

Learning and Shaping Sustainability in Bonn

German City of United Nations
UNESCO Learning City



**NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.**

Birgit Rücker

Department International Affairs and global
Sustainability

17 Goals.
One Future.



Bonn at a Glance

- 336.000 residents from over 180 countries
- Federal City and Germany's United Nations City with 27 UN Organizations (e.g. UNFCCC, UNCCD)
UN Bonn's motto: „Shaping a Sustainable Future“
- 150 Sustainability Stakeholders (government, business, academia, media, civil society)
- Hub for Sustainability and the Global Goals
- Member UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities since 2020
- Learning City Bonn's motto: “Building Sustainability in Bonn on Books, Bytes and People!”



**NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.**



**Education activities fee of charge
Selected examples
UNESCO Learning City Bonn**

Example 1: brief digital pulses



NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.

Info-Lunch: Us and the 17 Goals

- In-house training series for city council staff (starting in April 2019) on the municipal sustainability strategy (adopted in February 2019)
- Colleagues present and discuss their contributions to Bonn's first sustainability strategy with one another
- 45-minute information and discussion session
- once a month, always from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm
- Fully digital since 2021; now in its 8th successful year



Tea Time Education – An offering of Learning City Bonn

- Digital event with discussion, always from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.; irregular
- Focus: staff in the education sector, but also open to anyone interested
- Main topic: ESD in Bonn; introduces ESD stakeholders and activities in Bonn, e.g. Freiday at Schools in Bonn



Example 2: Garden of Education

- garden on the grounds of the House of Education (home to the Central Library and VHS) in the city center
- The garden was created over the course of six four-hour workshops; under the guidance of a gardener, the participants were trained to become garden ambassadors
- Participation was announced as a Learning City project
- Since then: Open garden and beekeeping meetups (no registration required, free of charge) for anyone interested in tending the organic vegetable garden. (plus: paid workshops e.g., willow weaving, permaculture or compost.)



Example 3: Climate Districts

- Nov. 2019: City Council decided that Bonn should become climate-neutral by 2035
- March 2023: City Council adopted the Bonn Climate Plan as a roadmap – it sets out goals and measures through 2035
- The four climate districts are a part of the Bonn Climate Plan
- The concept emerged from the large-scale participatory process “Bonn4Future” (2020 to 2023), in which 100 randomly selected citizens developed recommendations on climate neutrality. Among other things, they recommended “opportunities to get involved right on your own doorstep”
- The climate districts are aimed at people in the neighborhood and anyone interested, offerings are f.i.: solar energy consulting, a bicycle repair shop, opportunities to get involved, spaces for citizen’s ideas and initiatives and more
- They are centrally coordinated by the Citizen Participation Unit
- This office has sought out an established local institution in each climate district to assume the contractually defined role of the operating entity.
- Three climate districts have a community center serving as a contact point
- One climate district has a climate mobile that travels through the city.



Example 4: Polyino Bonn



NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.

- A project by the City of Bonn's Inclusion Office & the Digital Transformation Department
- Since January 2025, City of Bonn has been offering all children in Bonn, as well as all municipal schools, kindergartens, and daycare centers free access to the "Polyino" picture book app
- Bonn is the first and, so far, only German city to offer free access to "Polyino" on this scale

Polyino picture book app:

- Easy to use
- provides easy access to > 1,700 children's books for reading, reading aloud, or listen to
- suitable for children and families (18,000 free private licenses available in Bonn)
- The Polyino edition for educational institutions provides additional features
- In addition to the picture book **texts**, the app also offers an **audio file** for each book
- the audio files of many books are available in over 70 languages (more to come)
- currently around 20 books are available in sign language (more to come)
- For some books, the texts are also available in various languages
- The app is constantly being updated
- App developer: ILT Education, Stockholm; also represented in the USA; Contact in the USA:
<https://www.ilteducation.com/us/help-center/contact-team/>
- Project Management Polyino Bonn: Maria.gorius@bonn.de

KINDER. CHILDREN. ENFANTS. BONN.

Polyino Bonn – Alle lesen
für Bonner Kinder kostenfrei

WEGWEISER ZU DEINEM POLYINO-ZUGANG

- Gehe zu einer Stadtbibliothek in deiner Nähe.

Zugangsdaten hier erhältlich

- Dort bekommst du die Zugangsdaten für die kostenfreie Nutzung von Polyino.
- Zusätzlich kannst du einen Ausweis für die Stadtbibliothek erhalten. Auch dieser ist für alle bis 18 Jahre kostenfrei.

Das bietet die digitale mehrsprachige Bibliothek

- LESE**
In mehr als 1.000 Kinderbüchern.
- FUNKTIONIERT**
auf Tablet, im Webbrowser, mit dem Handy oder auf Großbildschirmen.
- HÖRE und SEHE**
Geschichten in über 70 Sprachen

bonn.de/polyino-bonn

**NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.**

Thank you for your attention

