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# Towards a Co-operative Housing future



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1. The relevance of German Housing Co-operatives
2. The research project Solidarische Stadt
3. Approaches to integrated Sustainability
4. Three cases
5. Conclusion



# The Relevance of German Housing Co-operatives

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**Building boom**

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# The Relevance of German Housing Co-operatives

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Housing counts for ca. **one third of the overall energy consumption** in D R

- > Federal efforts on emission reduction via new buildings & renovation
- > challenge for all housing companies (GDW 2012: 2f.)

## **Consumption patterns related to „Housing“**

Energy & general consumption, daily routines & leisure patterns

## **Public/ Political Expectations:**

Housing co-ops with their specific understanding of economic sustainability s  
In general and in the context of social housing



## Co-operatives are economically & socially sustainable

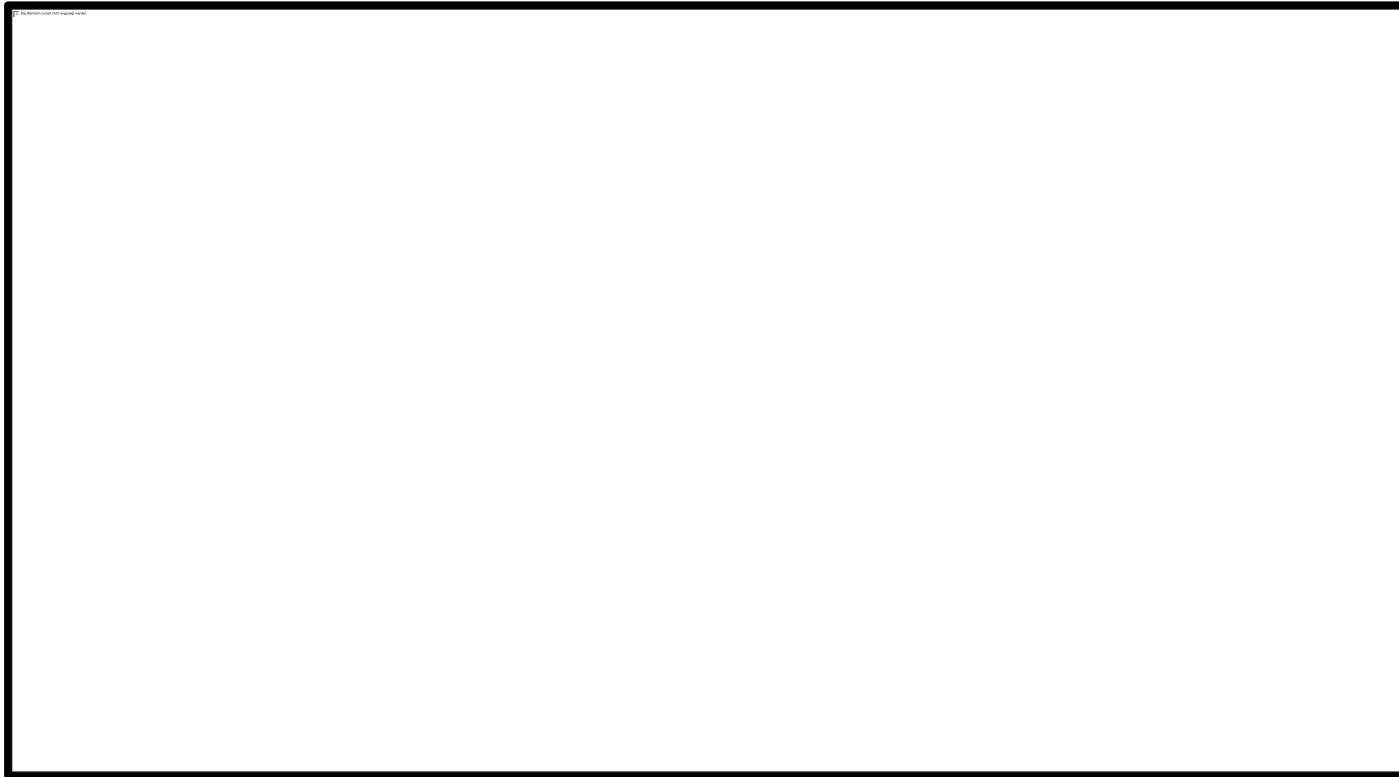
(How) could they become ecologically sustainable?

- > Qualitative, interdisciplinary research on co-op's potentials for local climate protection
- > Workshops with Co-ops

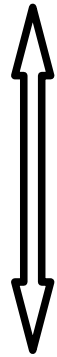


# Approaches to integrated sustainability

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Internal



External

1885, Hannover

22.000+ members

7.700+ flats for rent

10 neighbourhoods

€ 25/ 350/ 725 membership

"Saving & Building Association"





**T** Energy-efficient renovation, Thermal insulation, New houses & heating systems, Internal register for CP measures

**S** Energy consulting & technical trainings for members, Climate protection competitions, Facebook & Twitter activities

**P** Member of Municipal Climate Alliance





1989, Berlin

1,700 members

25 flats for rent

€ 133 membership

Biggest start-up center for women in Europe





**T** Decontamination of the site, Block heating station, Green spaces, Shared resources, Green offices, Bee stocks

**S** Offices & housing, Networking, Start-up services for green businesses

**P** Lobbying on European level, Award-winning

# Möckernkiez eG

2009, Berlin

360 flats for rent

1,300 members

€ 1,100 membership + € 2,000/ m<sup>2</sup>

"A social, intercultural, ecological,  
barrier-free project for young and old"





**T** Passive houses, Renewable energy, Shared resources, E-Mobility, Green office

**S** Work groups, Kindergarten, Free energy counselling, Volunteer & Neighbourhood clubs, Bloc parties, Barrier-free Hotel



**P** Lobbying on local level, 2<sup>nd</sup> project



# Some Characteristics of Housing Co-ops

- Second largest Co-op sector in Germany
  - Majority of buildings from the 1890s/ 1950s
  - German Co-ops as middle-class phenomenon
  - Growing public popularity of Solidarity
  - Majority of small housing Co-ops, new ones
  - are ecologically & socially conscious
  - Limited participation of the members
  - Information gap
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- Co-operative movement and
  - academic research focusses on
  - economic & legal aspects



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## **References**

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**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**