

Future Settlement: Development concept for the Erpersdorfer Settlement presented

The presentation of the new settlement development concept shows how the Erpersdorfer Settlement can be further developed in a climate-resilient, socially vibrant and sustainable way.

On 19 February, residents of the Erpersdorfer Settlement were invited to the Donauhof, where the new settlement development concept for the Erpersdorfer Settlement was presented. It is a key outcome of the "ZUSIE – Zukunft Siedlung" project, which has been running since 2023 and is funded by the Climate and Energy Fund. The concept outlines how the settlement can be shaped by 2040 in a way that is future-proof from spatial, social, ecological and economic perspectives.

A key result: the settlement development concept

The concept presented provides a comprehensive answer to the question of which measures are necessary to develop the Erpersdorfer Settlement in the long term. It is based on five core themes defined by the guiding vision: a climate-neutral neighbourhood, climate-resilient design, a practical and needs-oriented living environment, a vibrant neighbourhood, and affordable living.

These priorities form the framework for further professional planning and for the decisions that will have to be made in the coming years. The concept is not a rigid construction programme, but rather a framework for orientation designed to help adapt the settlement step by step to current and future social requirements: the effects of climate change, an ageing population, the diversification of energy sources, changing mobility needs, new requirements for contemporary housing, and the importance of a stable and vibrant neighbourhood.

The first improvements are already starting now

Implementation of the first measures begins in February, while further measures are being prepared for timely realisation.

The first actions address open space and microclimate: new tree plantings will provide additional shade and help cool areas that are particularly affected by heat. At the same time, the cross-courtyard redesign of play and exercise areas is being prepared. In future, these areas will connect several courtyards on this thematic level and create spaces for shared use.

Measures are also being prepared to modernise the waste collection points, create new bicycle parking facilities, some of them covered, and install two electric charging stations for cars. These steps will bring important improvements to residents' everyday lives while at the same time implementing key building blocks of a climate-fit settlement.

A great deal has already happened since 2023

A great deal has already been invested in community life over the past three years. The Zukunftsraum was established as a central shared space within the settlement, where conversations, activities and neighbourhood-based services take place. It is regularly used for game afternoons, meetings and consultation hours and has proven itself as a space for social encounter.

The Plauderbankerl have also become established as new meeting points in the settlement. They invite people to talk, create low-threshold opportunities for conversation and strengthen social cohesion. Numerous activities — from courtyard picnics to the open-space festival — show what has already been made possible within the project and how valuable social interaction is for life together in the settlement.

Settlement Council: keeping the dialogue going

The further development of the settlement is to continue in close exchange with residents. A Settlement Council will accompany the implementation of the measures as well as other neighbourhood-related issues. It will consist of settlement residents and will also engage, depending on the topic, with other stakeholders, including specialist planners, representatives of EGW or the municipality. The aim is to carry topics, feedback, concerns and information into the neighbourhood and out of it, thereby enriching the development process.

The Zukunftsraum will continue to serve as an important hub. In future, it will also function as an information point: at certain opening hours, the ZUSIE team will be available for questions, conversations and concerns, and current plans and concepts can be viewed there.

What the concept delivers

The settlement development concept shows how the settlement can be developed further by 2040. It combines ecological, social, spatial and economic requirements and forms a framework for future decisions by the non-profit housing association EGW.

Zukunftsraum – meeting place and information point

The Zukunftsraum is an open space for encounters, conversations and activities and is available free of charge to all residents and interested persons. At the same time, it serves as the project's information point; the project team can be reached there at fixed times, and current plans and concepts are on display.

Settlement Council

The Settlement Council will be established as an advisory body. Residents can get involved, pass on feedback from the neighbourhood and work together in dialogue with the municipality, the housing association and the project team on the development of the settlement.

Short statement from EGW

"With the new development concept, we now have a comprehensive framework that shows how the Erpersdorfer Settlement can be led step by step into the future. What matters to us is that structural, energy-related and social aspects are considered together and that residents remain actively involved. The steps taken so far show how much potential there is in the settlement."

- Ulrike Pircher – EGW First Non-Profit Housing Association

Contact

The ZUSIE team is available at the Zukunftsraum at regular times for questions and concerns. Opening hours and current information are announced directly within the settlement and online.

Project ZUSIE – Zukunft Siedlung

Website: www.zukunftsiedlung.at

Phone: 0676 / 75 110 08

Email: zukunftsiedlung@caritas-wien.at

Project team

The project is carried out by an interdisciplinary team from the fields of architecture, landscape planning, energy planning and community work: Caritas Stadtteilarbeit, EGW Erste gemeinnützige Wohnungsgesellschaft, einszueins Architektur, e7 Energie- und Umwelttechnik, grünplan Landschaftsplanung.