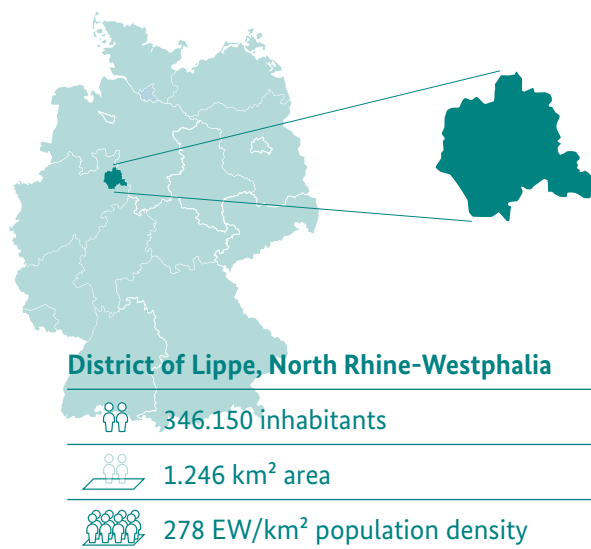


Lippe zirkulär (Lippe circular)



An initiative of the public sector to become more circular



Characteristics of the region

- Structurally weak region with high emigration tendency
- High rate of internal and external commuters from the district of Lippe to the East Westphalia region (e.g., Bielefeld, Herford, Paderborn, Gütersloh)
- Many medium-sized family businesses, some global players (Weitmüller, PHOENIX, Tamaris, Oskar Lehmann), and numerous supplier companies, along with Lemgo's Innovation-Campus

Baseline situation and objectives

„The Lippe circular consortium places emphasis on collaborative action, creativity, and the freedom to envision and promote new approaches for a waste-minimized everyday life.”

Dr. Ute Röder, Executive Board Member district Lippe

The genesis of Lippe circular stems from political motivations arising from a study conducted in 2016, which sought to examine the Cradle-to-Cradle potentials of the regional manufacturing systems. Using the example of the Lippe district, the investigation aimed to deter-

mine if circular value creation could generate qualitative growth impulses at the regional level by stimulating product and process innovations. The activities were subsequently pursued by the county's administrative leadership in 2017 and enshrined in the Future Concept 2025. Adopting a circular mindset and economy is a pressing development goal for the district, which has been inscribed in its Sustainability Mission 2035 through a dedicated operational program.

Focus of the initiative

Lippe circular shows how an entire region can contribute to living the circular idea. Focus lies in networking, initiating and promoting, with the aim of strengthening the environmental sector as well as education on all levels in the region, thereby ensuring future resilience.

Lippe circular focuses also on establishing sustainable and circular economic processes in the three pillars of 'Metamorphosis in Construction,' 'Circular Education,' and 'Process Networking.' Building, sustaining, and expanding networks within the region and beyond are important objectives. Additionally, numerous projects related to 'circular thinking and value creation' are being developed in the region.

This is achieved through working groups and the establishment of Eco-Design processes within companies and research institutions. To efficiently align future-proof processes and business models, platforms for exchanging experiences are offered. This includes organizing impulse workshops and panel discussions between experts and interested representatives from companies and municipalities. In addition to involving businesses and municipal representatives, engaging the public represents another objective, and is implemented through awareness campaigns and event series.

Stakeholders involved

Office established in the district administration of Lippe

24 consortium members from administration, associations, companies and chambers, for example:

- Bertelsmann Foundation: Sustainability Council, Indicator Process Sustainable Community
- CirQuality.OWL: Business network supported by the district government
- EffizienzAgentur. NRW (Efficiency agency NRW): Technical knowledge in the field of circular economy
- political actors from the district, cities and municipalities, as well as from the district and state government

The district of Lippe has a special understanding of its role: As part of the Lippe 2025 future concept, the district is specifically expanding its commitment in the area of circular value creation. A large number of projects contribute to this, with the aim of product and process innovations.

Financing

Annual budget provided by the district; consistent participation in public tenders and successful grant applications; promotion and creation of temporary positions.



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★ Spotlights

Digital competence for circular construction in East Westphalia-Lippe

The RE-BUILD-OWL project aims to transform municipal construction and refurbishment activities in East Westphalia-Lippe. Structurally weak municipalities in the region are enabled to implement circular activities in the construction sector. In addition, a regional market for circular construction products and services is promoted.

RE-BUILD-OWL activates local, regional and nationwide network partners from municipalities, business and research to integrate their knowledge and experience. Following a participatory approach, practitioners' needs are collected for the planned innovation and transfer platform "Circular Building" and relevant content and tools identified. In addition to a vision workshop, expert and strategy

dialogues are conducted. The development of a "Future Atlas for Circular Building" is empowering structurally weak municipalities to become relevant drivers of a circular transformation of the construction and real estate industry and pioneers for sustainable resource management.

Circular education for children

Day-care and school children in the district of Lippe are introduced to topics such as "acoustics" and "light" through the publication of two picture books on the topic of "circular value creation".

Educators and multipliers in day-care centres, open all-day schools and primary schools are sensitised to circular action through specially developed circular training programme.



Exhibition booth of the initiative RE-BUILD OWL
© Lippe zirkulär



Picture book on the topic of "circular value creation"
© Lippe zirkulär

🔭 Outlook

In Ostwestfalen-Lippe, many actors are committed to making circular thinking and management the standard. The expansion of the networks is a declared goal. Building on the diverse activities of municipalities, companies, universities and associations in East Westphalia-Lippe, the model is testing what will subsequently serve as a roadmap for a circular economy in

the construction sector throughout the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia and beyond. Lippe circular understands Circular Economy as a paradigm shift in prevailing production and consumption structures, the district wants to actively accompany this transformation.

Further collaborations, among others with the innovation company Smart Recycling Factory

Key learnings and replicability

The following aspects of the initiative contributed to increase the attractiveness of the region, especially for skilled workers:

- Visibility of the region beyond the district borders, especially through the presence at trade fairs, major events such as Hotspot Bottrop or at congresses such as the German Sustainability Day.
- Relevance of the networks: Only together can change be achieved.
- Strengthening cooperation between companies
- Conducting events with companies and end consumers.
- Involvement of citizens is particularly important, e.g. through participatory elements in the framework of the Future Concept 2025.

- Through the cooperation of all those involved in the region, it is possible to successfully initiate and implement projects and make the region more attractive.
- The prerequisite for this is a common understanding, the will to support, clear regulation of responsibilities, and continuous support and maintenance of the activities.

“Circular thinking and economy require courage, imagination, and perseverance. In this con-text, the redefinition of future economic and living spaces, innovative resource consciousness, and novel models of participation play a crucial role.”

Birgit Essling, Head of the Lippe zirkulär Coordination Office

(SRF) in Minden/ Lübbecke, are being implemented in order to initiate joint projects.

In addition, Lippe.circular is represented in the REGIO CALL Circular Economy as part of the CirQuality OWL Plus project and in the steering committee of the Bertelsmann Foundation’s CircularOWL initiative.

Contact person of the initiative

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