



Status of the national sustainability strategy

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Overview

- Guiding principle ‘sustainable development’
- National sustainability strategy
- Sustainability strategy’s management concept –
basis for improved government action
- Progress report 2008

Guiding principle of sustainable development

“The term sustainability goes far beyond the idea of conserving natural resources.....With the principle of sustainability we essentially have a defining characteristic, a concept for what progress in our society means. Progress must satisfy the condition that nature and our ecological systems can really support the changes in the long term.”

Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel

Guiding principle of sustainable development

Sustainability is geared towards the goals

- intergenerational equity
- social cohesion
- quality of life and
- taking on international responsibility.

These four goals give shape to the guiding vision of SD in the national sustainability strategy as a **political guiding principle**.

Ecological, economic and social aspects must be integrated in order to achieve these goals.

National sustainability strategy

Development to date

- 2002 – Presentation at World Summit in Johannesburg
- 2004 – First progress report
- 2005 – Interim report for Bundestag election
- 2007 – Indicator report 2006
- 2008 – Second progress report incl. indicator report 2008

in future

- Indicator report every 2 years
Progress report every 4 years

National sustainability strategy

Fundamental structural elements

- Federal Chancellery has lead responsibility for sustainability
- All Federal Ministries involved:
 - State Secretaries' Committee and Cabinet
 - Interministerial Committees at working level
- In 2008, Länder and municipalities involved for first time
- Content and formal structure based on the EU sustainability strategy
- Monitoring i.a. by Federal Statistical Office
- The national strategy is an on-going governance process

National sustainability strategy

Other players are

- Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)
 - 15 members from relevant major groups
 - advises the German government and elaborates proposals
 - shapes dialogue with stakeholders and civil society
- Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development
 - all parliamentary groups of the Bundestag are represented
- Minister-Presidents of the Länder, local government associations
- Associations, individual persons and organisations in the consultation process

Sustainability strategy's management concept

Key elements are ...

- ... Committing all ministries to **management rules** for individual areas of action
- ... Planned touchstone for sustainability in the Joint Rules of Procedure (§44), i.e. in the **regulatory impact assessment**
- ... Review of political targets and sustainability postulate on the basis of **key indicators in 21 areas**, grouped according to the four sustainability goals
- ... Interministerial **control** by State Secretaries' Committee and working groups

Sustainability strategy's management concept

21 key indicators for the goals

- **Intergenerational equity**
 - **conservation of resources, climate protection, renewable energies**
 - **land use, biodiversity**
 - **National debt, provision for future economic stability**
 - **innovation, education and training**

- **Quality of life**
 - **economic prosperity, mobility, crime**
 - **air quality, health and nutrition**

- **Social cohesion**
 - **Employment, prospects for families, equal opportunities, integration**

- **International responsibility**
 - **Development cooperation, opening markets**

Progress report 2008

Structure of the report

- Latest challenges
- State of sustainability in Germany: indicators and goals for sustainable development
- Sustainability in concrete terms – focal issues
- Sustainability in further individual policy areas (structure in line with EU sustainability strategy)
- Contributions by German Bundestag, Sustainability Council, Länder and local government associations
- Europe; United Nations
- Outlook



Focal issues (draft of May 2008)

- Climate protection and energy efficiency (incl. climate-neutral official trips)
- Steps towards sustainable resource management
- Demographic change – opportunity for greater social cohesion