

Memorandum of Understanding Canton Basle-Country

Appendix

The canton of Basle-Country is a member state of the Swiss Confederation and part of the economic region around Basel that includes parts of France and Germany as well as both half cantons of Basle.

The canton of Basle-Country is a strong and prosperous center for business and research. Located in Northwestern Switzerland, it is one of the world's most successful economic regions and among the most financially robust areas in Switzerland. Innovative companies in the flourishing sectors of life science, precision mechanics and logistics use the location as the headquarters for their worldwide operations. Universities and research institutes attract blue-chip academics and scientists. A broad and vibrant mix of SME's and multinationals ensures future stability. The canton's policymakers are promoting this development as a key priority.

Although the canton is subject to Swiss climate protection policy, but Basle-Country has also taken its own initiatives to achieve the climate goals. Effective measures to reduce emissions and fix greenhouse gases are implemented by sustainable technologies in agriculture, transport and industry. The energy strategy adopted by the government and the energy law enacted by the cantonal parliament in 2016, with a focus on energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in the building sector, form the basis for the canton of Basle-Country being one of the pioneering and modern cantons of the Swiss Confederation.

Not only the reduction of emissions, but also the adaptation and management of the consequences of climate change are taking an increasingly important place. With the Water Strategy, the canton of Basle-Country has defined the objectives and priorities for the consequences of climate change and the protection of water as its own and most important natural basis of livelihood.

With this own initiatives the canton of Basle-Country effectively anticipates the potential risks posed by climate change. Its own natural foundations of life are thereby secured and the careful use of natural resources makes an active contribution to the conservation of biodiversity.

The management of the soil and the use of natural resources it has to be sustainable. This measure, together with the diverse cultural landscape, gives a significant contribution to the attractiveness of the canton of Basle-Country.

Profile

Government name: Canton Basle-Country

Capital: Liestal

Country: Switzerland

Area: 518 km²

Population: 286'923. (2016)

GDP: 19'189 Mio. CHF (2014)

GHG emissions (p.a.): 1.29 Mio. Tons (2014)

Specific Actions and Commitments

The canton of Basle-Country has various laws and programs that allow an advanced climate policy:

- The **Cantonal Energy Act** ensures that there are strict regulations for new buildings (for example insulation, use of energy sources, domestic electrical and plumbing systems) and under certain conditions a financial support for refurbishing buildings with a view to environmentally friendly energies and home automation techniques. In addition, the law provides also an electricity supply with renewable energies.
- The **Cantonal structure plan** supports the strategy of a settlement development inside. Regionally, journeys between place of residence, place of work and leisure activities are reduced and vehicle-kilometres saved.
- The **agglomeration programs** coordinate transport and settlement development and enable the most environmentally friendly transport as possible (support and development of public transport and non-motorised transport).
- The **air quality maintenance plan of the Cantons of Basle-City and Basle-Country** stipulates measures for air quality management and therefore also, in some cases, for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The most important measures to be implemented

The following measures make a climate-friendly policy in the Canton of Basle-Country possible:

Power Consumption

Final energy consumption in the canton of Basel-Country has to be reduced by 40% (without mobility) by 2050 compared to 2000 (6'500 GWh).

The proportion of renewable energies in total energy consumption have to be increased at least 40% by 2030. The dependence on imported non-renewable energy should also be reduced as much as possible, taking into account the interests of the economy.

Building sector

In the building sector, the heating requirement for new buildings has to be reduced to an average of 20 kWh per square meter of energy reference area and year by 2030.

By 2050, the nonrenewable heating demand for existing buildings has to be reduced to an average of 40 kWh per square meter of energy reference area and year.

Large-Scale Consumers

Large-scale consumers with an annual heat consumption of more than 5 GWh or an annual electricity consumption of more than 0.5 GWh are required to analyze their energy consumption and to implement reasonable measures to optimize their consumption.

The measures to be implemented on the basis of a consumption analysis are reasonable for large-scale consumers if they correspond to the state of the art, are economically and not associated with significant operational disadvantages over the useful life of the investment.

Spatial Planning and Traffic / Transport

The cantonal structure plan provides for a strategy of internal settlement development. On a regional level, the distances between place of residence, work and leisure are shortened and saves vehicle-kilometers.

The agglomeration programs and the transport policy concept coordinate transport and settlement development and enable the most environmentally

friendly transport possible. Public transport is constantly being developed and non-motorized transport promoted.

Energy planning at the municipal level

The municipalities can create their own energy planning for their area or region. Municipal energy planning can be incorporated in the direction or use planning of the municipality. Within the framework of municipal district planning, the municipalities can specify further energy requirements for buildings or for the use of renewable energies, as required by cantonal law.

Adaptation to climate change

The change in the climate with more frequent outflows, extreme events, higher temperatures, uncertain precipitation caused the canton of Basle-Country to develop a sustainable water strategy. For water management, various adaptation measures and guiding principles were adopted. For the implementation of the measures (as example a Regional Water Resources Plan), appropriate funds are provided in the financial programming.

Other Sectors

Resource conservation is also taken into consideration in the area of waste. The established waste reduction and recycling plan attend adopt source separation policies (e.g. collection for dry recyclables, organic compostable). Waste should be avoided and recycled whenever possible. The disposal of the waste takes place in the refuse incineration plant, in which the waste is used for heat and electricity production. The polluter pays principle applies to the disposal of waste.