



Energy Cooperative Schwerte Leading the Charge Towards Renewable Energy

In an **interview with Sebastian Kirchmann**, Managing Director of Stadtwerke Schwerte, the **Energy Cooperative Schwerte's vision and strategy** for embracing renewable energies in their city were **outlined**. With a focus on **community engagement and sustainable development**, the cooperative aims to pave the way for a greener future while involving residents every step of the way.

Kirchmann emphasized the cooperative's commitment to **making renewable energy accessible and beneficial** to both the city and its inhabitants. As a municipal utility, Stadtwerke Schwerte recognizes the importance of collaboration and **community involvement** in achieving their goals. With approximately 50,000 residents, the city has already made significant strides in renewable energy, boasting a substantial photovoltaic system generating 33 megawatts.

Despite facing challenges in the past regarding public perception and political support for renewable energy initiatives, recent global events, notably the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, have spurred a significant shift in attitudes. With **newfound support** from both residents and local authorities, Stadtwerke Schwerte is capitalizing on this momentum **to accelerate the transition to renewable energies**.

Central to their strategy is the **establishment of a cooperative under German law**, allowing for widespread participation from residents. Through this cooperative, individuals can contribute financially by becoming members and actively engage in renewable energy projects, ensuring that the benefits of the energy transition are shared among the community.

The cooperative's unique structure ensures democratic decision-making, with **each member having an equal voice** regardless of their level of investment. This inclusive approach has garnered significant interest, with hundreds of residents joining the cooperative and contributing funds daily.

In terms of **investment**, Stadtwerke Schwerte is pursuing a **multi-faceted approach**, encompassing solar, wind, and potentially battery storage projects. By diversifying their renewable energy portfolio, they aim to maximize efficiency and grid stability while reducing reliance on traditional energy sources.

Collaboration with local industries and farmers further strengthens the cooperative's position, with plans underway to install solar panels on industrial rooftops and utilize farmland for renewable energy generation.

Looking ahead, Stadtwerke Schwerte **aims to achieve 80% of the city's electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030**. With a robust investment pipeline over the next decade, the cooperative is well-positioned to realize this ambitious goal.

In conclusion, the Energy Cooperative Schwerte exemplifies a **community-driven approach to sustainable energy development**. By fostering collaboration between



residents, businesses, and policymakers, Stadtwerke Schwerte is spearheading a green revolution and can serve as a **model for other municipalities** to foster public engagement and acceptance with renewable energy projects.