

› REGIONAL. RELIABLE. SUSTAINABLE.

The inherent value of Local Public Utilities in a nutshell

- › **Local Public Utilities** are the central infrastructure providers in Germany, and are key initiators for economic, cultural and social stability and development across the regions. They ensure a proper functionality of society and the economy. Local Public Utilities are employers and clients, meaning that they have a quantifiable impact on the economy.

VKU facts and figures:



› 734,000 workplaces

For every full-time employee in one of VKU's member companies, there are almost **two** additional people (1.8 to be precise) employed in Germany.¹ The Local Public Utilities secure workplaces for a total of **734,000** people in Germany, from Flensburg to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, from Görlitz to Kleve, in cities and country alike.



› 16.7 billion euros of income

Each income in a VKU member company generates around **one** additional income in Germany (0.9 to be precise). Local Public Utilities in Germany were responsible for a total income of **16.7** billion euros. This means that Local Public Utilities not only drive demand in the regions, but are also create and secure additional workplaces through their employees' expenditure which flows into the economic cycle.



› 23.7 billion euros of taxes

Local Public Utilities in Germany have generated **23.7** billion euros in taxes. With their economic activities, Local Public Utilities make a key contribution to financing public life.

¹ „Kommunale Wertschöpfung“, Kompetenzzentrum Daseinsvorsorge, University Leipzig, 2015.

Local Public Utilities are a key element of Germany's strong foundation as a business location, and offer a crucial competitive advantage. They

- › ...are a driving economic factor: Local Public Utilities generate more than 115 billion euros per year.
- › ...engage with local areas: Local Public Utilities invest around 10.9 billion euros in regional infrastructures.
- › ...directly employ more than 262,000 people.²

Local Public Utilities are an important service provider for Infrastructure. They



...generate 66 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year. They also operate around 45% of distribution networks in Germany. That corresponds to 808,000 kilometres – 20 times the earth's circumference.



...deliver 121 litres of drinking water per citizen per day. They operate a canal network that is 132,000 kilometres long – almost 10 times the length of the German motorway system. The connection rate to the public drinking water supply reaches more than 99%.



...dispose of 31,500 tonnes of waste every day – that's equivalent to the weight of the TV Tower in Berlin. At 66%, Germany has the highest recycling rate of all member states of the European Union.³



...currently supply 5.7 million customers with broadband infrastructure. Up to 2018 investments of 1.7 billion euros are planned, in order to connect 6.3 million people to high-speed internet.

REGIONAL, RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

Local Public Utilities in Germany are a trustworthy partner for society and the economy – the relationship is built on a regional, reliable and sustainable basis. This set of three features clearly outlines the nature of the range of services of general interest they provide:

- › *Local Public Utilities are rooted in **regions** to which they are greatly committed, even beyond their original responsibilities. They truly focus in their daily work on benefitting communities and are thereby closely connected with their customers.*

Local Public Utilities are a key component of civic society, and an important component of our local community. They enable participation and social justice, and promote democratic cooperation. Citizens wish for more locality and regionality, because this is where closeness, connectivity and strength lie; qualities that especially Local Public Utilities can offer. Communities trust their Local Public Utilities: in a recent survey conducted by the polling body forsa on behalf of the VKU, 78% of people surveyed said they have "great" or "very great" confidence in these utilities.

- › *Local Public Utilities stand for **reliably supplying** citizens with power, gas, heat and water, high-performance broadband infrastructure, an advanced recycling economy, and the highest level of waste water disposal.*

Local Public Utilities offer key services on which all subsequent economic services are built. High-performance supply and disposal is key for achieving living standards that are equally high in the city and country. They are a central factor when companies and individuals chose their location. As a result, Local Public Utilities are the foundation of the German national economy, offering secure infrastructure services and taking responsibility for their region. Targeted and sustainable design of framework conditions for Local Public Utilities is a mandate for politicians and legislative bodies alike.

- › *Local Public Utilities create **sustainable** economic output, and take into account the social, economic and ecological needs of our cities and communities.*

Sustainability becomes tangible in local authorities. The top priority for Local Public Utilities is to create structures for the long term, oriented toward the needs and future challenges of local authorities, their citizens and the economy. Providing infrastructure and services of general interest, Local Public Utilities make a central contribution towards key services.

² VKU publication: Figures, Data and Facts 2017.

³ Eurostat, 2016.

We look forward to discussing this with you further!

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