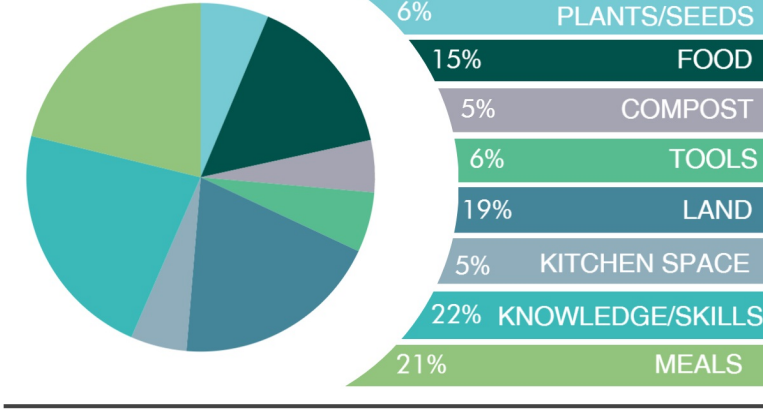# BERLIN

Berlin is ranked 4th in the SHARECITY100 Database of global ICT-mediated food sharing, with 133 initiatives currently active in the city.
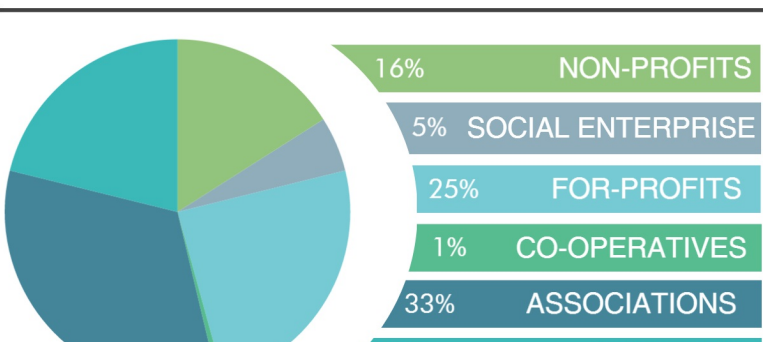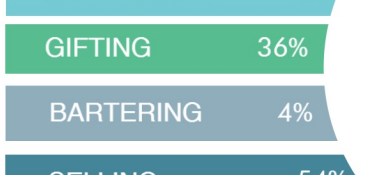

WHAT IS SHARED

6%	PLANTS/SEEDS
15%	FOOD
5%	COMPOST
6%	TOOLS
19%	LAND
5%	KITCHEN SPACE
22%	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS
21%	MEALS

67% of Berlin food sharing initiatives share multiple things. Knowledge and skills are most frequently shared, making up 22% of all sharing, followed by meals and food (including fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and food products not combined and prepared into a meal). Kitchen space and devices are least shared in Berlin.

HOW IT IS SHARED

Selling is the most common form of food sharing in Berlin, followed by gifting. Collecting and bartering occur relatively infrequently. Only 17% of initiatives use multiple methods to share, the most common combinations being gifting and collecting, and gifting and selling.

COLLECTING	6%
GIFTING	36%
BARTERING	4%
SELLING	54%

SHARING ORGANISATION

16%	NON-PROFITS
5%	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
24%	FOR-PROFITS
1%	CO-OPERATIVES
33%	ASSOCIATIONS
21%	INFORMAL

Associations (including clubs and networks) are the most frequent organisational structures employed by food sharing initiatives in Berlin, followed by for-profit enterprises. Co-operatives make up only 1% of food sharing activities. 23% of Berlin initiatives use more than one organisational structure.

GEOGRAPHY & POLITICS

Berlin is the Capital and most populous city of Germany. The City-State is located in north-eastern Germany at the heart of the Berlin-Brandenburg region. Berlin has twelve boroughs (Bezirke), each of which is governed by a council that is elected by a borough assembly. The borough council of mayors advises the Berlin Senate, which consists of a Governing Mayor, and up to eight senators including the Deputy Mayor (1). It is governed by a newly elected Red-Red-Green coalition, consisting of members of SPD, the Left, and the Greens.
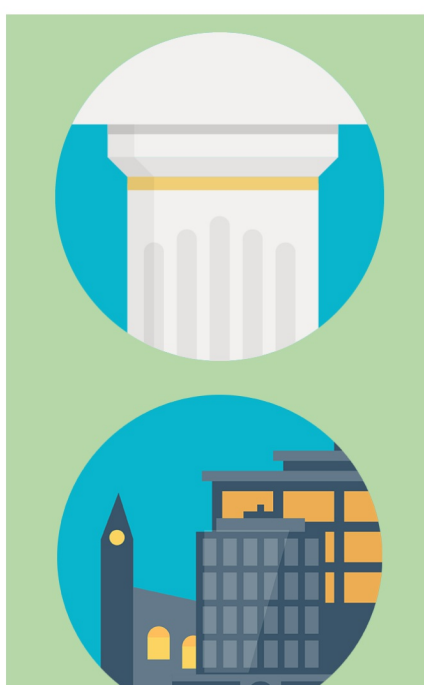
The coalition government has pledged to improve the quality of life for Berliners by investing in social and environmental infrastructure such as housing, green infrastructure, and urban gardens (2)(3). As the capital city, Berlin also hosts the President, the executive, the chancellery, the Bundestag/Parliament, The Bundesrat/Federal Council, and the House of Representatives. The City has a landmass of 892 square kilometres, a population of 3.5 million, and a density of 3,891.3 residents per square kilometre (4).

ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Berlin is an international hub for IT, creative industries, technology, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, tourism, services, and politics, and it ranks 16th in the 2016 Global City Index (5). With rates twice the national average, Berlin has become attractive for Foreign Direct Investment, particularly in the area of real estate (6). The City of Berlin also carries high levels of debt, and servicing these debts consumes more than 20% of tax revenue each year (7).

In January 2016 the unemployment rate was 10.7% (8). With 44,000 new businesses each year, Berlin is also a highly entrepreneurial city (9). Berlin's relatively low cost of living, high quality of life, and excellent infrastructure have made it attractive to artists, activists, and entrepreneurs alike. However, foreign investment and the privatization of social housing have led to a housing crisis (10). In response Berlin has taken steps to regulate the sharing economy and fend off developers (11).

The city has attracted 1.7 million new residents from 190 different countries over the last twenty years, and in 2015 15.5% of the population were foreign citizens (12). A higher percentage have a migration background, meaning they or one of their parents immigrated to Germany. The majority of immigrants come from Turkey and Poland (13). In 2015, Berlin welcomed 80,000 refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries (14). Berlin is among the five family-friendly cities in Europe (15). However, in 2015 it was reported that one in every five Berliners experienced poverty, with higher rates among migrants (16).
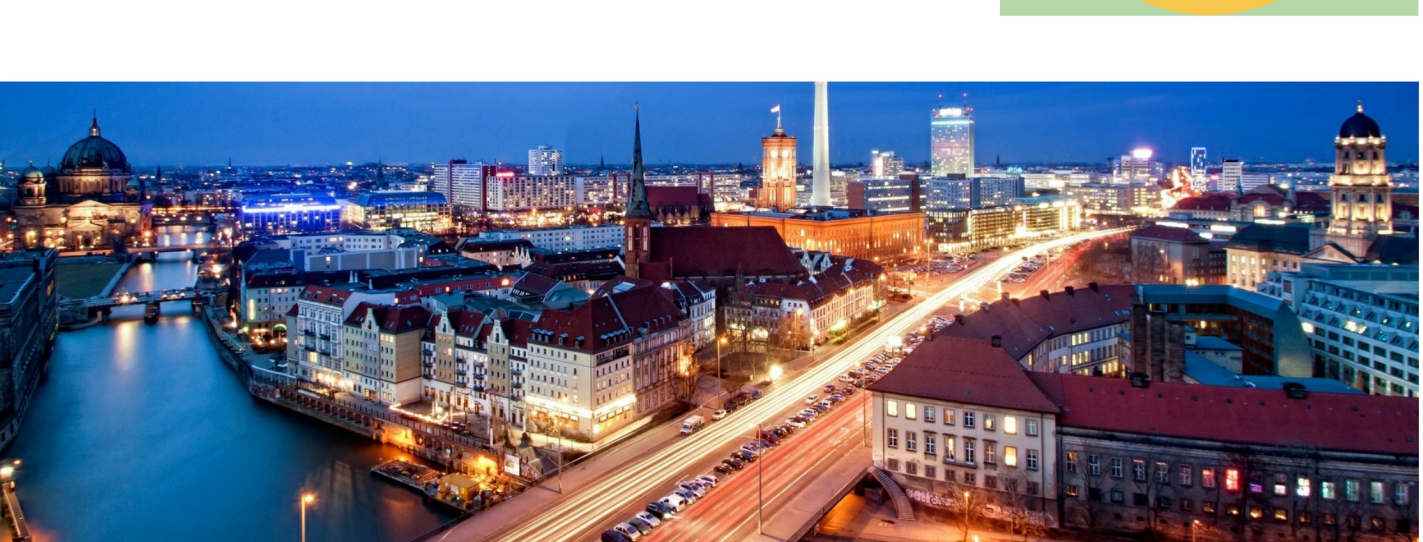

FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Berlin is a green city. It ranks 17th in the 2016 Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index (17) and 8th in the European Green Cities index (18). The city supports a diversity of land uses, including forests (18%), recreation (12%), and agriculture (4%) (19). It is home to hundreds of allotment and urban gardens, and more than 2,500 open green spaces (20). Berlin has also become a leader in promoting innovation through temporary use (21), and it continues to make "green in the city" a policy and planning priority thanks to the political engagement of its citizens (22)(23). Berlin has ambitious sustainability goals, which include becoming carbon neutral by 2050, and powering one third of all vehicles with renewable fuels by 2030.

The city has a well-developed waste infrastructure, and of the 1.28 million tonnes of waste produced in 2015 by Berlin households 25% was recyclable, 11% was compostable, and 64% was waste. Municipal composting is widely available and in 2015 the City collected 143,680 tonnes of organic waste. Much of this waste is processed into fuel at the City's biogas fermentation plant (25). Legislation is in place at the European Union, federal, state, and city level to promote closed-loop waste management. By 2020, 65% of domestic waste and 70% of construction and demolition waste will be recycled (25).

Berlin is a signatory on the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and has an active citizen led Food Policy Council. The new Red-Red-Green coalition city government has pledged to make Berlin an edible city by supporting community and intercultural gardening (26).

TECHNOLOGY

Berlin has high rates of internet connectivity, with 90.1% coverage, it has the largest broadband distribution grid and digital communication network in Germany. It is home to some 9,700 IT companies (27). In addition to providing more than 800 public LAN (Local Area Network) connections (28), the city is also home to Berlin Freie Funk, a grassroots ICT movement distributing free networks, democratizing media and communication, and promoting local social structures. The movement aims to bridge the digital divide, share data, build social capital, and establish free and independent neighbourhood network infrastructures (29).

SHARE CITY
Sustainability of city-based food sharing

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