

## Coalition program 2023-2029

# Environment

The coalition parties are convinced that climate protection, nature conservation and a good quality of life based on socio-ecological criteria must be the guiding principles of a modern and sustainable municipal policy.

We are all aware of the ecological challenges we face: climate change, air and water pollution, the destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems threaten our future and that of our children.

As leaders, it is our duty to protect our environment and our climate by taking sustainable measures such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, protecting endangered ecosystems and species, and improving air and water quality.

## Taking climate and nature protection seriously

Climate change is a challenge that Differdange must face, just like the rest of the world. This results in clear priorities for the LSAP-CSV coalition:

- increasing energy efficiency
- the promotion of renewable energies
- the implementation of the European NetZeroCities program, in which Differdange is the only Luxembourg city to participate
- the digital connectivity of energy supply, communication and mobility
- the promotion of soft mobility and public transport
- greater greening of the city center and other districts and towns
- the planting of thousands of trees to regulate the temperature in the villages
- the promotion of photovoltaic systems
- a partnership with industry as part of a heat-recovery project

- the promotion of wind energy by exploiting the enormous potential of our hills. The coalition is committed to erecting wind parks outside the reach of residential areas.
- the insulation of facades, windows and roofs. The coalition will increase the subsidies for insulation and speed up the process. It will also carry out work on its own buildings.

## **Commitment to an environmentally friendly and sustainable municipality**

Differdange is growing fast. It is therefore crucial to get infrastructure problems under control. The development of the municipality must follow a precise and sustainable overall strategy, which requires an urban development plan that guides growth.

- The urban development plan must determine whether our city can still grow—and if so, in what way. This applies not only to housing, but also to commercial and industrial areas.
- The coalition attaches great importance to citizen participation and will set up a broad citizens' forum to define the future urban development plan.

The urban development plan must give preference to climate-neutral construction projects with sufficient open spaces. The city districts must be connected by green corridors.

### **Further measures**

- Rigorously consider nature and animal protection in urban development planning.
- Promote biodiversity and species protection.
- Create inner-city natural spaces to make the soil permeable.
- Optimize street lighting to avoid light pollution—in particular by using motion detectors and luminaires with directional light beams.
- Continue the renaturation of watercourses.
- Create new parks.
- Establish recreational areas on the outskirts of the city.
- Make large paved areas permeable to water by planting greenery. The creation of islands with fountains and water features is also planned.
- Equip public parking lots with shaded shelters for cars and photovoltaic systems.
- Promoting gardens in schools and Maisons Relais.

## Promoting sustainable and responsible consumption

The coalition is committed to:

- give preference to sustainable and environmentally friendly building materials.
- give preference to renewable energies for the heating and energy supply of public buildings.
- increasingly promote and subsidize the construction of cisterns.
- equip roofs with photovoltaic systems wherever possible.
- commission a study on the use of existing spring water for the drinking water supply. In order to reduce drinking water consumption, the coalition will use spring and rainwater as much as possible, both for municipal services and for sanitary facilities. Retention basins will be created for this purpose.
- present an action plan to solve the flooding problem in Fousbann.
- check the air quality regularly.
- launch campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of a clean and attractive living environment.
- start a repair café project for small electrical appliances.
- introduce the project guttgeschier.lu in Differdange.
- set up an *anti-waste* corner in the recycling park.
- promote the consumption of local products—especially in the Maisons Relais.
- raise awareness of drinking tap water.
- optimize waste management.

# Mobility

The explosion in inner-city mobility is a real challenge for the municipality and its residents. Traffic must flow. It is therefore necessary to limit transit traffic through Differdange.

Unfortunately, the train journey into the capital takes too long and should ideally be shortened. In addition, there is no bus route that is coordinated with the trains.

Another problem is the lack of parking spaces in urban areas.

In order to create sustainable mobility in cities and ensure a high quality of life, mobility must also meet the environmental challenges: Reducing air pollution, greenhouse gases and congestion.

## Improving public transport

The coalition is committed to demand:

- the establishment of a bus line during peak hours to the nearby train stations with a direct connection to Luxembourg City until a new, faster rail connection to Luxembourg City is established. This new line would connect Differdange directly to the Bascharage-Sanem stop before reaching the train station Hollerich without an intermediate stop.
- a connection from Differdange to the terminus of the tram line in Belvaux.

The coalition is also committed to:

- plan Diffbus journeys so that arrival times are coordinated with the departure times of other buses and trains. The electronic display of arrival times and any bus delays is to be further developed. Passengers should be able to obtain information at any time.
- optimize the coordination of public transport (CFL, TICE, Diffbus, RGTR and Dinola).

## Improving road conditions

The coalition is committed to:

- alleviate traffic at the entrance to the city.
- build parking lots at the entrances to Niederkorn and Differdange in order to increase the number of parking spaces without taking up space in the town center.
- build a parking garage under the Nelson Mandela Square as part of the town hall extension.
- take measures to reduce unnecessary traffic.
- examine the possibility of reducing cross-border traffic at peak times.
- continue the renovation and repair of roads and underground infrastructure.

- put the removal of the PN 15 level crossing on Avenue Charlotte in Oberkorn back on the agenda.
- increase the number of charging stations for electric cars.
- check all crosswalks, sidewalks and bus stops to ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities and comply with current regulations.

## Infrastructure for better mobility

The coalition would like to:

- promote the construction of a train and bus station with inviting recreational areas and a food spot. Differdange station would become a multimodal transfer point between train, bus, Bus Rapid Transit (BHNS) and Diffbus.
- expand Niederkorn station so that it is connected to the new, faster railroad line.
- improve road signage.
- expand cycle paths, connect them to the regional and national network and develop an interconnected cycle path network through the municipality.
- set up charging stations for electric bicycles powered by photovoltaic systems.
- set up supervised bicycle shelters.
- set up maintenance and washing stations for bicycles.
- raise awareness among all road users of the need for mutual respect, then follow up by repressive measures.
- set up shared spaces around schools and in the city center.
- connect the Parc des Sports parking lot to the city center through a cycle path.
- create green footpaths that connect the city districts.
- review the fees for underground parking lots and parking spaces.

The coalition is also committed to:

- intelligent 24-hour use of parking spaces.
- the review of the tariffs for the residents' parking sticker (vignette). The zones for residents' parking are to be redefined together with citizens.
- a study on connecting the city center to the city parking lot on the bypass.
- the revision of the parking garage guidance system.
- the creation of adequate parking spaces in each district (micro-parking facilities).

The coalition will prioritize the following projects:

- parking lot at Haneboesch near the soccer stadium
- parking garage under Nelson Mandela Square
- 800 parking spaces for the Differdange center in the city parking garage on the bypass
- parking spaces in the Fousbann-Woierer district
- parking lot 1535° Creative Hub

## **Safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists**

The coalition is committed to:

- create safe cycle paths that are separated from motorized traffic.
- improve the lighting of crosswalks.
- secure crosswalks at critical points.
- propose launching a walking bus (Pedibus) initiative in partnership with parents to make the journey to school safer and end the traffic chaos outside schools.
- make the route to school safer by ensuring that all crosswalks are adequately lit and fitted with blue and white reflectors. The curbs will be systematically adjusted.

# Sports and cultural clubs

The LSAP-CSV coalition wants to provide concrete support to local clubs and sports associations so that they can expand their offers. Clubs play an important social role and deserve to be supported with appropriate subsidies.

The coalition is committed to:

- completely revise the subsidy regulations and increase funding. The youth work of sports clubs —with qualified personnel—will be a key component of the new scheme. The municipality wants to play an active role in the recruitment of coaches.
- set up a clubhouse with meeting rooms, offices and storage rooms.
- introduce additional subsidies for sports clubs that take part in international competitions or meetings with our sister cities.
- maintain support for national and international sporting events. Differdange is a city of sports and needs these flagship events.
- introduce a scholarship to send students to a sports or cultural club in a sister city for a traineeship.
- participate in the founding of an association that promotes and organizes cultural and sporting exchanges with the sister cities.
- consider free club membership for every child under the age of 16. Every child should be able to choose the sport they want to play, regardless of the price of membership.
- extend the partial reimbursement of registration fees to children whose sport is not offered in Differdange.
- encourage clubs to expand their offers for children and teenagers.
- promote sport and sports clubs, e.g. through advertisements in local online or print publications.
- offer more days and workshops dedicated to sports in collaboration with the clubs (Nuit du sport, school sports day, etc.).
- encourage clubs to provide offers for children with special needs and work with neighboring municipalities to expand the range of activities.
- expand the sports department to ensure logistical support.
- hire a sports coordinator.
- review and further develop the *Spodi* project—one of the priorities of the sports coordinator.
- create sports facilities with a regional or national character to meet demand, e.g. an athletics stadium.
- repair the soccer stadium on the Thillenberg.
- renew the soccer pitches with artificial turf.

- renovate the outdoor area of the swimming pool.
- build an additional teaching pool. Weekly swimming lessons must be guaranteed for every schoolchild.
- plan the use of sports infrastructures for training and competitions in the long term. The coalition is in favor of unrestricted use of all public facilities after school hours.
- set up, expand or renovate fitness and health trails.
- create outdoor mountain bike infrastructures.
- promote physical activity in the city by providing suitable sports facilities.
- demand that sports medicine examinations be carried out again in Differdange.
- officially name the sports center in Oberkorn *Parc des Sports*.
- strengthen the cooperation with LUNEX and SportFabrik.



# Culture and festivities

The LSAP-CSV coalition is committed to offer a participatory and inclusive cultural program that brings art closer to the citizens. It further intends to introduce children and young people to the arts. An exchange program in the areas of culture, sports and schools will be set up with our partner cities. The coalition is also committed to organize a large number of public festivals. It wants to revitalize and animate the city center in order to increase the attractiveness of the restaurants.

The coalition is committed to:

- promote the festivals organized by local associations.
- motivate residents to organize a neighborhood festival by providing logistical support.
- set up themed childcare at municipal festivals.
- expand the range of services offered by our municipal library and archive, in particular through ongoing digitization.
- accommodate the municipal archive in a more suitable room.
- expand our music school's offerings and create synergies with neighboring municipalities.

# Tourism

Urban development shapes the city and its districts in a functional, aesthetic and sustainable way. The LSAP-CSV coalition also wants to protect the cultural heritage and urban spaces and make them inviting in order to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.

With projects such as a botanical garden and the large gas engine (*Groussgasmachinn*), the coalition partners will turn Differdange into a tourist town. Differdange will have the only botanical garden in the country, thereby increasing its attractiveness.

Particular attention is paid to tourism in Lasauvage and Fond-de-Gras.

Tourist activities are an important economic factor in the context of day tourism. The coalition is therefore committed to:

- plan a new attraction in the form of a botanical garden.
- transform the *Centrale thermique* and the *Groussgasmachinn* into a museum, a science center or a conference center in partnership with ArcelorMittal, the government and future operators. The *Science Center*, whose management is to be reviewed, could create synergies with the *Minett Park Fond-de-Gras*.
- convert the former casino into a hostel in partnership with the owner.
- revitalize the church of Lasauvage as a new cultural space.
- support the *Minett Park Fond-de-Gras*, the *Minièresbunn Doihl* and the *Train 1900*.
- build a visitor center in Fond-de-Gras in partnership with the municipality of Petange.
- promote additional events in Fond-de-Gras alongside the Blues Express and the Steampunk Convention.
- introduce a tourism day. Differdange residents and tourists should get to know the numerous attractions of the municipality and the region. Guided tours of the most important sights are intended to promote day and weekend tourism.
- equip hiking trails and strategic locations with playful, informative and interactive signage.
- create new hiking trails and mountain bike routes.
- make sights accessible by bike, creating cycle paths and organizing mountain-bike and hiking tours in *Giele Botter*.
- open a visitor center in the lodge in Lasauvage. The new accommodation on Saintignon Square is intended to boost tourism activities in the village.
- analyze the interest in a youth hostel and open one if need be.
- promote the development of hotels.
- set up a high ropes course.
- set up an enclosure with sheep, chickens and goats.

# Youth

One of the main tasks of the youth department will be to implement the municipal youth plan and constantly adapt it to the needs of young people.

The coalition is committed to:

- expand the youth department.
- expand the range of municipal social services for early school leavers. Cooperation with the project *Outreach Youth Work* is being strengthened.
- make it easier for young people to enter world of work through student internships in the municipal administration.
- work with local companies to make it easier for young people to enter the world of work.
- create meeting places for young people in the various districts.
- maintain a regular dialog with young people.
- provide youth centers with the necessary support, cooperation and networking to inform young people about current issues.
- adapt the services and opening hours of the youth centers.
- facilitate access to sports and cultural clubs for young people, especially those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.
- promote events for young people.
- promote pop-up stores for young artists and entrepreneurs.
- examine the possibility of opening a youth hostel in Differdange.

# Childhood

For the LSAP-CSV coalition, the expansion of school infrastructure and childcare facilities is a top priority. Accordingly, the redesign of the school Um Bock in Oberkorn and the girls' school in Niederkorn are to be completed. In addition, new educational facilities are to be urgently built in Differdange, Fousbann/Woier and Niederkorn.

The coalition is committed to:

- create childcare facilities in the immediate vicinity of schools in order to optimize cooperation.
- facilitate dialog between parents, teachers, educators and students.
- provide all schoolchildren with a place at the Maison Relais.
- convert schoolyards into playgrounds in order to meet the children's natural urge to move.
- build a new covered playground.
- equip classrooms with the latest technologies (digitalization ...).
- constantly review and expand the facilities for school sports. Sport must be better integrated into the school day. In cooperation with school staff, the municipality will implement the project *clever move (Beweegte Schoul)*. The aim is to prevent illnesses such as obesity or motor impairments.
- integrate the bicycle school into everyday school life.
- make the extracurricular offer more diverse.
- draw up a prevention plan against violence, bullying and drug use.
- improve educational support. The coalition will expand learning and homework support and support the French-language literacy project.
- expand school garden projects.
- promote the use of local and regional products in school canteens. The gardens are to be expanded and the products appreciated. There should be a greater focus on healthy eating. Children must be made aware of the fight against food waste.
- ensure that every child can attend a school camp at least once during their school career.
- expand the range of secondary schools in the municipality. The coalition will strengthen its collaboration with LUNEX and Miami University. It will promote the establishment of an additional secondary school of the Fondation Emile Metz in Differdange and make the former CID site available for the expansion of the EIDE.
- make the way to school safer and improve school transport. Crosswalks will be lit more effectively. The Diffbus timetable will be adapted to school times. Footpaths to school will be created and a walking bus (Pedibus) set up.

- set up meeting and exchange groups for parents of young children and children with special needs.

# Living together

The LSAP-CSV coalition wants to strengthen the social department and emphasize social cohesion under the motto of *living together (Zesummeliewen)*. Inclusion and living together will be anchored in a local action plan. As part of this action plan, the citizens of Differdange will be offered thematic exchange meetings.

The coalition is committed to:

- upgrade and, if need be, create playgrounds and meeting or recreational areas.
- promote neighborhood festivals through logistical support.
- encourage residents and neighborhoods to propose projects. The selected ideas are supported with a corresponding budget.
- focus on sports, cultural and social associations as facilitators of community life. Their local activities will be supported and, in partnership with INAPS, free ongoing training will be offered for coaches and animators.
- work together with social institutions in the areas of disability and elderly care with the aim of creating new adapted structures in Differdange.
- join the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" under the auspices of the Ministry of Family Affairs. This is a dynamic multi-year process that focuses on communication, access to information and the participation of all people living or working in the municipality.
- offer language, computer and civics courses.
- connect social services in order to facilitate the initiation of intergenerational projects. The municipality will actively promote the coexistence of citizens.
- promote the professional integration of people with disabilities. The Participatory Committee for people with special needs is being further developed and the *Design for all* concept is being implemented with the relevant stakeholders. The website is also being made more accessible.
- expand targeted support services such as the CollecDiff, the job center and the social grocery store. The municipality will also support charitable organizations that look after the homeless and needy.
- organize special training courses for jobseekers and early school leavers in partnership with ADEM, the job center and local organizations.
- promote solidarity economy projects. The municipality will give preference to companies that respect social and environmental values.
- demand an extended medical center for emergencies and a medical branch of the CHEM in Differdange (MRI, day clinic, ...).

# Housing

The coalition is committed to pursuing an ambitious housing policy to meet the needs of the Differdange people. It intends to act on both housing supply and demand by increasing the municipal stock of affordable housing and helping people in need to find decent housing. We are also considering partnerships with neighboring municipalities for transitional housing projects. The goal is to guarantee decent housing for all residents while preserving the living environment.

The coalition is committed to:

- increase the municipal stock of affordable housing.
- provide transitional housing to help individuals and families in difficulty. A project in partnership with neighboring municipalities is being considered.
- take stock of the vacant apartments. If an agreement is reached with the owner, these apartments will be brought into line with the regulations and rented out via a social structure. This will also help to improve the cityscape.
- provide for affordable housing in every major construction project.
- invest in various construction projects in order to subsequently rent or sell the apartments on social terms.
- promote the AIS Kordall.
- expand the housing department.
- strike a balance between the creation of living space and the protection of nature, recreational areas and playgrounds. In principle, no expansion of the construction perimeter will be accepted.
- maintain the protection of single-family homes.
- provide housing options aimed at the entire population (senior citizens, people with reduced mobility, students, assisted living for young people, etc.).
- provide alternative forms of housing such as intergenerational housing, shared apartments, rent-to-own or tiny houses.
- improve living conditions in furnished rooms.

# Urban planning

The coalition wants to preserve the architectural heritage of Differdange while improving the living environment for residents. It will provide financial support for energy-efficient renovations and better tailor the city's neighborhoods to the needs of young people, senior citizens and people with disabilities. The aim is to renovate public buildings and revitalize the local economy.

The coalition is committed to:

- devote special attention to preserving the architecture of our industrial heritage.
- refurbish public buildings.
- provide citizens with financial support for the energy-efficient refurbishment of houses and facades.
- monitor economic developments and take concrete measures.
- make the city districts suitable for young people, senior citizens and disabled persons.



# Senior citizens

The coalition wants to combat the isolation of elderly people and improve their quality of life. It will strengthen home help services and intergenerational activities. Adapted infrastructures such as a meeting center or special apartments will enable seniors to age with dignity while remaining active in their community.

The coalition is committed to:

- strengthen the Senior Plus service and the *Club Senior Pränzeberg* and develop intergenerational projects.
- combat social isolation. Municipal services are adapted to needs and synergies are created.
- promote offers related to digitalization.
- establish services for senior citizens in partnership with contracted operators.
- organize forums and expand the municipal seniors' council.
- set up a meeting place for senior citizens in suitable premises.
- expand the shopping service for senior citizens.
- support the use of the *Telealarm*.
- adapt the meals-on-wheels service together with customers.
- plan building projects suitable for senior citizens so that they can live independently.
- improve the concept of the Dinola bus.
- develop cultural and sporting activities for senior citizens in cooperation with local clubs. Clubs that are active in the area of senior citizens are supported.
- planning municipal buildings so that they are accessible, safe and practical.
- offer activities for senior citizens in the green spaces and parks of the various city districts and install sufficient seating possibilities.

# Security

The coalition is making security a priority by calling for an increase in police forces and prioritizing prevention. In particular, regular patrols are to be carried out near schools and in parks. The coalition also wants to install surveillance cameras in accordance with the law, improve street lighting and set up a safety commission made up of citizens and municipal leaders.

The coalition is committed to:

- combat crime and vandalism. The number of police officers will be increased. The municipality will introduce preventive and repressive measures against drug-related crime and vandalism. The police will carry out regular patrols in cooperation with the municipal public order officers —especially in parks, near schools, in public places, near playgrounds, in nature reserves and on footpaths.
- make sensible use of concierges in elementary schools. The concierges will be the point of contact for parents and children and ensure order on the school grounds.
- focus on more prevention in elementary school. Specialist staff will deal with the topics of drugs, violence, alcohol, vandalism and bullying.
- make public spaces safer and more pleasant.
- promote security. In accordance with the law, surveillance cameras will be installed in public places (Differdange center, Oberkorn train station, etc.).
- improve lighting on public streets and squares. Light pollution will be reduced through the use of motion detectors and street lamps directed at the ground.
- strengthen the team of municipal public order officers to support citizens. They will receive all the necessary training and work more closely with the police.
- provide for regular or as-needed exchanges between law enforcement officers, municipal officials and citizens.
- set up a Safety Commission made up of citizens from the various localities and municipal leaders. The commission will promote exchange and propose targeted measures. The members will act as a point of contact for the residents of the various neighborhoods. The commission will be supported by the municipality. The Prevention Committee will be further developed in collaboration with the Safety Commission. Together they will evaluate the local safety plan.
- ensure strict application of the Animal protection law.
- increase the number of ashtrays and dog waste bag dispensers. More dog parks will be set up.
- take action against littering on public streets or in parks and forests.
- take action against unauthorized graffiti.

# Administration

The coalition wants to modernize municipal administration to make it more accessible and citizen-centered. It will set up a special service to support citizens in completing formalities and at the same time drive forward the digitalization of services. Dialog with citizens will be intensified through regular citizen surveys. The aim is to ensure an efficient and transparent public service.

The coalition is committed to:

- set up a citizens' service that will offer spontaneous help in the form of advice or translations. Its role will be to assist citizens with any digital, legal or translation issues. The municipality will systematically offer a direct contact person.
- add a contact e-mail and telephone number to the *report-it* system. The reported situations are forwarded to the responsible employees and followed up.
- ensure the participation of citizens who so wish in planning and decision-making processes. The municipality will organize forums, workshops, information events and free access to relevant documents. The content of the DiffApp, website, social networks and Diffmag will be adapted accordingly.
- adapt the municipality's internal regulations so that citizens can systematically participate in the advisory committees.
- structure the administration in such a way that it can respond quickly to the needs of the population. Digitalization will continue to be driven forward, but the municipality will also take into account citizens who are less comfortable with online technologies.
- strengthen multilingualism in municipal communication. Visually impaired people will also be taken into account and the range of services will be expanded accordingly.
- publish whenever possible the information of the municipal notice board (*Reider*) on the website.
- adapt the opening hours of the town hall to the needs of the population. It should be possible to carry out various administrative procedures via teleconsultation.
- develop the multi-year financing plan over ten years. Each project is analyzed in terms of its feasibility and priorities. The municipality will pay strict attention to the costs and sustainability of the projects and keep debt at a low level. The multi-year financial plan is not only a tool to promote transparency, it also makes it possible to adapt investments to the economic situation.
- publish the most important financial data annually.
- refrain from massive increases in municipal taxes.
- adapt the solidarity benefits to changes in society.
- set up a department for land and cultural assets in order to efficiently manage municipal property such as buildings, apartments or business premises.

- attach great importance to dialog with staff representatives and employees in order to ensure efficient management of services for the population.
- adjust the municipal workforce in line with population trends.
- introduce an electronic service and mail tracking system (CRM) to ensure the processing of transactions within a reasonable period of time.
- promote citizen participation, in particular through calls for participatory projects in the districts. The municipality will allocate a budget for this.
- exercise their mandate in a transparent and citizen-oriented manner. The coalition welcomes the revised draft bill for the Local Authorities Act, which introduces a new code of conduct for elected representatives.
- expand the town hall in order to consolidate all departments and offer staff optimum working conditions.
- set up a "Maison sociale".