



Architects for Future e.V. demands:

## **A comprehensive set of measures for climate neutral and socially-compatible construction**

### **Petition Contents**

This petition calls for a climate neutral and socially just construction sector. A comprehensive set of measures is being used to switch completely to sustainable construction and building operation to achieve the Paris Agreement Climate Action Goals and to future-proof the quality of life in our entire environment. Elementary changes are urgently needed in the production process of building materials, increasing recyclability, and using life cycle analyses; the current building stock must be protected; biodiversity must be increased; education / teaching for climate neutrality and social justice; and needs-based requirements planning.

### **Justification**

The ecological footprint of buildings is higher than many people think; the construction and operation of buildings causes around 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Germany, generates 52% of total waste output and consumes 90% of mineral, non-renewable raw materials to produce building materials (Source: architects4future.de). To lower the carbon footprint, the German construction industry must comprehensively transition to climate neutrality and social justice. Effective changes are achieved mainly through legislation. It is insufficient to hold individuals responsible and provide selective subsidies. The current building policy framework is inadequate and therefore not in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Conference.

### **We demand:**

- 1.** The market price of building materials must include all environmental costs. Environmentally harmful building materials are then more expensive, and ecologically sustainable construction materials are more affordable through cross-financing. Pricing must consider the entire environmental balance including the CO<sub>2</sub> value, energy, and water consumptions - from raw material extraction, through production, transport, reuse, and disposal costs.
- 2.** Construction products must be dismantled and installed in a recyclable manner to be reusable after deconstruction. Loss of quality and functionality (downcycling) is to be avoided, and demolition materials (urban mining) will be used. The economic and political conditions are to be created and specified in the relevant regulations.

- 3.** Resource expenditures and CO2 emissions of a building must be presented transparently over the entire life cycle, including building operation and, if necessary, previous demolition. Data such as grey energy (the total energetic expenditure for building construction), resource consumption, and recyclability are to be reflected in laws (including the Building Energy Act), in subsidies, credit lending, and all building certifications.
- 4.** Surface sealing is minimized and only approved if it is ecologically balanced on the building or in the immediate vicinity. Otherwise, it will lead to the destruction of animal and plant habitats, species extinction, and further overheating and flooding.
- 5.** The protection of existing buildings must be regulated by a law that only permits demolition if it is socially and climate-relevant. Renovations are eligible for funding over and above heritage protection. The quota of deep thermal renovations will be increased massively. At the same time, a draft building code for building retrofits will be introduced to facilitate the renovation of existing buildings, e.g. due to deviations from the building code for new buildings.
- 6.** Sustainable construction will be integrated into the curricula at universities and training schools as compulsory subjects. Appropriate continuing education courses are compulsory for skilled workers with prior training.
- 7.** In the future, planning and construction must be designed as demonstrably needs-oriented, flexible, and convertible to prevent housing and infrastructure shortages, building vacancies, and real estate speculation to strengthen the social urban infrastructure for greater resilience.

**Sign NOW:** [www.epetitionen.bundestag.de/petitionen/\\_2020/\\_11/\\_23/Petition\\_118228.html](http://www.epetitionen.bundestag.de/petitionen/_2020/_11/_23/Petition_118228.html)

### **How does the petition work?**

Every citizen can submit a petition to the German Parliament (Bundestag). The petition contents should be socially relevant. After formal approval by the petition committee, the petition is published for four weeks on the official e-petition page of the German Parliament. If the petition has been signed by at least 50,000 citizens by the end of the four weeks, the main petitioner is invited to a public hearing before the Petitions Committee. Each petitioner can present their issues personally, and the German Parliament is obliged to consider the issues. Petitions are often the first step in a legislative change.

### **Do you want to know more?**

For further information, please visit our website [www.architects4future.de](http://www.architects4future.de)

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