




› WHAT ARE LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES IN GERMANY?

Local public utilities provide services of general interest in Germany, based on the framework of local self-government of cities, towns, villages and counties. Operating in the context of an economic system driven by competition, they serve the interests of citizens by maintaining a service structure that counteracts forms of market failures and sets up an integral part of Germany's social market economy.



In our political system, municipally-owned undertakings operate under local self-government to meet the needs of local communities. Providing public services is safeguarded by the German constitution. Furthermore, the fundamental national structures of regional and local self-government are explicitly protected and anchored in the Treaty on European Union. The type of capital local public utilities form and secure is a community-oriented asset.

Municipalities are free in deciding how to set up and to run public services. Local public utilities are the central infrastructure providers in Germany, and are key initiators for economic, cultural and social stability and development across the regions. They ensure a proper functionality of society and the economy – being both employers and clients. The relationship is built on a regional, reliable and sustainable basis:

Regional

Local public utilities are regionally based, close to their customers and dedicated to the region, even beyond their original responsibilities – it is not all about profits. They are highly committed to the common good on a daily basis.

Reliable

Local public utilities are of fundamental socio-political importance, because their constant and proven performance is a necessary prerequisite for development and competitiveness in Germany as well as for the equality of people's living conditions.

Sustainable

Sustainability becomes concrete on the ground. A top priority of local public utilities is building up permanent structures, oriented towards the needs and future challenges of local and regional communities, their citizens and economy.

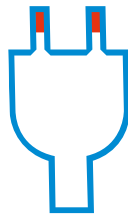
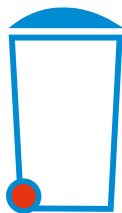
› AT A GLANCE: DAILY ACHIEVEMENTS OF LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES IN GERMANY

Local public utilities deliver **123 litres** of drinking water per citizen every day.

They dispose of **31,500 tonnes** of waste every day and make a decisive contribution to the fact that we have one of the highest recycling rates in Germany among the member states of the European Union.

Around 180 local public utilities are currently involved in expanding broadband infrastructure and provide over **6 million customers** with fast Internet access.

Each day, local public utilities supply heat to around 20 million households with gas and district heating and take care of more than **802,000 kilometres** of electricity distribution networks.





› WHO IS THE VOICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES IN GERMANY?

“Verband kommunaler Unternehmen e.V. (VKU)” stands for the German Association of Local Public Utilities and is the national association of municipally-owned infrastructure undertakings and economic enterprises.

VKU brings together the interests of the local public utilities, influences the processes of policy-making and law-making, formulates ideas on the future of services of general interest and offers its members a broad range of support services.





› WHAT WE STRIVE FOR:

- Fulfilling a well-functioning Energy Union,
- Ensuring safe drinking water supply and wastewater treatment in Europe,
- Facilitating the transition to a European circular economy through effective municipal waste management and recycling
- Shaping the Digital Single Market on the ground.

Local public utilities make Europe worth living and contribute to its economic success. They create the basis for self-determined, sustainable living and working. Maintaining and strengthening the organisational freedom of local authorities is one of VKU's main priorities.

› CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER COMPANIES

to energy and water supply or waste water disposal in Germany

Electricity 61.5%

VKU total: 273,595 | Germany total: 445,188

Source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 2018

Gas 66.6%

VKU total: 619,490 | Germany total: 929,995

Source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 2018

Heat 73.7%

VKU total: 61,133 | Germany total: 82,936

Source: AGFW, (German Energy Efficiency Association for District Heating, Cooling and Combined Heat and Power), as of 2018

Water 90.2%

VKU total: 4,170 | Germany total: 4,622

Source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 2016

Waste water 44.1%

VKU total: 3,205 | Germany total: 7,275

Source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 2016