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# The “Grafschafter Cargo Bike“ financial support scheme

**A „Good Practice“  
for the promotion of sustainable mobility  
within the framework of the Interreg Europe project  
(Public Engagement for Sustainable Public Transport)**



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# Informations about the District of Grafschaft Bentheim

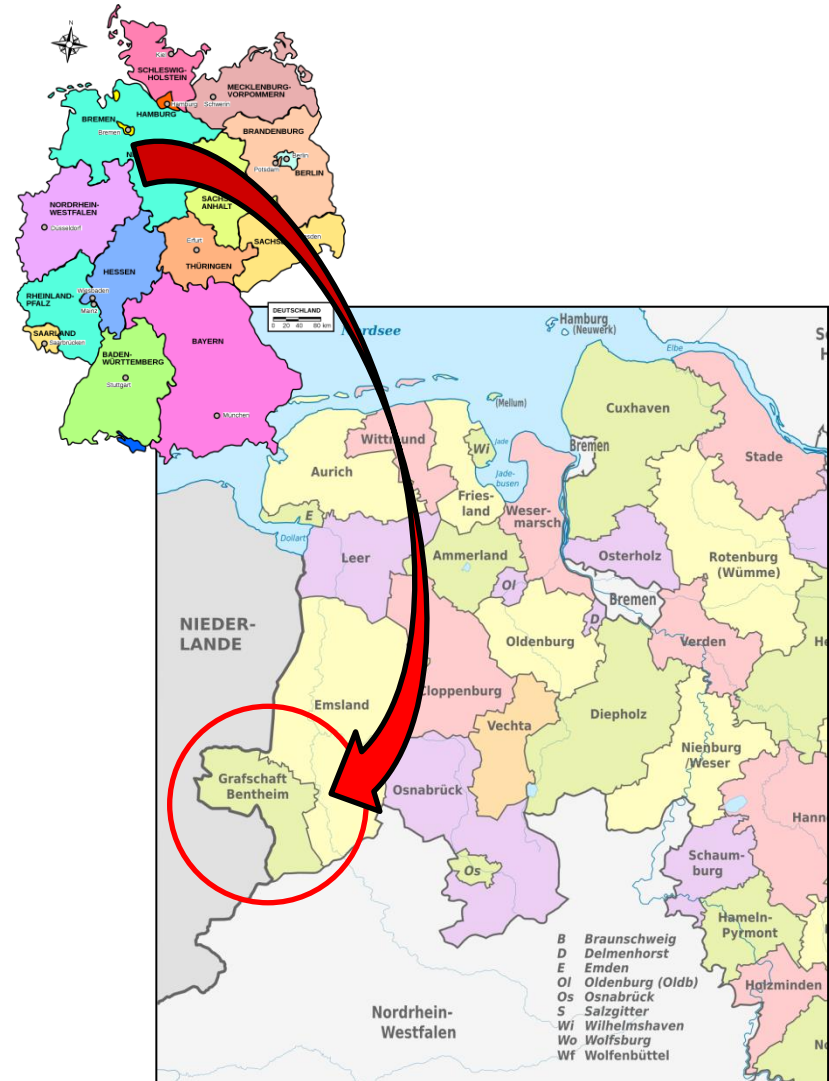
## District of Grafschaft Bentheim:

Germany, Lower Saxony in direct Neighborhood to the Netherlands

137.000 Inhabitants

District capital: City of Nordhorn  
(54.000 Inhabitants)

District of Grafschaft Bentheim is a bicycle stronghold with over 30 % share of bicycle traffic!



# Background & initiative

Supporting the purchase of cargo bicycles is intended to further consolidate the role of the bicycle as a means of transport firmly anchored to everyday mobility in the District of Grafschaft Bentheim. Their wider deployment will make the District even more bicycle-friendly



## Initiative:

- New cycling concept adopted as an update of the previous cycling mission statement in 2016
- One focus of action here is promotion of cargo bikes for commercial use
- Start of promotion in February 2017 until further notice (high response)

## Target:

- Establish cargo bikes among employers and employees
- To draw attention to the possibilities of transport by bicycle as an alternative to the car

# Procedure and scope of support

- The funding is granted as a non-repayable **grant**
- **Informal application** for funding of a cargo bike
- Applications are processed in the order in which they are received
- Funding is a voluntary benefit (no legal entitlement)
- Within the limits of the available budget (5.000 €/year)
- The amount of the subsidy depends on the type of the of the cargo bike to be purchased:
  - **Classical cargo bikes** are subsidized with up to **25%** of the acquisition costs (but not more than 500€)
  - **Electrically powered cargo bikes** are subsidized with up to **30%** of the acquisition costs (but not more than 1.000€)
- Proof of purchase by invoice and photo to be submitted



# Essential conditions for promotion

## Eligible vehicles are:

- Electrically powered cargo bicycles,
- Cargo trailers with electric drive support
- Couples consisting of a cargo bike and a cargo trailer
- „classical“ cargo bikes without motorized assistance

## Not eligible:

- Used heavy-duty bicycles or cargo trailers
- New Cargo bikes or trailers with predominantly used components
- Prototypes
- (E-)cargo bicycles/cargo pedelecs already purchased prior to application



# Essential conditions for promotion



## Eligible to apply are:

- Private companies, regardless of legal form, such as gardeners, forestry, banks, farms.
- Freelancers
- Universities
- Research institutions
- Hospitals and their sponsors
- Kindergartens
- Church congregations etc.

## Not eligible to apply are:

- Persons/companies that have already claimed funding for cargo bicycles and cargo pedelecs in previous funding periods.
- Persons/companies for whose assets insolvency proceedings have been filed or opened.

## Mobility needs of the applicants:

- E. g. transport of production goods, files, purchases, etc.

# Essential conditions for promotion



## Grant requirements are:

- Predominant use for commercial purposes
- Active use for at least three years after purchase
- Immediate notification in case of use for less than three years due to sale, destruction or theft
- In the event of grossly negligent destruction by the owner, the subsidy amount must be refunded
- In the event of disposal or theft, an amount to be determined according to the remaining life is to be repaid
- Reference to the subsidy by the district on the bicycle (by means of a sticker which is handed over free of charge)



# Application & Funding Process



1. Information about the promotion of cargo bikes in the local press and on the website of the county of Grafschaft Bentheim.
2. Sending of the funding criteria in case of inquiries
3. Informal application by the companies/persons to the administrative district
4. Checking of the application for compliance with the funding criteria
5. Agreement drawn up and signed
6. After receipt of a picture of the cargo bike and the invoice, the funding amount will be reimbursed



# Transferability to other EU cities & regions



- In practice, there are almost no problems with implementation
- Promotion is already implemented by other cities and regions in the area (e.g. city of Nordhorn: promotion of cargo bikes for private use)
- Simple instrument to reduce short distances in the area of commercial mobility (abandonment of the car for short trips)
- Relatively low financial outlay
- Rapid implementation possible
- Great positive response and demand in Grafschaft Bentheim (approx. 10 subsidies per year)



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# Thank you for your attention!



**Questions welcome**