Joint Action for Sustainable Development

The Joint Action for Sustainable Development is an initiative from the German Federal Government and the Länder and coordinated by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE). The aim of the Joint Action is to shed light on and boost sustainability engagement. We do this by bringing together social actors on a single open platform. The four Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies (RENN) are central partners of the Joint Action for Sustainable Development in the different German regions.

Goals / Why do we need a Joint Action for Sustainable Development?

Across the globe, we are facing major challenges, such as the climate crisis, species extinction and social inequality. But we, not least in Germany, have set ourselves ambitious goals to achieve change by 2030. What has also become clear, however, is that politics cannot get there alone. For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to succeed, it must enjoy widespread societal support and active participation.

The sustainability transition is not the task of politicians *or* citizens alone: the Joint Action forges new alliances and encourages actors to solve challenges together. The aim is to make visible what is already happening in Germany, which solutions work and which do not, and to connect interested people with those who have more experience.
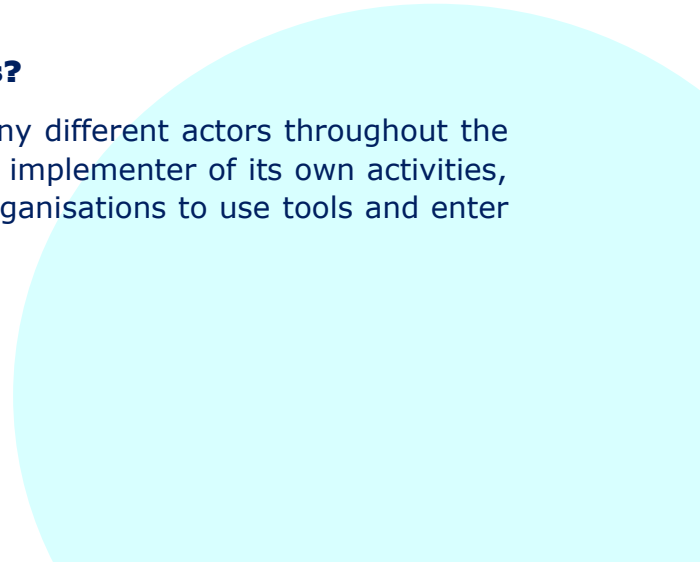
The goals of the Joint Action are derived from the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Our first joint priority for 2023 will be an area of transformation from the German Sustainable Development Strategy: **sustainable building and housing.**

Target group / Who do we need?

From the climate-neutral sports club to the large firm transitioning to the circular economy, it unites all social actors, including clubs and associations, civil society, companies, trade unions and many more. Because sustainability requires joint action.

Measures / How do we achieve our goals?

What counts is the decentralised action of many different actors throughout the country. The RNE does not primarily act as an implementer of its own activities, but rather as an initiator that enables other organisations to use tools and enter into new collaborations.

I.   Online platform www.gemeinschaftswerk-nachhaltigkeit.de/en

The open-source platform boosts visibility for organisations and their activities (heat map function). This is intended to make it easier for organisations to contact each other (matching function) and to promote new engagement and cross-sector alliances (engagement function).

In the future, the platform will include a Seek/Offer function, a calendar of events and examples of good practice. In addition, community targets can be declared and tracked via the platform. The platform will be continuously developed on the basis of feedback from users and suggestions for further functions. Organisations that are committed to sustainable development can register on the platform and sign a "participation pledge".

II.   Events

The **RNE Annual Conference 2022** in Berlin marked the official launch of the Joint Action. High-level representatives from politics, business, science and civil society presented their ideas on what they will contribute to the Joint Action.

Network events take place at different locations across Germany and offer multipliers from various social networks a chance to put heads together, exchange ideas and forge alliances within and between the networks. The first network event took place in Wolfsburg on 23 June 2022.

III.   Mobilisation tools

Awards: The "Sustainability Project" recognises projects that promote sustainable development across the full breadth of society. Since 2017 the well-established sustainability awards are presented by the four RENN (Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies) in cooperation with the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) under the umbrella of the Joint Action.

Action weeks: Since 2012 the German Sustainability Action Days (DAN) enhance visibility throughout Germany of real commitment that sets an example to others, to foster public awareness of the topic of sustainability. In 2022, the DAN were held for the first time under the umbrella of the Joint Action.

Community targets: With the community targets, we want to achieve targets together that seem unattainable alone. Examples include installing 100,000 electric car charging points every year until 2030 or establishing a certain number of insect hotels. Within a predefined period of time everyone can play a part in a community target on any scale.

Innovation processes: In so-called open social innovation processes we are looking to find new solutions to overcome social challenges together. We take a holistic approach by collating the core challenges on the topic with stakeholders and experts across sectors, and contributing a variety of solutions from civil society.