



2. Kronsberg (Hannover - DE)

<p>Project description</p>	<p>Kronsberg is a new eco-district in Hannover built on 1200 hectares of mainly agricultural land at the city margins. The district is located in the South-East of the city and represented the last remaining area in Hannover suitable for a large-scale building project. Kronsberg is close to the countryside, yet enjoying all the advantages offered by an urban neighbourhood: excellent transport connections, jobs, cultural, commercial and leisure centres and facilities.</p> <p>When complete, it will comprise 6000 dwellings and will be home to around 15000 people. Almost 3000 new jobs have been created and are located in the immediate vicinity.</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The main objective is to build a district with a good mix of functions (residences, leisure and cultural facilities, commerce and agriculture) by taking into account environment protection. Applying planning for sustainability in Kronsberg placed considerable obligations on all stakeholders and local actors to ensure the highest possible quality of life and to use natural resources sparingly.</p>	
<p>Driving factors</p>	<p>The development of Kronsberg followed the regional planning principle, according to which residential development should mainly expand along local public rail transport routes and be concentrated at urban densities in the catchment areas of the stops and stations.</p> <p>The EXPO 2000 World Exposition was the occasion to apply this planning approach to the Kronsberg area. On the basis of two planning competitions and with the help of the Kronsberg landscape plan, a concept was devised in 1994 for the entire area that covered the EXPO grounds, the new settlement and the countryside.</p> <p>Another major driving factor was the considerable housing shortage in Hannover in the early 1990s.</p>	
<p>Financing structure</p>		<p>Kronsberg projects are funded by a wide range of public and private institutions, including all levels of government, significant assistance from the State of Lower Saxony, and about 30 different investors.</p> <p>A great deal of support was leveraged and additional attention was received due to the close relationship with EXPO 2000.</p> <p>'Energy Efficiency Optimisation at Kronsberg', as one of the most advanced such projects in Germany, is funded by the European Union</p> <p>'Thermie Project,' associated with the European Commission Directorate General for Energy and Transport.</p> <p>The investments sum up to approximately € 2.2 billion.</p>
<p>Partners & Roles</p>	<p>A partners' network has been developed consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannover Municipality • Department of Lower Saxony • Kronsberg Consulting Committee (founded by the municipality and composed of teachers, researchers, environment protection agencies representatives etc) • Kronsberg Environmental Liaison Agency – KUKA (founded by the municipality for environmental communication; 51% of its capital is held by Hannover municipality and 49% by a local stakeholders' consortium) • The Energy & Environment Centre • Building Research Institute • Consumers' Association • Environmental Protection Centre • Several investors such as housing agencies, local architects and civil servants. 	

<p>Results/Achievements</p>	<p>Transport: Environmental compatibility and the compact community were the paramount aims of transport planning for the Kronsberg district. A new direct light rail transit service links the settlement with the city centre (17 minutes). Three rail stops are located so that nobody has to walk more than 600 metres to catch a tram. In the residential area the car access is forbidden, except for Kronsberg residents; cycle paths ensure access to all facilities in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>All transport means (tram, subways, trains) had been planned so as to be ready for the first residents of the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Energy: RES (wind energy, solar); 2 cogeneration plants used for heating needs of the district; energy efficiency measures were foreseen concerning construction of new buildings, training courses on low energy buildings were organised for constructors; 77 washing machines, 106 dishwashers, 122 refrigerators were financed from subsidies. KUKA distributed 2 water saving devices and 5 low energy light bulbs / household; in total 5615 low energy light bulbs were subsidised, the equivalent of 353MWh/year;</p> <p>Water: all precipitation on built-up and paved areas is absorbed, collected and gradually released; equipment of all apartments with water saving devices.</p> <p>Waste: innovative collection systems have been set; recycling rates of approximately 80% were achieved; during the construction phase building waste was sorted on site; the excavated soil was reused in the district for landscaping and environmental enhancement.</p> <p>Social: different housing options (private apartments, social housing, 300 private homes); housing for disabled persons; housing for different ethnic representatives; old people centre; private childminding; second-hand shops; tenants' association; district council office; citizens' environmental campaign.</p>	
<p>Difficulties faced and solutions found</p>	<p>Due to changes in growth patterns and a dramatically lower demand for new housing units than predicted in 1990, the Kronsberg development has been built at a much slower pace than originally anticipated. Instead of the project being completed by the year 2000, it is expected that the development could stretch out over 10-15 years.</p> <p>Still, after the completion of the first phase, it can be said that the Kronsberg development is considerably more successful than the EXPO 2000 itself in expressing and communicating concepts of sustainable development.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Positive experience from the Kronsberg project motivated the city of Hannover to set and extend ecological standards to the entire city of Hannover taking into account several aspects: energy, soil, nature conservation, waste, water and building materials. As new building development in Hannover is very low, it is also necessary and effective to apply ecological measures to the existing building stock.</p>	
<p>Friendly advice to those who want to build new eco neighbourhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A political majority which sets a priority for sustainable development (since 1988 a coalition of social democrats – about 40% - and green party – about 14%) • A city administration, planners and engineers, who accept and implement these priorities 	
<p>Online information</p>	<p>www.hannover.de www.sibart.org</p>	
<p>Further information</p>	<p>Contact person: Name: Mr Hans Mönninghoff Position: Deputy Chief Executive Organisation: City of Hannover Tel: +49-511-16845039 E-mail: DezK@Hannover-Stadt.de Website: www.hannover.de</p>	