



North Rhine-Westphalia Office of Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection (LANUV)

Competence for a state
worth living in

Competence for a state worth living in

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is the most populous state in Germany. Almost 18 million people live here in the top-ranking industrial state. However, NRW is also rich in farmlands and forests and has valuable nature reserves. LANUV contributes its competence and expertise between the conflicting priorities of the conservation of nature, improving the quality of the environment and foodstuffs safety on the one hand, and the demand for mobility and increasing the economic power of industry, trade, agriculture and forestry on the other.

Our employees advise and support the state government and law enforcement agencies, they collect and evaluate data and facts and derive new concepts and action from these. They are active in environmental education and inform the public about important issues of protecting nature, the environment and consumers. Cooperation arrangements with scientific institutions at home and abroad ensure the scientific basis.



The state office was founded on 01/01/2007 from various predecessor institutions and builds upon their expertise and many years of experience. It is responsible to the NRW Environment Ministry.

Nature

North Rhine-Westphalia is involved in the European guidelines to protect habitats and species and supports the European NATURA 2000 biotope network system. LANUV documents the state of nature, evaluates the state-wide data and publishes the red list of endangered species, for example, on this basis. Special programmes are developed and implemented to aid especially endangered species.

In planning matters relevant to landscapes, such as preparing regional plans or national parks, LANUV compiles specialist contributions or expert appraisals regarding nature conservation.

The nature protection contract scheme is realised in cooperation with farmers, whilst its effectiveness is reviewed. When conflicts arise, such as that between wind power and bird protection or the return of the wolf, LANUV prepares guidelines that can facilitate and standardise decision-making.



The following institutions also have particular responsibilities in nature protection:

- Species protection centre
- Fishing ecology
- Research office for hunting and the protection of game damage
- Bird protection station

Environment

Clean water, low air pollution, unpolluted ground and pure drinking water are things required by the state. LANUV monitors the quality of the environment and advises other authorities (borough councils, municipalities and district governments) during permit processes, planning and programmes. Its responsibilities also include resource protection in waste and sewage management and implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

Climate change and its consequences are observed in detail and adaptation action is developed. It is furthermore researched how progressive climate change can be stopped.



The numerous industrial facilities in the state must be operated safely and reliably. LANUV therefore appraises safety analyses and advises the responsible authorities in questions of plant reliability.

Accidents and damage can be reported around the clock. If necessary, special operation vehicles with the latest measurement equipment can be sent to the scene of an incident. The experienced LANUV specialists can advise emergency workers on-the-spot and assist them with special analyses.

All environmental media are analysed in LANUV laboratories using specific procedures.

Consumer protection

Together with the council authorities and the private control bodies, LANUV monitors the production and trade of foodstuffs, veterinary medicaments, cosmetics and objects of everyday use. It is moreover responsible for the licensing of industrial operations.

The state authority receives warning reports concerning unsafe foodstuffs, fodder, convenience goods and cosmetics and issues appropriate warnings.

Within the framework of monitoring the agricultural market and trading in fertilisers, fodder and seeds, field workers check growers, producers and traders to ensure these comply with standards and quality specifications. In matters of animal welfare and protection, LANUV is responsible for licensing industrial operations and approving animal trials, among other things.



In crisis situations (e.g. in combatting animal diseases or monitoring foodstuffs), control centres are set up in LANUV and state-wide action is agreed.

LANUV organises initial and further training courses and supports the marketing of regional products through targeted sponsorship.

LANUV as an employer

LANUV currently employs a workforce of around 1,300 people who have all kinds of training, specialisations and qualifications. Important principles pursued in LANUV are respectful behaviour, an exchange across departments and the work/life balance. LANUV has been certified to the “berufundfamilie” audit since 2017. LANUV will develop further into a model government agency for sustainability management.



Training

LANUV provides training in the following professions or is involved in the initial and further training courses:

- Inland sailor
- Laboratory assistant
- IT specialist
- Fishery technician
- Industrial mechanic
- Management assistant in office communication
- State certified foodstuffs chemist
- Foodstuffs inspector
- Veterinary and agricultural officer
- NRW master studies in toxicology at Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf

Voluntary service

Employees in the Federal Voluntary Service or who are undergoing a voluntary ecological year are employed at various places in the state.

LANUV organisation

- Direction: Dr. Sibylle Pawlowski, president
- Press office: +49 2361 305-1337,
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- Public phone: +49 2361 305-1214
- Department 1: Central office
- Department 2: Nature protection, landscape preservation, hunting, fishing ecology
- Department 3: Impact-related and comprehensive environmental protection, climate, environment education
- Department 4: Air quality, noises, vibrations, radiation protection
- Department 5: Water management, water pollution control
- Department 6: Central environmental analysis
- Department 7: Plant engineering, recycling management
- Department 8: Consumer protection, animal welfare, agricultural market

Locations

Major offices with laboratories:

- Recklinghausen, Leibnizstraße 10 (head office)
- Essen, Wallneyer Straße 6
- Duisburg, Wuhanstraße 6

Satellite offices:

- Laboratories in Bonn, Herten, Lippstadt, Minden
- Water control stations in Bad Honnef and Kleve-Bimmen
- Semi-industrial trial sewage plant in Neuss
- Research centre for hunting and prevention of game damage in Bonn
- Fishing ecology in Albaum
- Wildlife conservation centre in Metelen

**News emergency unit, available 24 hours a day:
+49 201 714488 for all reports/messages on technical environmental and consumer protection in NRW**

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audit berufundfamilie