

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**  
**Actions by Germany**

**Country:** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety/ Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

***Title:***

**German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess) – Programme for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources**

*Focus area 2, 4, 5, and 9:* Promote the internalization of externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production pattern; Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

***Description of the action:***

- The German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess) is a dedicated strategy for material resource efficiency adopted in February 2012 by the German government (ProgRess I) and updated in February 2016 (ProgRess II).
- The goal of the ProgRess is to structure the extraction and use of natural resources in a sustainable way and to reduce associated environmental pollution as far as possible. It covers the entire value chain.
- ProgRess is shaped by a total of four guiding principles: 1) joining ecological necessities with economic opportunities, innovation support and social responsibility; 2) viewing global responsibility as a key focus of our national resource policy; 3) gradually making economic and production practices in Germany less dependent on primary resources, developing and expanding closed-cycle management; and 4) securing sustainable resource use for the long term by guiding society towards quality growth.
- Both programmes attach particular importance to market incentives, information, expert advice, education, research and innovation, and to strengthening voluntary measures and initiatives on the part of industry and society.

***Action's time frame/milestones, as appropriate:*** When the German government adopted ProgRess it decided to report on the development of resource efficiency in Germany every four years, assess progress and continue and update the Resource Efficiency Programme accordingly. The German Bundestag passed a resolution on ProgRess on 8 March 2012 to support the work, asking for a report every four years.

***Type of action:***

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

***Economic sectors:*** Economy-wide

***Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:*** ProgRess is seen as the beginning of a process in policymaking, science and society. Implementing ProgRess will require a high level of initiative and activities by many social actors and close cooperation between politics, industry, science and civil society. It will also need civic commitment. The programmes aims to provide sound and long-term orientation for all stakeholders.

***SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:*** SDG 8 (sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work) und SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns)

***Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:*** The main indicators to currently measure improvements in resource efficiency are already defined in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2002):

- raw material productivity – gross domestic product (GDP)/abiotic domestic material intensity (DMI);
- energy productivity – GDP/total primary energy use;
- proportion of renewable energy in total energy consumption.

In addition, raw material consumption per person (RMC/person) is described as an indicator in ProgRes. ProgRes II further implement a newly developed indicator “total raw material productivity” (GDP + value of imported goods / RMI (Raw material input)).

***Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:***

***Partners:***

***Contact points:***

Dr. Reinhard Kaiser  
Head of Directorate WR III – Resource Efficiency, Soil conservation  
Federal Ministry for the environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety  
11055 Berlin  
Phone: 03018 / 305-0  
E-Mail: [Reinhard.Kaiser@bmub.bund.de](mailto:Reinhard.Kaiser@bmub.bund.de)

Dr. Kora Kristof  
Head of Department I 1 - Sustainability Strategies, Sustainable Resource Use, Instruments;  
Federal Environment Agency (UBA)  
Wörlitzer Platz 1, 06844 Dessau-Roßlau,  
Phone. 0340-2103-0  
E-Mail: [Kora.Kristof@uba.de](mailto:Kora.Kristof@uba.de)