

Good Practices

Ostrava presents following **6 good practices**:

Good Practice 1

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and new commitment to reduce CO2 emissions

Indicator: 1 + 2

Ostrava is one of the first Czech cities to have drawn up a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy addressing the risks and impacts of climate change; this follows on from previous mitigation-related activities and projects (Covenant of Mayors, the City's SEAP/SECAP, Smarter City activities). It began in 2016, involving experts from the academic sphere (University of Ostrava) and other expert institutions (Czech Academy of Sciences - CzechGlobe, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, etc.).

The Adaptation Strategy is based on the City's vision, which sets out the following strategic goals for adaptation to climate change:

- 1) SUFFICIENT WATER – sufficient high-quality water, protection against drought, improvements in water use and management
- 2) A PLEASANT CITY – improvements in Ostrava's public greenery and public space
- 3) A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE – improvements in the health of the landscape
- 4) CLIMATE PROTECTION – reduction in greenhouse gas production, improved energy efficiency, support for the adaptation of buildings to climate change (the Adaptation Strategy includes a section on mitigation, enabling both adaptation and mitigation to be taken into account)
- 5) PEOPLE – public health, education, prevention, care of vulnerable groups

Each of these strategic goals incorporates individual measures and pilot projects (Table 2) which should eliminate or significantly reduce the risks identified.

In accordance with the current development vision set out in the Ostrava City Strategic Development Plan 2017–2023 (and in view of the fact that the City has already achieved its current targets), Ostrava plans to **commit to a new reduction in CO2 emissions of 40% by 2030**. This step will enable Ostrava to join the ranks of major cities whose sustainable development policies help to address global problems – including climate-related issues.

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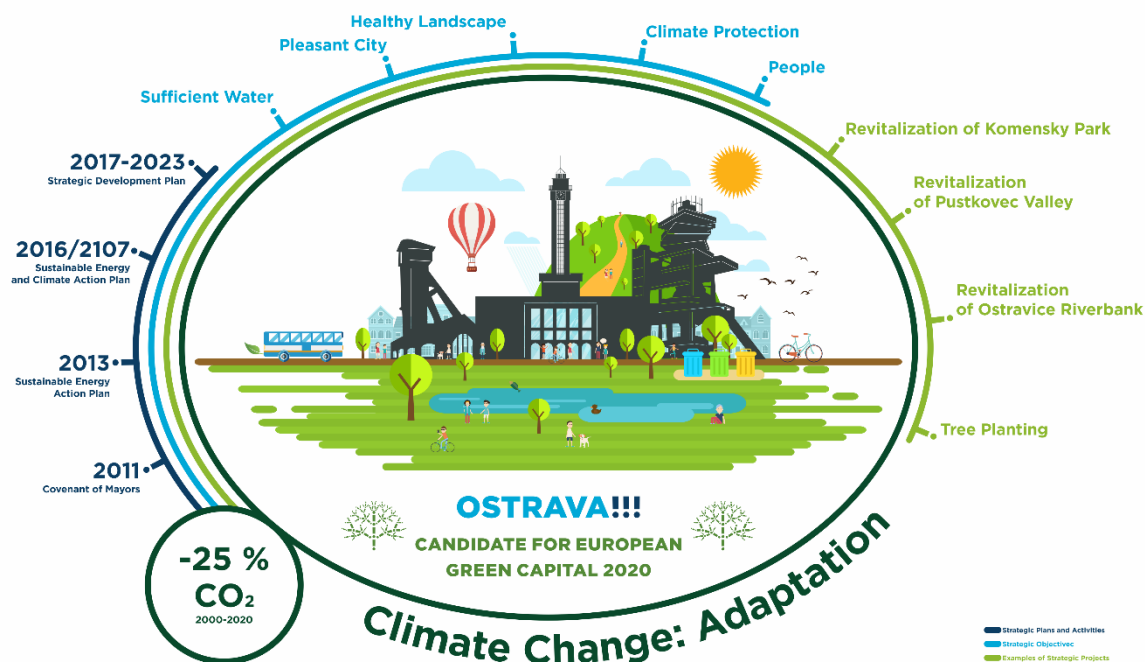


Image 1: Summary of Plans, Key Objectives and Example Projects in Adaptation

Good Practice 2

Grant programme for the revitalization of public space in Ostrava

Indicator: 4 + 12

The grant programme 'Revitalization of Public Space in Ostrava' aims to encourage the gradual revitalization and aesthetic improvement of public spaces that are currently non-functional or unaesthetic. The key principle is to involve members of the general public in the process of improving quality of life and creating improved public spaces. The programme was launched on January 2017. A total of 16 applications had been received by May 2017, out of which 11 were approved for funding. The max. support per project is 38 000 EUR. The selected individual projects are currently in the implementation phase.

The need to improve the function and aesthetic appearance of many public spaces in Ostrava has been highlighted by numerous members of the public, particularly as part of the preparation process for the Ostrava City Strategic Development Plan. It has also been discussed by the working group created as part of the REFILL programme (URBACT). Within this group, the Office of the Head Architect at Ostrava City Authority meets with representatives of various NGOs, architects, urban planners, cultural organizations, social geographers, and other experts to search for the most appropriate solutions transfiguring public spaces in the city.



Image 8: Revitalization of Public Spaces in Ostrava – REFILL workshop

Good Practice 3

Revitalization of brownfields

Indicator: 4 + 10

Historically the most important brownfields in the city were at Karolina and Lower Vitkovice areas.

The largest brownfield in Ostrava was at **Nova Karolina**, in the immediate vicinity of the city centre. It was originally the site of the Karolina coking plant complex. After a full decontamination, some of the original buildings were granted legal heritage protection as fine examples of historic industrial architecture; they have now been converted for use as a social/cultural centre. The remaining part of the brownfield was prepared for the construction of an entirely new city centre quarter. Today it is the site of a multifunctional development (240 000 m²) incorporating retail premises (86 000 m²), a residential complex (1 200 apartments), offices (60 000 m²), facilities for sports, leisure and entertainment (12 000 m²), plus extensive green areas.

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Image 3: New Karolina (past/present)

Adjacent to Nová Karolina is the **Lower Vítkovice area** (150 ha, 38 MEUR). Listed as a National Cultural Monument, this former industrial complex ceased production in the late 1990s. It includes historic ironworks (blast furnace, coking plant) and a coal mine. A number of structures were revitalized and converted for new uses (former gas-container is multifunctional centre an art gallery, power station was converted into an interactive Science and Technology Centre. Lower Vitkovice is also currently the location of a large-scale project involving the City of Ostrava, local universities and other partners; the project will create a complex with research centres, cultural institutions and leisure facilities. Lower Vítkovice is the venue for one of Europe's most renowned annual music festivals, Colours of Ostrava. Thanks to this ambitious and sustainable redevelopment programme, this former industrial site has been transformed into a symbol of Ostrava's regeneration. It is now the second most visited cultural monument in Czechia with an unmistakable silhouette that forms the centrepiece of Ostrava's distinctive skyline.





Image 4: Revitalized brownfield of Lower Vitkovice

Good Practice 4

Citizens involvement into new Ostrava City Strategic Development Plan 2017–2023 (awarded in URBACT)

Indicator: 1 – 12

The new Ostrava City Strategic Development Plan 2017–2023 was drawn up in collaboration with all stakeholders in the city. The development visions were formulated on the basis of numerous discussions with leading Ostrava experts. The entire planning process – representing an effective platform for cooperation on the city's development – lasted a year, and it was communicated to the general public via the brand 'fajnOVA' (a play on words combining a Czech word meaning 'fine' – and pronounced in the same way as the English word – with 'OVA', a commonly used abbreviation of the city's name).

As part of the process of creating the Strategic Development Plan, working groups were set up featuring invited experts from the City Authority, representatives of NGOs and other experts. Members of the public were also involved in the process; 6 800 citizens of Ostrava contributed their suggestions and ideas via an internet application. These suggestions were not only used in creating the Strategic Development Plan; they were also made available to the general public as open data, enabling members of the public to use them in devising their own initiatives and projects. Citizens were also able to express their opinions and ideas on environmental issues at four public discussion sessions featuring the Mayor and representatives from Ostrava's largest municipal districts. There were also two major meetings with experts, which generated specific proposals for ways of improving Ostrava's environment.



Image 5: Preparation of Strategic Development Plan 2007-2023 – participation of citizens

One benefit of this process was Ostrava's success in the call for the international urban cooperation city-to-

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city programme URBACT. The City will receive the URBACT Good Practice award in recognition of its successful efforts to involve members of the public in the strategic planning process; the award will enable Ostrava join another URBACT network cooperation in future.

A vibrant regional capital



1 Building an interconnected city



2 Revitalizing the historic city centre

Wealth in people



3 Being a centre for top-quality education



4 Enhancing the business environment



5 Supporting communities and citizens' involvement in public life

A healthy city



6 Creating a great environment for all generations



7 Bringing the city closer to nature

Image 6: Strategic Development plan 2017-2023 – priorities and goals

Good Practice 5

Replacement of public transport diesel vehicles with zero or low-emission vehicles

Indicator: 3 + 6 + 10

As transport is one of the major sources of air pollution in Ostrava, and because the City can influence it more than the other sources, one of the City's key priorities is promoting more eco-friendly transport – by supporting public transport use, promoting pedestrian and cycle transport, reducing the attractiveness of private car transport, according to objectives set up in the City's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in 2015, Strategic Development Plan and other strategic documents of the city.

One of the City's most important measures to decrease the emission of the public transport, is the phasing out of the standard diesel buses used in Ostrava's public transport system and their replacement with

vehicles powered by compressed natural gas (CNG); the city's public transport corporation launched this programme during the last EU structural funds programming period (2007–2013). Currently the corporation runs 105 (ie. more than one-third) low-emission vehicles meeting EURO6 standards; the remaining diesel buses will be gradually replaced by electric buses and trolleybuses partially powered by batteries.

City aims to introduce zero- and low-emission vehicles (including electric buses and partially battery-powered trolleybuses) in the scale corresponding to **96% of the fleet by 2025**.

A new large-capacity CNG filling station has also been built for the new buses; the station is one of the largest facilities of its type in Central Europe (3000 Nm³/hour, 24 buses/hour).



Image 7: Example of CNG bus in public transport

Good Practice 6

Water saving and smart water metering

Indicator: 9 + 10

In recent years, Ostrava's water management company OVAK (part-owned by the City of Ostrava) has introduced smart metering technology, and it continues to expand this system. Smart metering gives customers instant access to current water consumption data, enabling them to detect any hidden leaks in the system. The meters are fitted with transmitters which automatically send the data via a radio signal to an information system which can be accessed by the customer; the data can be displayed in numerical or graphic form. Thanks to this system, users can easily track their water consumption via the internet. The system can also send e-mails or text messages warning customers about abnormal consumption. This helps to minimize damage in the case of a hidden leak, as well as helping to conserve supplies of a natural resource which is becoming increasingly valuable due to the effects of climate change.

The company also plans to expand its Smart Metering system which enables remote monitoring of water consumption. The number of customers using this system is set to grow to 8000 by 2019. In the longer term, smart meters may be installed at all metering points (32 000 in the city). The system collects data via transmitters located on the meters, which are sent as an encrypted signal at radio frequency 169 MHz and then via GPRS to the server where the data are processed. Users and the service provider have access to

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the data, and can select various display formats via the user interface. The system was awarded by the Czech Ministry of Regional Development in the national competition of “smart cities” in the category Water management.

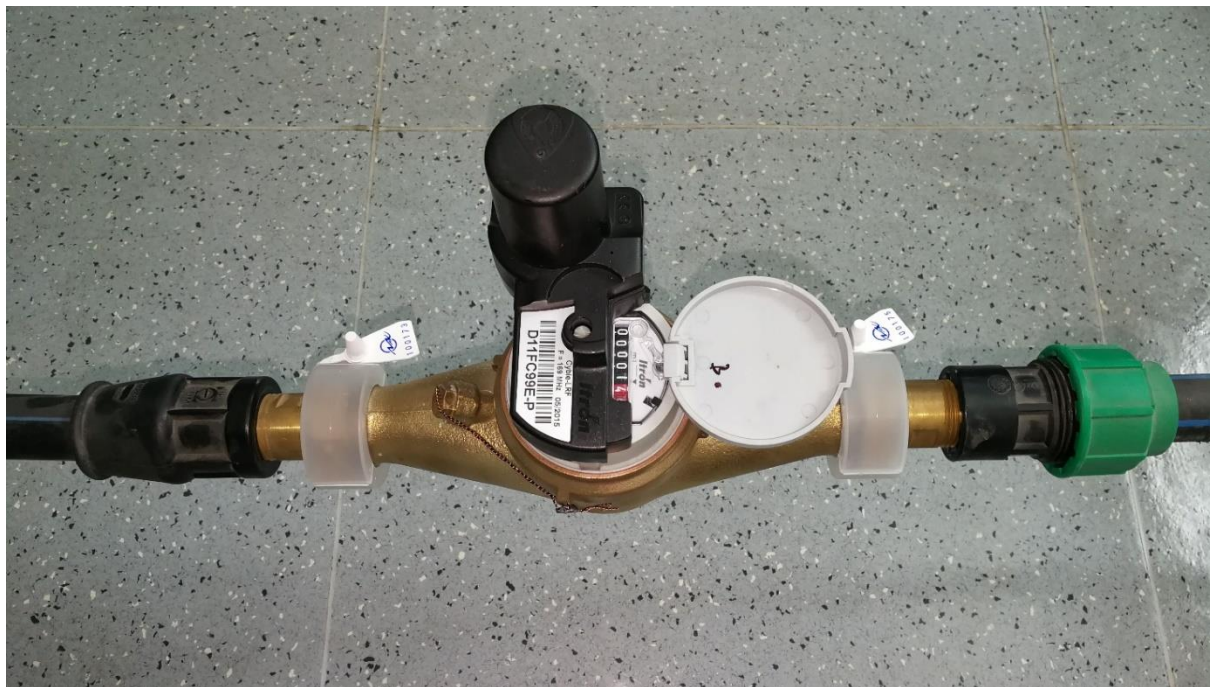


Image 8: Smart metering of water consumption