

The Town of Chrudim – “With Local Agenda 21 Towards Higher Quality of Life” – Whole City Awards

Chrudim is an old town (the first written mention dates back to 1055) with a rich history and numerous cultural sites. Its population is 22 900.

In 2001, Chrudim launched the WHO-sheltered Healthy City Project and thus it became member of the Nation-wide network of Healthy Cities in the Czech Republic. In the Healthy City framework principles of sustainable development and active public involvement in discussions on current issues and local or regional future are adhered to. The tool we use is the Local Agenda 21. In 2009, Chrudim adopted the Aalborg Charter and the Aalborg Commitments.

The motto we follow is: “Act locally, think globally or, in other words, keep the future in mind.”

Strategic Planning

We strive in our Municipality at meeting the principles of strategic management, based on Good Governance and principles of sustainable development.

As territorial planning documentation in Chrudim is of high quality and for all major development localities building studies are prepared, we can say that the negative impact of new constructions on the environment is eliminated as much as possible.

The **Strategic Plan of the Town’s Development** is in harmony with the development plan. It covers all three pillars of sustainable development and meeting its priorities is directed towards putting the town’s vision to life. **Relevant indicators concerning sustainability** are in place. Priorities of the strategic plan are worked into partial concepts.

A community base has been established in the Town, there are partnerships with various types of organisations and a subsidy and grant system, campaigns and events take place. The existing pillars of community and strategic planning are being interlinked.

Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes

Planning and care of the natural and built landscape is based on important **conceptual materials**. **Artificial landscape in the town comprises leisure points, parks, playgrounds, streets, squares, etc.** The public is involved in their creation and inauguration. Playgrounds are built or restored in harmony with the town’s conceptual documents and in active partnership with the public. In partnership with inhabitants, we are working on the **humanization of large housing estates**.

Through the centre of the town runs a **millrace**, which has been revitalised in steps. The chief objective is to improve its environmental and aesthetic functions. The self-cleaning function of the stream has been enhanced and the quality of water is better.

There are extensive **parks** in the town. In the newly reconstructed Monastery gardens we focused at regenerating vegetation and planting new specimens. We focused on the historical layout of the monastery gardens and create a modern park with up-to-date facilities.

On the territory of the Municipality are **special-purpose woods** - the Recreational Forests at Podhůra. Throughout the woods, natural forest regeneration is combined with artificial. From the geological aspect, it is a unique locality on a European scale as there are remnants of the Chalk Sea, which flooded the territory 95 million years ago

There is a **natural preserve** on the territory of the municipality – **Habrov** and **the heritage site of “Bird Islands”**. It is an environmentally important piece of land in the town and forms a valuable ecologically stable eco-system.

The **National Železné hory Geo-park** also lies on the territory of our Town. It is an area with noteworthy and attractive geological phenomena and evidence of landscape evolution. Its chief aim is to provide education to people and make them understand our natural heritage, support sustainable regional development and protect our geological heritage.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Chrudim is a town with a **rich cultural tradition**. There are **many clubs and associations** active in the Town that influence its cultural and social life. They draw on the historical traditions of the Town .

Puppeteers’ Chrudim is the oldest festival of amateur puppet theatres in the Czech Republic. Many puppet groups from all over the Czech Republic as well as other countries participate in its rich programme.

The year 2011 was marked as “The Year of Baroque“. It was a project to promote the Baroque culture and tourism in Chrudim. It culminated in the opening of the newly established **Museum of Baroque Sculptures**.

Chrudim has an extensive and well-preserved **conservation zone** with 98 houses listed as immovable cultural monuments – 60 of them owned by the Municipality. The area was declared a conservation zone in 1990. Its medieval structure with a number of heritage sites and town walls has been preserved. The historical core has retained its function of a town centre.

Environmental Best Practices

The Chrudim Town Hall was certified in late 2009 as adhering to the EMAS – **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme** (as the first office in the Czech Republic). The Environmental Statement concerning the environment is part of this.

In our town, paper, glass, plastic material, tetrapack, metals, small electrical equipment and other materials are separated. People can bring large-volume waste, brick rubble, glass, plastic material and paper to a **collecting yard**, which is operated by the Municipality. Hazardous and electric waste is also collected there. Here, too, waste is separated for further re-use.

Working hand-in-hand with a number of companies, the Municipality is solving **the use of old brownfields**, turning them into new company premises, and helping to build complete utility network.

Many activities focus **on ecological education and enlightenment of all target groups**. Every year we participate in the International Day of the Earth, Organic Food Market, and support markets of local producers and craftsmen and promote BIO, FAIR-TRADE and other quality trademarks.

Together with our partners, we regularly organise **enlightenment events on sustainable development and Local Agenda 21** for various target groups.

We monitor our behaviour in relation to sustainable development through the **Ecological footprint of the Municipality and the ecological footprint of the Town Hall and the carbon footprint of the Town**.

Community Participation and Empowerment

Within the Healthy City and Local Agenda 21 project, Chrudim gets the general public and various target groups involved in the development of the town.

Traditionally, every year, the general public have a chance to participate in a public debate over the **Top Ten Issues of the Municipality of Chrudim**. This way, we are able to make a list of ten most pressing problems the Municipality is facing. This is followed by partial projects, round-table discussions, planning meetings, and public debates focused at solving these selected issues.

We have prepared a special module, to make pupils and students say what they believe are the **Top Ten Problems of Chrudim as Seen by the Younger Generation**. This resulted in the formation of a Students' Parliament, which now closely cooperates with the municipality.

We monitor the **indicator of citizen satisfaction with the local community**.

Healthy Lifestyle

Health services are planned according to specific problems found in the town. Chrudim's approved **Health Plan** is based on an expert analysis of the state of health of the town's population.

Projects follow pre-set priorities which are anchored in the **Town's Health Plan**. The aim is to create the basis for systematic support to the issue of health.

To assess the health of our citizens, **standard indicators** have been set up. We evaluate them together with experts annually.

On a regular basis, we organise **enlightenment events and campaigns** for the general public and various target groups reacting thus to the evaluation of indicators (The World Tobacco-free Day, Days of Health, a Day without Injuries, etc).

This year, we have joined the **European Year of Active Ageing and Inter-Generation Solidarity** (sport, social and educational activities).

We are a designated **Safe Community**. Since 2009 we have been systematically tackling the issue of injuries in the town.



Involving the public in the town's development - discussion over the Top Ten Issues of Chrudim – in working groups



Newly reconstructed Monastery Gardens



The newly opened Museum of Baroque Sculptures which serves as a multifunctional cultural facility



Puppeteers Chrudim – a public performance at Ressel Square



The world Day of the Earth campaign – recalling traditional folk crafts



“Can You See Me” campaign in maternity schools to promote the use of reflective materials