

North Rhine- Westphalia:

progres.NRW
initiative



€3.6 billion

recovery package to
stimulate the economy

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), like many other regions, has been hugely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first six months of 2020, manufacturing production went down by nearly 11% year on year and the automotive industry has suffered due to disruptions in international supply chains and a substantial decline in global demand.

In the service sectors, such as retail, hospitality, tourism and event management, trade has been seriously hit by COVID-19 restrictions and suffered financially as a result.

To overcome the crisis quickly and to accelerate a return to resilient growth, the economy needs political support and tailored measures. Therefore, in addition to the stabilisation programme introduced by the Federal Government of Germany, NRW has assembled a €3.6 billion recovery package aimed at generating short-term stimulation for the economy and supporting critical areas such as the health sector, digitisation in schools and investments in green infrastructure. This funding will be directed at short term stimuli as well as sustainable growth of the economy in the long term.



North Rhine-Westphalia

Population: 17,912,134

GDP: \$832 billion



Cities and regions, subnational actors, are so important at times when national governments sometimes move away from climate ambition

Jochen Flasbarth,

State Secretary, Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany

A crucial concern for NRW is investing in mega trends, including climate protection and enhanced digital capabilities.

NRW has also been increasing its funding for existing support programmes such as “progres.NRW”, which has been running for many years and is split into the following sectors:

- Low emission mobility, which offers attractive subsidies for the procurement of electric vehicles and cargo bicycles, consultations for implementation, as well as public and non-public charging infrastructure. It prioritises smart charging systems for better integration into local electricity grids, as well as the use of locally generated electricity, and provides both climate and non-climate benefits to local people. Not only do residents of densely populated areas benefit from local zero emission vehicles, but opportunities to build and sell cars and charging infrastructure provide employment. The development of electric mobility also makes an important contribution to the achievement of climate protection targets in the transport sector.
- “Market introduction”, which funds the introduction and dissemination of market-ready renewable energy plants, electricity and heat storage systems as well as technologies for increasing energy efficiency. The programme currently includes 13 different modules, including near-surface geothermal energy, electrical battery storage in conjunction with photovoltaics, solar thermal systems and biomass plants, waste heat utilisation and local heating networks. This incentivises particularly medium-sized companies and private property owners to invest in innovative and efficient technologies while safeguarding local jobs in the craft and construction industries and helping to achieve climate targets for the building sector.
- Promotion of photovoltaic equipment (which is not financed by federal instruments as part of the Renewable Energy Sources Act) is integrated in “progres.NRW” and is now due to be extended significantly as a response to COVID-19. Existing programmes, which have an annual budget of €58 million, have been increased by another €127 million, to be spent before 2022/3. NRW aims to double its installed capacity for wind energy and photovoltaics by 2030 compared to 2018. As well as through boosted financial support it will do this by removing regulatory barriers and expanding its capability for battery storage.

