due to the creation of the Promenade and has nevertheless met the demands of the age for a new design.

Reconstruction in accordance with its historical model. At the end of the Second World War (1945) the city that is more than one thousand years old was reduced to a rubble landscape. The city was successfully reconstructed by means of the remarkable efforts of the population and it oriented itself – by contrast with a lot of other German cities – according to the medieval city ground plan. The appearance of the Altstadt with its church towers, the Prinzipalmarkt, the city hall and the town houses was reminiscent of its appearance in the pre-war period. The reconstructed buildings are based on the construction style and sizes of their predecessors without imitating them.

Open spaces such as the Promenade, the side path along the Aa, on whose banks Münster was once founded, the Domplatz (cathedral square) and the Hindenburgplatz directly in front of the historical palace have been retained.



"Is it ok if it's a bit more?" The weekly market on the Domplatz invites people to go shopping and chat twice a week.

Destruction as an opportunity: Münster reflected on its strengths and based the reconstruction after the Second World War on the historical model of the city.





Modern architects open up new historical perspectives: Münster's city library (by Bolles-Wilson) causes people to take a look at the late Gothic Lambertikirche.

Retention of the city structure. The unmistakable central cityscape finds its counterpart in the harmonious embedding of the city within the park landscape of Münsterland that has historically evolved. City extensions since the 1960s were thus always carried out whilst bearing in mind this quality with the clear division between the city centre, the city districts and the open countryside.

Münster attached particular importance to the fact that the green belt of the Aatal, which extends from the south west to the Altstadt, should be embellished. The Aasee was already constructed here following the First World War as the moist subsoil did not permit the construction of houses. The Aatal fresh air lane has subsequently been developed into an attractive recreation area.

Urban development and urban renewal: Creating new qualities. The evolved network of building structures and open spaces has also been retained and further developed within the city districts. In this area the city has renewed the large residential areas – commencing in the 1980s – surrounding the Altstadt stemming from the years of rapid industrial expansion in Germany and improved their urban development qualities. The “improvement of the living environment” was the focal point of the actions taken in addition to the preservation and modernisation of the structure and the preservation of historical monuments. The construction of playgrounds and city district parks, the landscaping of street areas with more than 1,000 trees and also traffic calming measures (such as the establishment of extensive 30 KPH speed limit

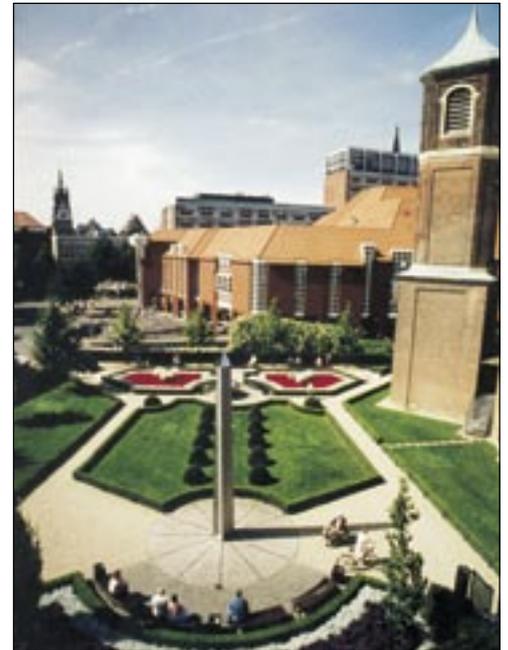


zones) should be mentioned as examples. The commitment of the private real estate owners also contributed towards this success; backyards were greened with trees and grass, areas were unsealed and re-landscaped. In this process the city council provided reliable support in the form of information and consultation and also in the form of considerable public funding.

“The city of short paths” also represents a model that was persistently pursued. The mixing of the functions of work and living, the further development and consolidation of the city district centres in accordance with the centre’s concept and the housing development at bus stops and train stations characterise this strategy. It has been supplemented since the 1990s by means of city and environmentally-friendly transport development planning with numerous measures to extend and also to link the rail, bus, bicycle and car offers.

Altstadt – the new city. The structural transition in the trade and services sector that began in the 1990s placed new demands upon the city centre. The unmistakable, historical Altstadt evolved, based on the Altstadt framework plan and whilst considering the protection of historical monuments, to become a modern city – and it has retained its identity. Thus the heart of the city has been characterised by functional diversity to this day: the Altstadt is the central market and trading place, a melting pot of art and culture, the meeting place and place of residence for the people of Münster. Spaces are used to position new offers, without turning the Altstadt into a “concrete jungle”. Modern buildings, such as the new city library, have been magnificently integrated within this historical context. The large city squares and green spaces were renewed and provided with additional offers (playgrounds, outdoor catering establishments etc.), historical structure is reused – thus the Picasso Museum can be found in a former noble court.

Münster is creating a future with history. Münster is a lively city, where you can see its history and the careful work carried out on its design and structure. A characteristic of the sustained urban development is the preservation and development of its own identity in changing times under changing conditions.



Ideal for taking a lunch break in the green surroundings or when strolling through the city: the Garden of the Baroque Clemenskirche directly adjacent to the pedestrian zone.



Caring for the environment

A photograph showing two individuals engaged in stream cleaning. In the foreground, a man wearing a light-colored cap, glasses, a white short-sleeved shirt, and grey waders with red rubber boots is using a long-handled net to filter debris from the water. In the background, another person in a blue shirt and grey waders is also using a net. The stream is surrounded by lush green vegetation and trees. The water is dark and appears to be flowing over rocks.

Cycling, not producing rubbish, greening backyards, saving energy, looking after streams – the people in Münster just do it.

– for sure

Protection of the environment and environmental awareness ...

... are everyday things for the people of Münster. These objectives are not only supported by the thousands of people of Münster, who cycle to work, to go shopping, to the theatre, to a meeting of citizens or a leisure everyday.

The guarantors for this environmentally aware lifestyle are the relations in a spirit of partnership between the city council and the citizens and a fully functioning interchange between the parties: Motivational incentives from the city council administration and the politicians, more than 7,500 citizens in environmental protection and conservation groups as well as the unique “Münster feeling” on the part of all the citizens are the driving force behind this high level of environmental awareness.

A lot of sustained projects, which make a major contribution towards the quality of life in Münster, are therefore developed and implemented based on a broad social consensus. Impressive examples of this are:

Federal capital of climate protection. At the beginning of the 1990s the city of Münster faced up to the debate surrounding the climate protection with the extensive participation of the population, joined the climate alliance and drafted a package of measures, which has been consistently implemented since 1996. The city of Münster may now bear the title of “Climate capital” as acknowledgement of this great commitment. The decisive factors that ensured the city was awarded this title were the city’s extensive environmental protection activities with more than 80 individual measures from the spheres of energy, transport, housing planning, waste, agriculture and public relations. The core aspect is the undertaking to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25%. In this process a reduction of some 17% is already anticipated by 2005. Concepts for the saving of energy in private households and in industry will also greatly reduce emissions in the future. An 8% reduction in CO₂ emissions will be achieved just by means of the fact the Münster municipal utility shall convert from coal fuel to gas (Gas and steam plant).

City and environmentally friendly mobility – German bicycle capital. The city has developed an innovative concept for the city and environmentally-friendly management of traffic in cooperation with the transport companies. It has done this by means of the integrative overall transport concept called “münster.mobil – Model city for city-friendly mobility”. It combines mobility consultation, mobility service and mobility management, whereby the transport offers extending from the car to the train, bus and bicycle and ranging to the pedestrian are supported generally and in their entirety.



Restoration of old buildings: Why not use a good example to advertise for the municipal sponsorship programme?





Münster's bicycle station in front of the main station: Space for 3500 bicycles, including a bike wash and workshop.

And this integrated planning concept is successful! Approximately 60% of the people of Münster use environmentally sound means of transport, i.e. travel by train, bus, bicycle or walk. Above all cycling is the forerunner and leading form of transport in Münster, the proportion of people using bicycles amounts to 35% of all those travelling in the city. If only the journeys (not including pedestrians) are considered, then this proportion even amounts to approx. 40% of all forms of movements. Bicycles do not just characterise the cityscape but have also made Münster the bicycle capital of Germany; a fact, which is due in no small measure to the fact that the bicycle has been offensively promoted.

Münster has developed exemplary solutions for bicycle transport for several decades, which have in some cases been taken account of in the national transport legislation. For example cyclists can ride in the opposite direction on one way streets, can also securely cross large crossroads thanks to their own traffic lights and "cycling lanes" and directly switch onto trains and buses at Bike-and-Ride stations. The bicycle infrastructure is impressive: 25 bicycle lanes, seven environmental lanes for bus and bike, five bicycle roads, a city-wide bicycle signposting system and ultimately Germany's largest underground bicycle park at the main station with 3,500 parking spaces.

Travelling by bus and train is also an attractive option in Münster. Thus there are also six suburban train stations in addition to the main station as the main centre for regional and long distance traffic, two additional stations will be reactivated shortly. Bus transport has 33 bus lanes accounting for an overall length of ten kilometres, phased traffic lights by means of the priority switching of traffic lights, modern bus stops with dynamic passenger information and bus-train and bus-bus connection points that are brought in line with the timetables, at its disposal.



In addition a positive example of mobility control is “mobilé” – the first local authority mobility head office throughout Germany, which provides information about all the forms of public transports and is operated by the city council and the municipal transport services.

Saving energy and waste at schools and day nurseries. This project has its origins in the waste management concept of the city council – Münster refrains from carrying out waste incineration and supports mechanical biological residual waste forms of treatment. The consistent prevention and utilisation of waste forms the focal point of all efforts. And this already begins with the youngest citizens:

In 1998 the city council launched a competition for the schools and day nurseries. Ecological teams consisting of children and teachers were formed at these institutions, supported by experts from city council administration, who all pursued the objective of greatly reducing energy consumption and quantities of waste. As a motivating factor the city council promised each institution that they would be able to freely dispose of 50% of the costs saved. This project is now being offensively further pursued as it has been such an outstanding success. 57 schools and day nurseries already took part in the competition in 2003. Now participation in the energy and waste project is being offered at all the city’s institutions.

New quality for working location – the Loddenheide industrial estate. The Münster city council has realised its visions with respect to the resource-saving development of commercial spaces and work places in the Loddenheide industrial estate and thus set the standards for subsequent plans. An innovative industrial estate is presently being constructed at a former barracks site that spans 88 hectares. The concept combines the interests of promoting industry and employment with the objectives of the protection of the natural environment and the landscape, the sparing use of resources and an ecological form of construction. The “Friedenspark” (“Peace park”) that is 12.5 hectares in size is located in the centre. The industrial estate will be attractive for companies and people in search of forms of recreation due to its generous green spaces and parks, ponds, cycling paths and footpaths as well as the benches.

The city council has also carried out exemplary work in terms of the processing of the site. Dangerous waste from the decades of military use, which endangered the groundwater, was removed for millions of euros so the site could be used again in the first place. Demolition materials were reprocessed and directly used again during the construction of the roads and buildings. The innovative rainwater concept – the water is cleaned, stored and introduced to the waterway system via a decentralised rainwater basin system in a central lake in the centre of the green spaces – is an additional positive feature of the industrial estate.

The area provides a special space for the “Workplaces of the future” project. This is where companies set up their businesses, which base their production and sales structures or the architecture of their company building, on futuristic and sustainable procedures. The companies are actively supported by the city council by means of its ecological business consultancy service.

Impressive balance sheet

14,000 children saved the following amounts in 2003:

- 710,000 kWh of heating energy
 - 130,000 kWh of electricity
 - almost 1.1 million litres of residual waste
- = approx. 80,000 euros



Modern business construction on the Loddenheide: A heating technology and sanitary plants has opted for photovoltaic technology, thermal solar energy, use of rain water and roof grassing.



Integrating people



When it is a matter of the city's well-being, Münster can rely upon its citizens – whether it be in terms of bat conservation, urban planning or, as in this case, during its application as "cultural capital of Europe 2010".

– Münster's strength

The opinion of the citizens is called for

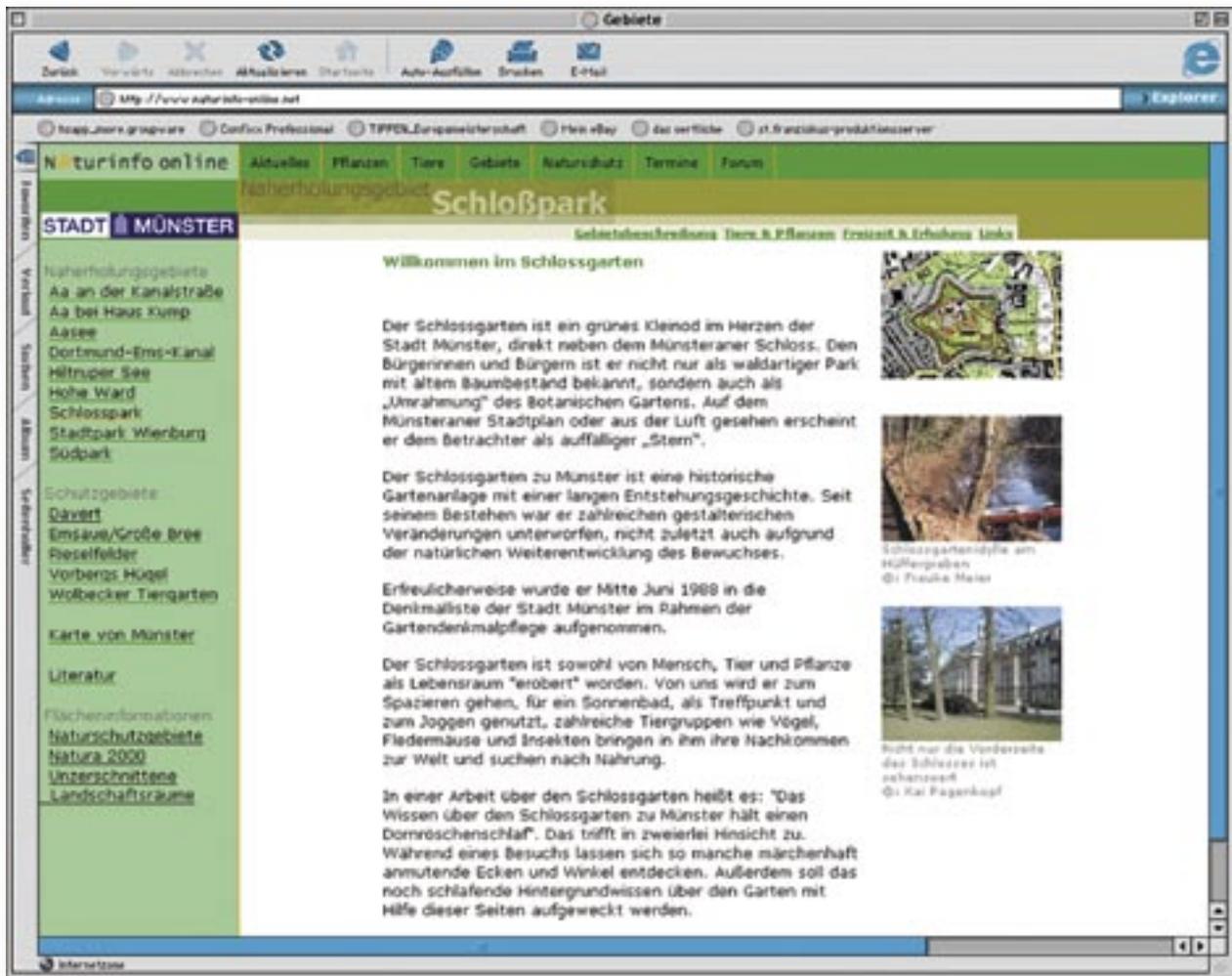
During surveys of the citizens the people of Münster regularly praise the high quality of life in their home town, the fact the city is so green and the natural landscape and environmental conditions. Praise, that the citizens owe themselves to an extent, as Münster has only achieved, retained and further developed this high standard of living by means of the active participation of the people of this city.

The city administration and the citizens have a reliable partnership. It is a form of interaction that goes far beyond the statutorily stipulated forms of participation.

Information and dialogue. People who are well informed can make an even better contribution towards the decision making processes. This is why Münster backs intensive and constant PR work in the area of urban development. Reports about the environment, conservation and urban planning, the “Umwelt Konkret” (“Concrete environmental topics”) series, the environmental atlas as well as the most diverse flyers and brochures create transparency. In addition there are more than 30 citizen meetings with respect to the individual projects each year. Numerous events such as the annual environment market, the environment weeks, excursions and speeches provide people with the opportunity of establishing personal contacts.

The citizens can also gain up to date and rapid information from the Internet. The citizens especially like to make use of the Conservation citizen information system. The project that is supported by the Münster city council, the university and honorary conservation groups provides interactive information about the fauna and flora in the city and the landscape and also about the protection of species. The municipal environmental consultancy provides the mainstay of the direct citizen communication. A municipal team provides advice with respect to the issues of funding, construction, the restoration of old buildings, healthy living in houses and environmentally-friendly forms of behaviour in everyday life for more than ten years. Environmental consultancy has been one of the pillars of the “Planning – Construction – Environment” customer centre, which offers citizens interdisciplinary information and consultancy from one source, since 2002. The Münster city council has thus been exercising a professional form of customer relations management. More than 40,000 contacts per year prove the quality of this offer.





Citizen participation is better the more knowledgeable the citizens are. The internet renders good services here. A lot of important information concerning Münster is online thanks to the Conservation citizen information system community project.

Münster can rely on its citizens. The commitment and the individual initiative of the people forms the basis for the open and widely accepted future planning. This is why the city council cooperates with initiative groups and conservation associations and, e.g., supports the local environmental groups by means of the “Umwelthaus” (“Environment house”), which is available to voluntary assistants for their work. In an open and broad discussion process within the framework of the Local Agenda 21 the city council and the citizens have jointly considered in an exemplary manner in which direction “the city of Münster capable of facing up to the challenges of the future” must develop. In addition there have been a lot of measures to secure and develop the natural environment and the landscape as well as the city’s basic ecological structures, which are proposed and implemented by conservation groups and initiatives. Caring for and maintaining the orchards, forest conservation, European tree frog (greenback) conservation, bat conservation and much more besides. The Münster city council presently provides annual financial support of 100,000 euros for these initiatives. In addition more than 30 km of flowing bodies of water are now already reliably looked after by means of 14 stream sponsorships.

In addition to the varied voluntary activities of citizens in a lot of local authority spheres Münster can justifiably be described as the “City of Foundations”. There are presently more than 100 foundations, which are active in the social, charity and ecological sectors.



The citizens have an influence and make use of it. Three examples emphasise integration within planning processes at an early stage:

During the representative citizens' surveys that are carried out on an annual basis with high response rates, which constantly almost reach the 50% mark, the people surveyed provided qualified statements with respect to all the city's spheres of life, and this constitutes an important basis of planning in the fields of politics and administration.

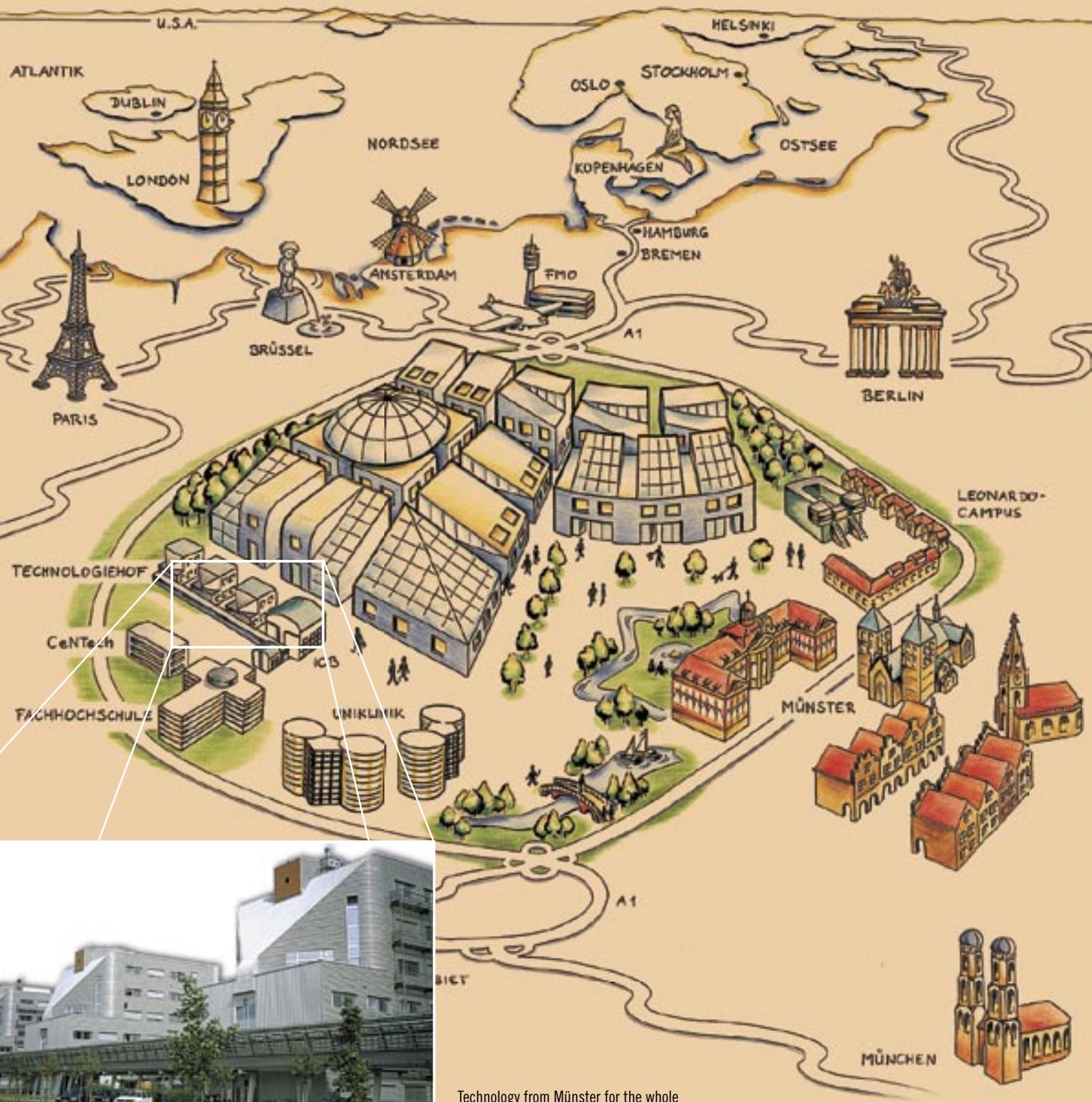
At specific projects the Münster city council regularly seeks direct contact with the citizens in workshops. These time consuming procedures meet with a good response as people can actively discuss and structure things in these workshops. These offers have become a model of success for Münster as ideas and projects are created here, which are supported by the citizens.

Münster has embarked on new forms of participation in the area of landscape planning. The form of participation is developed and agreed upon with the farmers and conservation associations prior to the start of the planning process.

We plan our city – and start with the playground round the corner.



Planning the future



Technology from Münster for the whole world – the Technologiehof (photo) advertises for its services in a self assured manner with this poster.

– Münster's pledge

”Quo vadis Münster?”

The city and the people who live in Münster have found clear answers to this question: the “Integrated city marketing and urban development concept of Münster”. More than 1,000 participants in the form of citizens and people from the fields of politics, administration, art and culture, industry, the academic sector and education, trade, sports and leisure, the nature conservation and the environment sectors and also from the social sector have carried out a systematic debate about the future in more than 25 events over a period of two years. Münster has entered into an “Undertaking for the future” in conjunction with its citizens. It forms the point of reference and standard for all future actions by the city council. (see following pages)

When words are backed up by actions. The most important result of this process is the fact that Münster must neither be reinvented, nor must it strive to achieve a radical change of image despite all the options of transition. The objective is the further development of its strengths using a good eye – a balanced city worth living in and worth loving.

The process has led to the renewed ascertainment and confirmation of Münster's special qualities: the special quality of life and the characteristic educational and scientific institutions. This profile is fleshed out by means of guiding and impulse projects:

The most important task is the consolidation and development of Münster as the **“City of Learning and Science”**. All the protagonists and groups in the city are working together to ensure this objective is achieved. For instance numerous community projects between the universities, research companies and the urban society shall be developed during the application process for the “Wissenschaftsstadt 2006” (“City of Science 2006”). The “BiodiverCity – the city of biodiversity in the all-weather zoo”, “proPlant – the scientific approach for agriculture” and “Living diversity – natural oases and gardens in the city” projects are examples of this.

Münster shall also continue to create a distinctive image for itself as the **“Health city”**. The city belongs to the international “Healthy city network”, an initiative of the World Health Organisation, and has become the network's head office for the year 2004. It is located in the Gesundheitshaus (Health house), an information and advice centre with respect to the issues of health, social issue and self-help. The promotion of health and the health industry as a growth sector of the future is of great significance in terms of the city's economic location, especially in the context of a high quality of life.



Creating a future with a history - objectives for Münster

Preamble

- We are a city with a high sense of responsibility
 - for the good educational, cultural and living prospects of our children and young people,
 - for a family-friendly form of urban development that takes account of the needs of all the generations,
 - for the comprehensive participation of people with disabilities in city life,
 - for the equality of men and women in all sectors of the city's society,
 - for the strengthening of the principle of subsidiarity and the promotion of citizen autonomy and the free sponsoring agencies,
 - for social solidarity between all sections of the society,
 - for good neighbourly relations between people with German and foreign origins,
 - for the fostering of intercultural life,
 - for the necessity of the sustainable structuring of the future,
 - for local and global connections,
 - for humanitarian forms of action that secure peace.
- We are aware of the special significance of our city districts and will also ensure they continue to be lively areas that are capable of functioning in the future.
- We are aware of the close links between the city, Münsterland and Westphalia and will therefore assume a special level of responsibility for the joint developments in this area.
- We shall continue to back the commitment of the citizens, a diverse urban life and the special Münster feeling of all those people, who feel they have ties with our city.

Our profile

Science and savoir-vivre

Our guiding points of reference

- We shall become one of the leading educational, scientific, research and development locations in Europe.
- As an economic location we shall become the city of the dynamic small to medium sized businesses in North Rhine Westphalia.
- We shall develop international projects as a cultural centre of our country.
- We want to continue to be the administrative and institutional centre for public and private services in Westphalia and actively contribute towards their modernisation.
- We shall retain the city's unmistakable cityscape and strengthen the city as location where people meet, as a market place and as driving force of urban development.
- We shall further develop Münster so that it becomes a city with the highest qualities of life:
 - with high environmental and natural landscape qualities,
 - with a broad offer of leisure-time and sports,
 - making it a very attractive place which is family-friendly and with a socially balanced urban society.
- We shall continue to develop Münster as a cosmopolitan city based on our history and the principle of "Tolerance through dialogue".

We shall continue to ensure that Münster has a sustained high quality of life as a balanced city!

Passed by the council of the Münster city council in May 2004



The new feature in the scientific city of Münster: the Max-Planck institute for molecular biomedicine, for which this architectural model is becoming reality.

Good educational, cultural and life prospects of the children and young people assume a high priority in Münster as the undertaking towards sustainability is always based on an awareness of one's responsibility for future generations. The demographic transition, which is taking hold throughout Europe and which is characterised by a reduction in the population and ageing also demands that children, young people and families form the focal point of urban development plans. Thus full-time supervision at primary schools is presently being extended. The quality management of day nurseries is also attracting attention beyond Münster's boundaries. The city's outstanding performances were recently rewarded when Münster was awarded the title of the **most children-friendly city in Germany**.

City with a high quality of life. The basis of these and all the other projects in the urban development process is formed by the high environmental and natural landscape qualities of the city, a broad leisure-time and sports' offer as well as the social balance in the urban society. Münster's special qualities of life can be retained in the future in this way.

The city can make use of tried and tested tools in the form of the Functional Space Concept, the Green Space Ordinance, the Environmental Plan, the Landscape Plan, the Altstadt Framework Plan, the Suburb Framework Plan and the Transportation Development Plan. In addition there is the constant monitoring of success e.g. by means of the environmental reporting, development of an environment management system, the work with sustainability indicators and regular citizen surveys. Strengthened by the experiences of the past all the future projects shall also be developed in discussion and with the active participation of the citizens. – The citizens have proposed that the varied ecological activities in the city be concentrated within the **“Environmental city of Münster”** guiding project.

With history into the future. This principle has been successfully employed in Münster for centuries. The city combines tradition and innovation so that it has a sustainable future and can therefore rest assured that the following also applies: “Creating a future with a history”. Münster wants to make history by means of its future planning. Münster shall also continue to be a city that is worth living in and loving in the future.



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View of the Altstadt from the Aasee – the towers of the cathedral and the Lambertikirche range above its green belt.



Nowhere else in Germany
is the bicycle so commonly
used as in Münster.
Why? Come here, get on
your bike, ride away and
you will understand.