

Chemnitz, 4 November 2019



Chemnitz receives European Energy Award® Gold in Dresden today

Chemnitz has won the European Energy Award® for the second time; the accolade was presented by State Minister Thomas Schmidt at this year's ceremony at the Hygiene Museum in Dresden. Mayor Miko Runkel summed up the award as follows: "The European Energy Award has proven to be a highly effective management tool to help meet the challenges of climate change at municipal level, tapping existing potential, bringing together key stakeholders, initiating new activities, implementing measures and thus providing reasonable weight to climate protection in the city of Chemnitz."



Chemnitztal Cycle Path at Glösa – cycling in idyllic scenery
Photo: City of Chemnitz

The European Energy Award®, or eea® for short, is a European programme that assesses local municipalities' efforts and achievements across climate protection in six key areas. Chemnitz has been involved in the eea® process since 2010, scooping the Silver European Energy Award® in 2011 and 2014. In 2015, Chemnitz, along with Delitzsch, became the first local authority in Saxony to achieve the GOLD award, scoring 77.5 points out of a possible 100. An independent, external audit in June this year scored Chemnitz at 82.7 %, demonstrating a considerable improvement since its first Gold certification in 2015, despite more rigorous conditions.



Energy firm eins heat and cold storage facilities in LowEx district heating network in Brühl
Photo: City of Chemnitz

Interdisciplinary collaboration between local authorities and municipal companies is absolutely vital for the success of Saxony's climate protection efforts. The driving force for this from the outset has been the energy team. Current projects include: the implementation of higher energy standards and renewable energies in districts being redeveloped as part of the city's urban development plans; the Chemnitzer Modell tram-train system; the PV roof at the daycare centre on Walter-Ranft-Strasse; the heating concept delivered by energy company eins; the supply of sustainably sourced wood chips from local landscapes to outdoor play areas in kindergartens and schools; and civic participation in Environment Centre groups.



Solar energy system owned by eins, with twice the green power usage
Photo: City of Chemnitz

Information on the European Energy Award in Chemnitz and a video explaining the overall certification process is available from the [city internet page](#).

National URBACT conference on 6 and 7 November in Chemnitz

Host city Chemnitz has teamed up with the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development to organise an event where German URBACT cities can exchange ideas. The aim is to unlock the added value and potential that comes with collaborating in the EU's URBACT programme. The conference will focus on the issue of participation, for example how to get disadvantaged or difficult-to-reach groups involved. Ways to attract the backing of political bodies and decision-makers will also be under discussion. The workshop enables participants to import possible approaches into their own networking process. In particular, there will be a report on the findings of the 2nd Chance network, which concluded in 2018, and its study, Waking Up the Sleeping Giants. The city is currently taking the lead on URBACT's ALT/BAU Transfer Network. This centres on knowledge transfer to enable cities to manage old and unused buildings, using a system modelled on the StadtWohnen Chemnitz urban regeneration agency, which partners potential investors with unused buildings in need of renovation.



First meeting of partner cities in the ALT/BAU network, September 2018
Photo: WGS



Tour of the Sonnenberg district and presentation of success stories and new developments
Photo: WGS

Workshop for European Week for Waste Reduction

Reducing waste is of vital importance for a cleaner environment. VHS Chemnitz (adult education centre) will show citizens how we can achieve this goal together at an event taking place at the TIETZ on 19 November 2019 from 5 pm to 8 pm. The "Preventing Waste – Ideas to Try at Home!" workshop will present a range of ideas and techniques for reducing day-to-day waste, which can easily be applied to everyday life.



Industry project RESTED with the Saxon Textile Research Institute in Chemnitz

In early December, the EU Office will host a guided tour of the Town hall for academics and students from Łódź Technical University and the University of Ljubljana. They have been invited by the Saxon Textile Research Institute Chemnitz (STFI) as part of the RESTED project being run by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In collaboration with partner cities Łódź and Ljubljana, the STFI is developing new approaches to responsible research and innovation within textile training. The idea is to develop an EU project that puts textile recycling, and sustainable design for innovative product development and eco-balance, at the forefront of teaching.



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EUROCITIES Environment Forum in Oslo tackles plastic waste in cities

As Green Capital of Europe 2019, Oslo played host to the Environment Forum at the end of October 2019, which this year addressed the big topic of global plastic pollution. Sarah Arnold, climate protection officer, represented Chemnitz alongside over 120 participants from some 80 cities. According to WWF, one truckload of plastic garbage is dumped into our seas every minute. 80 % of the world's plastic waste remains in the natural environment, and makes its way up the food chain. WWF has found that we consume roughly a credit card-sized amount of plastic every week, and has partnered up with Eurocities to launch the global Plastic Smart Cities initiative, which calls on cities to take action. Plastic pollution is a global problem, and the solution starts at home, at municipal level. 55 % of the world's population lives in cities; by 2030 this figure is set to reach 70 %.



The Hovinbekken river flowing through a town, now partly reopened Photo: City of Chemnitz



E-scooter hire station to help residents get around the city Photo: City of Chemnitz

There were first-hand updates on the formation of the new EU Parliament and EU Commission. Ursula von der Leyen begins her term of office as the new President of the EU Commission in 2020; her goal is to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050. The plan will be underpinned by a series of measures under the European Green Deal. The EUROCITIES working group on air quality, climate change and energy efficiency looked at the impact of tyre wear on air quality, and discussed how to encourage more industry players to join the energy revolution. An excursion to the Hovinbekken river showed how restoring a river can bring back quality of life and biodiversity to an area.



App brings Berlin's history to life Graphics: berlinHistory e. V.

GED meeting on 25 October in Berlin to prepare for annual assembly

Last Friday, Chemnitz EU Co-ordinator Pia Sachs met with her colleagues, the contact officers from other EUROCITIES member cities in Germany. Berlin outlined its approaches to participation, which include the berlinHistory app developed by non-profit association berlinHistory e.V.

Preparations were made for the annual conference, which this year takes place from 20 to 22 November 2019 in Prague. Topics also included the network's strategic goals for 2020/21, amongst which were a campaign for the first 100 days of the new European Commission – "EU do it better with cities" – and the development of principles for civic participation. A launch conference took place from 22 to 23 October in Paris.

Participation in the open digital platform is open to all:

<http://berlinHistory.app>

European competition to encourage creativity and solidarity among pupils

An interdisciplinary competition with the theme “EUnited – Europa unites” is open to pupils and schools. There are no limits on how European topics can be explored – poetry, videos, photos, images or pieces of music are all welcome. There are twelve assignments to choose from, divided into four categories depending on age. For example, the first category for children in grades 1 to 4 looks at topics such as “Pippi Longstocking” and “My Favourite Place”, while the fourth category for grades 11 to 13 examines subjects ranging from “fitness training” and “the culture of debate” to “Europe: our shared home”. A trip to Brussels or Berlin awaits the lucky winners, and there are also goodies and prize money up for grabs.



Poster motif for the 67th European Competition
Source: Europäische Bewegung
Deutschland e. V.

School groups should register by February 2020 to take part in the competition:

<https://www.europaeischer-wettbewerb.de/teilnahme/online-anmeldung/>

Overview of dates for 2020

2 - 10 May 2020

Europe Week centred on Europe Day on 9 May

Early May 2020

European Neighbours' Day

9 May 2020 10.30 Neumarkt in front of Chemnitz Town Hall

Singing of the European anthem

16 to 22 September 2020

European Mobility Week

23 to 30 September 2020

European Sports Week

Week of 15 October 2020

European Local Democracy Week



Singing of the European anthem with additional programme by the music school Photo: City of Chemnitz

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The next newsletter will be published on 03/02/2020.

