

Title

Car-Free Living (Wohnen ohne Auto am Osterbekkanal)

Short description

Car-free living has become a reality in the Barmbek-Nord district in Hamburg! Tenants living in the flats of the first pilot project are under contract to not use a car in their daily lives. While this has some downsides, by having everyone live car-free, the project allows for many different benefits. The Saarlandstraße project is characterised by an exceptional high quality of residential environment. Safe walking and cycling trails are available in the neighbourhood, and the green areas are free of exhaust gases and engine noise. Also, because cars are not necessary, the space where car parks and driveways used to be can be transformed into green spaces such as playgrounds and public gardens. To make sure that living without a car is still functional, the community has been made very accessible by public transportation, which is within walking distance from almost everywhere in the community.

Topic

Living – Green spaces

Moving – Active mobility

Characteristics (type, level)

Neighbourhood intervention

Country/Countries of implementation

Germany

Aims and Objectives

Living without a car is the binding condition of the people living in the flats of the first pilot project in Hamburg (meanwhile there is a second district in Hamburg providing flats for living without a car).

Using parking areas to build green spaces and play grounds, using public transport, avoiding traffic noise, neighbourly help are living ideals of inhabitants in this district.

The initiators list following benefits for a car-free life:

- The everyday stress in the direct living area because of traffic noise and exhaust gas is reduced
- A significant increase in the quality of residence because of absence of vehicular traffic
- There is a significant space gain, because of absence of parking spaces and correspondingly large driveways
- Savings (approximately 20,000 EUR) for each underground parking.

Target Group

Families living in this district and in particular in the flats

Status

Ongoing

Start and Completion dates

2001-today

Lifestyle and Behavior Change

People living in these flats have committed themselves to live without an own car. Using public transport and or riding or walking changes their behavior and has a direct influence on their lifestyle.

Effects on:

Health and Wellbeing	Physical activity is an integrated part of the daily life of people living in the flats as no own cars are used.
Vulnerable populations	Vulnerable populations are not directly addressed as target group of the initiative. However, not having an own car causes savings.
Environment	It has a direct impact on the environment as no cars will be used by tenants of more than 100 flats in the street. The surrounding area includes more green spaces.

Initiated and/or implemented by

The non-profit organisation “living without car”. The organisation supports people friendly and environmentally sound forms of everyday transport.

Stakeholders and sectors involved

The non-profit organization “living without a car”, the building cooperation „Wohnwarft eG“ which is part of the project “Saarlandstraße in Hamburg-Barmbek”

Financial support

The building cooperation which was initiated for the project by the non-profit organisation.

Evidence-base

No information available

Main activities

The non-profit organisation “living without a car” initiated the idea of building flats for tenants without a car. The construction cooperation was founded as part of the project and has designed and built the flats in close exchange with the people who become later tenants of the flats.

Evaluation

No information available

Main results

The Saarlandstraße project is characterised by an exceptional high quality of residential environment. Safe walking and cycling trails are available in the neighbourhood, green areas are free of exhaust gases and engine noise.

A lot of space has been saved where car parks and driveways used to be. Play grounds instead of parking areas are to be found in the neighbourhood as well as smaller local groceries.

Key success factors and barriers

Involving interested people who become later tenants of the flats from the very beginning.

INHERIT Perspective

Living without a car has been chosen as an innovative approach to urban development. It has theoretical potential to be translated in other neighbourhoods and even countries. It supports to improve physical health by active moving. In addition, more green spaces without cars and traffic jam are results of the initiative. It supports local employment and neighbourly relationships. It has a direct influence on changing individual behaviour and lifestyle.

More information

<http://wohnwarft.de/>

<http://www.abendblatt.de/hamburg/article107323086/Saarlandstrasse-Hamburgs-einzigautofreie-Siedlung.html>

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